

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2008** 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 Mrs. A. Patrick

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor G.M. Suttle

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 18 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Before the commencement of the Meeting, the Town Mayor referred to his Charity Concert held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008. He welcomed Mrs. Caroline Buxton (Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau), Mrs. Pauline Dorland (Swanage Stroke Club) and Mr. Ian Collis (Light Cavalry Band), and was delighted to make presentations to each organisation from the proceeds of the evening.

**Public Participation Time**

**MR. JAMES** enquired as to the reason for invoking Standing Order Nos. 67 and 68 at some Council meetings. He was informed that, due to the confidential nature of some issues, it was in the public interest to hold the debate with the press and public excluded.

**MRS. SKINNER** enquired how often Standing Order Nos. 67 and 68 had been invoked during the past 12 months.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR D. HIETT** reported that repairs to the wall on Shore Road in the vicinity of Battlegate were scheduled to commence on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.20 p.m.

77. **APOLOGIES**

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

78. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

- (b) Proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

- (c) Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

79. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

80. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising therefrom, consideration was given to the following recommendations:-

a) **Grading of posts**

It was noted that the individual posts had been assessed and put into grades which were local to Swanage Town Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To adopt the grades and bandings proposed in the SWE Report.

b) **Long service awards**

It was noted that a substantial proportion of the Council's staff were in receipt of increments awarded for long service. However, it was identified that these could amount to indirect age discrimination and the Report recommended that these awards be abolished.

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

To abolish long service awards and adopt a new reward scheme, the details of which are to be determined.

c) **Pay allowance for Special Responsibility or Unsocial Duties e.g. Key holder/dog or drain clearance duties**

It was reported that the Job Evaluation scheme had incorporated these elements within the assessment of individual posts.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To abolish the current allowances and acknowledge that special responsibility and unsocial duties are included in the new Grades and Bandings.

A further proposition was moved by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick:-

To discontinue the payment of tool allowance in favour of providing tools directly to relevant employees, subject to an appropriate scheme being drawn up.

Upon being put to the Meeting, TEN Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

It was also proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED:-

To pay an award to First Aiders, except where First Aid forms part of an individual's job description.

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

To replace the existing evening meetings' allowance with hourly overtime payments.

d) **Effective Date**

It was noted that a protection period of three years had been agreed under Minute 5 of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Although the date of implementation had initially been anticipated as being 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 the recommended effective date in the Report was 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt and seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox:-

To agree the Effective Date as being 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, with consideration being given to individual cases where jobs have changed between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 and the date of implementation.

Upon being put to the Meeting, NINE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there were TWO ABSTENTIONS, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

e) **Appeals**

The Council had previously determined that the appeals procedure be conducted independently.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To confirm that appeals by post holders be conducted by Purbeck District Council.

f) **Continuing Advice**

The SW Employers' recommended that the evaluation exercise be regularly reviewed to ensure that changes in jobs and new jobs are properly assessed.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To confirm, in principle, for continuing arrangements with SW Employers (subject to terms and costs, to be agreed), including advice on a proposed review of job

titles and a review of the role of the Accounting Technician post. (Post TH5).

81. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

(a) **Proposals for the Minor Injuries Unit – Swanage Hospital**

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008, Councillor Mrs. Marsh updated those present on matters that had arisen at the meeting of the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

It was intended that the MIU at Swanage Hospital would continue to treat minor injuries during the period 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and that an “Information Pack” giving details of “out of hours” services would be prepared for public distribution.

83. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

There were no delegated matters to report at the present time.

84. **HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**

Councillor Suttle was pleased to report that, following lengthy discussions between Dorset County Council and Purbeck District Council, it was hoped to retain the recycling facilities in Swanage. It was intended that the recycling centre would be incorporated within the proposals for the Prospect Farm Industrial Estate. The detailed proposals would be submitted to the Dorset County Council Asset Management Group, before being considered by the Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

Councillor Mrs. Patrick wished to record her appreciation of the support and action taken by members of the “Save Swanage Tip Group”.

85. **DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER – ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION**

Further to Minute No. 3 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008, consideration was again given to the proposals to introduce a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) for the purposes of Alcohol Consumption in Swanage.

Members were mindful that the police were seeking the support of the Town Council, not only as a consultee, but also as a land owner within the proposed area. During the ensuing discussion, concerns were again raised regarding enforcement (available resources and discretionary powers) and the area to be covered by the proposed Order.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick:-  
That the Town Council supports the introduction of a Designated Public Places Order for the purposes of Alcohol Consumption in Swanage, in principle.

Upon being put to the Meeting, EIGHT Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition, TWO Members voted AGAINST and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

It was then proposed by Councillor Suttle and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh:-

That a request be forwarded to Purbeck District Council for the beach between the Mowlem and the jetty at the junction of Victoria Avenue and Shore Road to be

included within the Order.

Upon being put to the Meeting, EIGHT Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and NONE AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

Consideration was then given to the level of contribution from the Town Council towards the cost of implementation (i.e. advertising and signage).

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick:-

That the revised contribution of £400, as requested, be approved.

Upon being put to the Meeting, EIGHT Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there were THREE ABSTENTIONS, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

86. **BOAT PARK – FUTURE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**

Before consideration of this item, Councillors Mrs. Patrick and Suttle declared their personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of a business association with an interested party, and as their interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 6 (h) of the General Operations Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008, consideration was given to the future management options of the Boat Park.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a lease option be explored (details of scope and coverage i.e. boat park, fishermen's huts, jetties etc to be determined) and that expressions of interest be invited, together with an appropriate Business Plan.

87. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

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

(a) Reduction in the rate of VAT from 17.5% to 15% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

89. **PROPOSED NEW WATER TOWER – SWANAGE RAILWAY**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Whitwam declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being Chairman of the Swanage Railway Co. Ltd. and as his interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

A letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008 was submitted on behalf of the Swanage Railway Trust and the Swanage Railway Co. Ltd. seeking the Council's consent, as Landlord, to erect a new water tower on Council-owned land.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That under Clause 13 of the lease, Landlord's Consent be granted for the erection of a new water tower on Council-owned land.

90. **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.

91. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Options Appraisal**

The Clerk provided details of a letter received from the District Auditor dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008, further to Minute No. 14 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

Members were given details of correspondence received from the Head of Regulatory Services of Dorset County Council following up a complaint lodged by the Bay View Caravan Owners' Association.

In so far as the outcome of any investigation could directly influence the disposal of the Park, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED:-

That the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Caravan Park Committee Chairman, together with the Town Clerk, meet informally with representatives of the Bay View Caravan Owners' Association and Mr. M. Hardiman in an attempt to explore the resolution of the matters in dispute.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m.

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