

Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the
Swanage Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
TUESDAY, 7th OCTOBER 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.W. Pratt (Town Mayor) - Chairman

Councillor C.R. Bright

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

Public Participation Time

One member of the public attended the Meeting.

MR. J. WOOTTON enquired whether the Town Council would have to adhere to a specific process should it decide to raise funds by releasing the current allotment site land for housing development and relocating the services to an alternative site in the future.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Audley, Hadley and Suttle.

2. **HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**

The Council having previously recognised that this service affects all households and residents of Swanage, and further to Minute No. 2 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 25th September 2008, detailed consideration was given to proposals for the future provision of the bulky household waste and recycling facilities for Swanage.

A detailed presentation had been given by Mr. S. Burdis, Head of Waste Management at Dorset County Council, including an outline of the financial constraints, resulting from the removal of the budget for the scheme from the County Council's capital programme.

An invitation had been put forward by the County Council for the Town Council to consider becoming a stakeholder within the proposed Prospect Farm scheme, and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of funding a stake in the proposal.

During the ensuing debate, Members were informed that no official approach had been made by Dorset County Council to Purbeck District Council regarding the provision of land for the possible relocation of the recycling facilities within the Prospect Farm scheme, and it was suggested that Purbeck District Councillor Johns be invited to attend any other future urgent meeting of the Town Council to discuss the matter due to his knowledge of the subject, gained as the environment spokesman.

It was reported that enquiries had been made regarding the alternative provision of a privately operated site. The response given was that, due to previous experience, Dorset County Council's policy was to remain the owner-operator of its

sites. It was, however, prepared to concede, in this particular instance, to ownership being vested in another local authority or in partnership.

Members acknowledged the vital importance of retaining the bulky household waste and recycling facilities in Swanage for the benefit of local residents, but strongly believed that the obligation to find a solution remained with Dorset County Council, and that any tax that is borne locally from Swanage taxpayers would effectively amount to a double taxation.

It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That an edition of "Swanage Matters" be published expeditiously, and that a "Statement of Facts" of the proposals and financial implications relating to the provision of the bulky household waste and recycling facilities be publicised so that local residents are fully informed and encouraged to make representations directly to the County Council or local elected representative(s) on the matter.

It was then suggested that a reply slip be incorporated within the publication seeking a response to the possible disposal of a Town Council asset in order to provide funding for a function that it believes is the responsibility of Dorset County Council.

It was further proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the "Statement of Facts" should include the following:-

- The Swanage Town Council had provided the existing site at Panorama Road free of charge to Dorset County Council for 30+ years.
- The Town Council had offered a "donation in kind" to Dorset County Council in the form of a parcel of land south of the existing recycling site (currently valued at £175,000), and the Town Council rejects any idea of making any additional contribution other than that already offered.

3. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That, under Standing Order No. 67, it is envisaged that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matter.

4. **LEGAL ISSUES – EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Further to Minute No. 9 (c) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 15th October 2007, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the proposed construction of a new church facility at Victoria Avenue. Planning permission had now been granted, following a successful appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

Discussion ensued during which Members re-affirmed their support for the proposals in principle, subject to provisions for public access to public conveniences being incorporated into the designs.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Working Party, consisting of Councillors
Audley, Gloyn-Cox and Poultney, be reconvened in
order to progress the matter.

It was further proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright,
and RESOLVED:-

To negotiate with representatives of the Emmanuel
Baptist Church ensuring that, following the transfer
of the land, access be made to public toilets located
either externally or within the building.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 a.m.
