

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 29th MARCH 2004 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor H.J.F. Agelink
Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett
Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough
Councillor Mrs. H.O'Donovan
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M.A. Tyrer
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

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

143. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Suttle.

144. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23rd February 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 5th March 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources

matters on 15th March 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

145. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held on 23rd February 2004 be accepted.

146. **BEACHES AND FORESHORE BEST VALUE WORKING GROUP**

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beaches and Foreshore Best Value Working Group held on 27th February 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

147. **CARAVAN PARK BEST VALUE WORKING GROUP**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, seconded by Councillor Agelink, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Best Value Working Group held on 1st March 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

148. **BOAT PARK COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor Tyrer, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Boat Park Committee held on 12th March be approved as a correct record and signed.

149. **SWANAGETOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 22nd March 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

150. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Mayor was pleased to report that the bollards had now been installed

on the pavement outside of the Town Hall, which had helped to relieve the traffic congestion, and reduce the risk of damage being caused by heavy goods vehicles.

He was also pleased to report that, following representation to Dorset County Council, 30mph speed restriction "roundels" had been introduced on the A351 in the vicinity of the Swanage Middle School.

151. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

(a) Footfall figures at the Tourist Information Centre during March had again exceeded those for the corresponding period in 2003.

(b) The "Fair Trade Fortnight" held from 1st March 2004, had proved very popular and many free samples of tea and coffee had been distributed at the Tourist Information Centre.

(d) The Swanage Blues Weekend, held from 5th to 7th March 2004, had been very successful, and had been given TV coverage on BBC South Today.

(e) The annual inspection of the Information Centre had been carried out by Tourism South East, and the Manager was pleased to report that they complied with all the standards required to be a networked TIC.

(f) Finally, the Information Centre Manager announced that they had gained the accreditation "Partners in Success". This prestigious award had been achieved through the health and safety procedures that are in place, their awareness of the new requirements for the disabled, the standard of customer service offered, the input into the Swanage website and the commitment of the staff to good business practice.

The Town Mayor congratulated the Information Centre staff on their achievement. He then referred to the well-kept appearance of The Downs and congratulated the Operations Manager and his staff on their good management of the area.

152. **HOLIDAY PARK REPORT**

The General Manager reported that, although it was a quiet period for visitors to the Holiday Park, preparations were being made in anticipation of a busy Easter holiday.

153. **SWANAGE FOLK FESTIVAL**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Wheel don declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct, by reason of being a member of the Folk Festival Committee, but as her interest was non-pecuniary, remained in the Meeting during the discussion.

A letter dated 22nd March 2004 was submitted from the Swanage Folk Festival Committee seeking the Town Council's support in its request for the Road Closure Order for the procession.

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

To support the Swanage Folk Festival Committee in its request for the Road Closure Order.

154. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE TOWN MAY OR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

(a) **Institute Road Bridge**

A letter dated 16th March 2004 was submitted from Dorset County Council Highways Department explaining the construction of the bridge on the western side of Institute Road, and expressing concern regarding its load capacity.

It was intended to implement measures to prevent vehicles mounting or parking on this section of footway, and the Town Council's preference for the type of deterrent to be used was sought.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To recommend the installation of bollards (of the same design as those installed outside of the Town Hall).

In answer to a question posed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, the Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council would be carrying out an audit of dropped kerbs in the town centre, which would be considered in conjunction with that of other areas in the town undertaken by Dorset County Council.

155. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of February 2004 were submitted for information .

156. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Order on Treasurer Nos. 12, 12a, and 12b, amounting to £204,613.02, £39,374.74 and £76,277.97 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

157. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 29

th February 2004 (copies

having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at end of these Minutes.

158. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, 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.

159. **LEASES**

(a) **Kiosk Site – Shore Road**

Further to Minute No. 9 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 16 February 2004, the Clerk updated Members on negotiations regarding the operation of a kiosk on the former First Aid Huts site for the sale of hot and cold drinks, candy floss, hot dogs and burgers.

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Pedalcraft and Beach Chair Concession

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th January 2004, the Clerk reported that the pedalcraft and beach chair concessionaire had agreed, in principle, to the “heads of terms” to formalise the financial and operational arrangements.

160. **ACQUISITION OF VEHICLE**

Consideration was given to the Council’s vehicle requirements at the Holiday Park and the Operations Department.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To authorise the purchase of a new Suzuki Van for the sum of £5535.00 (plus VAT) for use in the Operations Department.

The existing Daihatsu Van to be re-located for use at the Holiday Park.