

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 26th JANUARY 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor B. Audley

Councillor C.R. Bright

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox

Councillor M. Hadley

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 13 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MR. P. CLARK enquired when the next Meeting to consider the Estimates for 2009/10 was being held, but this had not yet been determined.

MRS. V. FAWKE referred to the proposals for the “Future School Provision in the Purbeck Area”, and enquired whether this matter had previously been referred to the Town Council. It was noted that the Town Council had only recently been informed of the proposals put forward by Dorset County Council and would be considering the matter at the Council Meeting to be held on 16th February 2009. Public Consultation Meetings (arranged by Dorset County Council) were being held at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park on Wednesday, 28th January 2009 at 5.00 pm and 7.30 pm.

MR. I. SAUNDERS enquired whether proposals for the introduction of a residents’ car parking scheme at Peveril Point had progressed. It was noted that the Town Council’s Off-Street Parking Order had now been amended to incorporate these proposals, and it was anticipated that the scheme would become effective from 1st April 2009. He then referred to the footpath adjacent to the Old Coastguard Cottages, and was informed that the Town Council was seeking a Modification Order in respect of the definitive footpath map.

In the absence of a clergyman, Councillor Bright offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

It was with great sadness that the Town Mayor reported the death of Mr. Ron Jones, a former Town Clerk. Mr. Jones was appointed to the position of Town Clerk in 1982 and diligently served the Council for 16 years until his retirement in 1998. He was well-liked and well-respected by all who knew him. Following the announcement, those present stood in silent tribute to his memory.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

101. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Patrick and Suttle.

102. **MINUTES**

- (a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 22nd December 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

- (b) Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy matters on 23rd December 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from the above, Councillor Bright was disappointed that it had been necessary to arrange the Meeting with the District Auditor at short notice, and he and several other Councillors had been unable to attend due to prior commitments at this busy time of the year.

- (c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 9th January 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed.

- (d) Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 19th January 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No. 9 (b), Councillor Gloyn-Cox highlighted that it had been reported that the Sustainable Communities Act (in its present form) does not apply to Parish and Town Councils, and proposed that this be recorded in the Minutes.

This proposal was seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

102. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor had no specific announcements to make at the present time.

103. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

There were no matters to report from Council representatives on outside organisations at the present time.

104. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

Following the sad death of the Council's weather recorder, the Clerk reported that the meteorological duties had been carried out by volunteers as an interim measure.

It was AGREED:-

That a small honorarium be paid to the volunteers in recognition of these duties.

Under their delegated authority, the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor had agreed that, in future, the readings would be taken by an existing Council contractor in the sum of £3,600 per annum.

105. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of December 2008 were submitted for information.

Members acknowledged the new format of the weather records, as presented, but requested that the number of days on which rainfall was recorded during the month, and comparisons with the previous year, be included in the Report.

106. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

(a) **Poole and Christchurch Bays – Shoreline Management Plan**

Formal appointment of Council representative (Councillor Mrs. Marsh) to attend Meeting to be held on 9th February 2009.

107. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, under Standing Order Nos. 67 and 68, 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 matters, by reason of legal issues to be discussed.

108. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Emmanuel Baptist Church Proposals**

Councillor Poultney updated Members on matters relating to the Emmanuel Baptist Church proposals at Herston. Detailed consideration was given to the public toilets that were to be provided by the Church within the development plans, and it was agreed that a minimum requirement should be for one male, one female and one disabled toilet facility. It was also agreed that careful consideration should be given to the siting of the toilets as public access to the facilities should be available to the facilities outside of the Church opening hours.

Before further consideration of the proposals, Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared her interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a Member of the Purbeck District Council's Planning Board, but remained in the Meeting during the debate.

During the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed regarding the retention of trees and the commemorative garden in the vicinity, and it was noted that a condition relating to landscaping had been incorporated within the planning approval that had been granted on Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 p.m.
