

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council, held at the Town Hall, Swanage, on
MONDAY, 24th FEBRUARY 2003 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT: -

Councillor A.H. Miller (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett
Councillor Mrs. J. A. Farrow
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough
Councillor Mrs. G. A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. H. O'Donovan
Councillor J Roscoe
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon
Councillor M. R. Woolley

The Mayor welcomed Revd. D. Hodson, who offered a short prayer
before the commencement of the Meeting.

144. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from
Councillors Baume and Suttle.

145. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
held on 27th January 2003 be approved as a correct
record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett,
and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Council held to discuss planning and other matters
on 7th February 2003 be approved as a correct record
and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Roscoe,
and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Council held to discuss policy and resources
matters on 17th February 2003 be approved
as a correct record and signed.

146. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was RESOLVED:-

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held
on 27th January 2003 be accepted, subject to the name

Mr. J. Woods being amended to Mr. J. Wootton.

147. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor was pleased to report that the major electrical works at the Town Hall were almost completed. These included complete re-wiring of the building, the installation of a fire alarm system and emergency lighting. Alterations to the Reception Office were also being undertaken and were progressing well.

148. **TOURISM REPORT**

The Tourist Information Centre Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) The Blues Festival would be taking place during the weekend, 7th to 9th March, when, once again, various bands would be playing in venues throughout the town.
- (b) "Stroller Tickets" for the 2003 Jazz Festival in July were now on sale, and much interest was already being shown.
- (c) To assist the launch of the new "Fairtrade Mark", the Tourist Information Centre would be holding "taster" sessions of tea, coffee and chocolate products on the 8th and 15th March.
- (d) "Beach Awareness Week" would be promoted through Purbeck Aware Month. It would commence on 24th May with a static display from the Auxiliary Coastguard. It is hoped that the RNLI will stage a water safety roadshow during the week, and booklets and information will be available at the Tourist Information Centre.
- (e) The half term school holiday period had again attracted many visitors to the town, and had proved good for local businesses and the tourist trade in general. Staff at the Information Centre had worked closely with their colleagues at the Wareham TIC to produce a "Half Term Information Leaflet" for the Isle of Purbeck, and copies were circulated for information.

149. **HOLIDAY PARK REPORT**

The Holiday Park Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) The re-furbishment works at the Vista Complex were progressing well, and the new furniture for the Hall had been ordered.
- (b) It was a busy period at the Holiday Park, with many enquiries being received for caravan hire during the 2003 season.
- (c) Caravan sales were above the estimated targets, and the staff incentive scheme had resulted in additional sales.
- (d) Preparations were well under way for the opening of the Park on 1st March 2003.

150. **AREA OF FORMER SHELTER, SHORE ROAD**

A schedule listing requests to operate Teddy Bear and other stalls in the area of the former Shelter on Shore Road during the 2003 season was submitted.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the requests be granted.

151. **USE OF MAIN BEACH CAR PARK**

A letter dated 18th February 2003 was submitted from Mrs. L. Haines, requesting the use of an area of Main Beach Car Park for a car washing venue, the proceeds from which would be donated towards the purchase of skate park equipment.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That the request be granted.

It was also noted that Mrs. Haines had been given a ballot place in the London Marathon on 13th April 2003, and any sponsorship received would be donated to the skate park fund. Members expressed their appreciation of this generous gesture.

Councillors Mrs. Farrow, Mrs. Marsh, Miller and Roscoe declared their interest in the following matter under the Model Code of Conduct, by reason of being members of the Crime and Disorder Panel, but as the interest was non-prejudicial remained in the Meeting during the discussion.

152. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE TOWN MAYOR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

Area of former Shelter, Shore Road

A letter dated 21st February 2003 was submitted from Dorset Police requesting the use of the former Shelter area on Shore Road for a "Crime Prevention Day" on Sunday, 6th April 2003.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That the request be approved.

153. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of January 2003 were submitted.

154. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Order on Treasurer Nos. 11, 11a and 11b, amounting to

£83,389.43, £35,256.40 and £15,371.28 respectively
be paid and that cheques be drawn therefor.

155. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 31st January 2003 (copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at end of these Minutes.

156. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Roscoe, and
RESOLVED:-

That, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matters.

157. **LEASE – TOWN HALL ANNEXE**

The Clerk reported on three offers received for the lease of the Town Hall Annex.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which attention was drawn to the current re-organisation of the office accommodation in the Town Hall building, and also the future requirements for disabled access.

Having regard to the above works, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That no action be taken in the matter at the present time.

158. **STAFFING ISSUES**

The General Manager reported on vacant positions at the Holiday Park, and advertisements that had been placed in the local press inviting applications.

An application had been received for the position of “Club Steward”, and following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That the appointment be agreed, subject to suitable references being obtained.

159. **SKATE PARK**

The Town Mayor reported on the recent ROSPA report, which had highlighted the dangerous condition of the skate park equipment, and necessitated its urgent removal.

He was very sympathetic with the young people who used the skate park and was eager to assist with the replacement of equipment if funds could be appropriated. Members endorsed his comments, and, following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-

That the proceeds from recycling (£1,970) be allocated towards the purchase of skate park equipment, together with the sum of £1,500 from the W.J.Grace Trust Fund.