

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 27th OCTOBER 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 Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 22 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MRS. C. BARTLETT referred to the newly painted yellow lines in Panorama Road and enquired as to the costs incurred. She was informed that the cost of installing the yellow lines was £528.

She then enquired whether use of the swimming pool at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park could be made available free of charge for local residents over 60 years of age.

MR. J. WOOTTON referred to Minute No. 3 of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 21st August 2008 and Minute No. 4 a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 6th October 2008, and enquired whether Standing Order No. 36 had been breached.

MR. W. SARGENT referred to the meeting of the Tourism Committee held earlier that day, at which consideration had been given to a request from the Bay View Caravan Owners' Association for representation on the Tourism Committee. The Committee had considered it inappropriate to make a decision in the matter at the present time, bearing in mind the current Options Appraisal. He expressed his disappointment at the deferral, and requested that the Council reconsider the matter as soon as possible.

MRS. P. BISLEY enquired whether Purbeck District Council was accepting planning applications.

MR. P. CLARK enquired whether it was intended to retain the post of Youth Leader in Swanage when the current postholder relinquishes his position.

MR. I. SAUNDERS enquired as to the Council's policy for providing toilet facilities during the winter period.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.20 p.m.

63. **APOLOGIES**

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

64. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 29th September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 25th September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Audley, 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 6th October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 7th October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 13th October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

65. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 24th September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising therefrom, Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough reported that following the town's success in the regional competition in 2008, Swanage had been invited to enter the national Britain in Bloom competition in 2009.

66. **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 20th October 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

67. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported that the Charity Concert, held at the Mowlem Theatre on Wednesday, 15th October 2008 had been very successful, although local support for the event had been somewhat disappointing. The entertainment had been provided by the Light Cavalry Band, under the directorship of Captain Tony Adams, and Miss Emma Fidler, (vocalist). Proceeds from the evening would be donated to his chosen charities – the Swanage Stroke Club and the Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau.

68. **TOURISM REPORT**

In the absence of the Tourist Information Centre Supervisor, Councillor Mrs. Patrick, Chairman of the Tourism Committee, presented the tourism report :-

- (a) Accommodation bookings for the month were comparable to those in October 2007.
- (b) Tickets for the Purbeck Film Festival in Swanage had sold out, and there had been an increase in sales of tickets for the National Express. Swanage Tourist Information Centre had achieved the highest sales of Condor Ferries tickets throughout the Tourist Information Centres network in Dorset during the 2008 season.
- (c) Beach hut bookings for the 2009 season would commence on 1st November, and to date, 78 applications had been received for Carnival Week!
- (d) Charity Christmas cards were selling well, and it was anticipated that there would be an increased demand at the TIC "Open Day" on Friday, 31st October, when the "Dorset Flag" would be raised. This would also mark the start of "Dorset Food Week".
- (e) There were very few bays available at the Boat Park for the winter season – most spaces having been reserved on an annual basis at the start of the summer season.

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

(a) **Dorset Age Partnership**

Councillor Gloyn-Cox reported that he had attended a meeting of the Dorset Age Partnership – Purbeck Group earlier in the day. The Swanage Area Senior Forum were hoping to reintroduce the Swanage Community Bus service on one day a week within Swanage and surrounding areas for those who cannot use or have no access to public transport. He requested that the Town Council supports the initiative by making survey and registration forms available to interested parties through the Town Hall.

70. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

71. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

72. **BOURNEMOUTH-SWANAGE MOTOR ROAD – PROPOSED FERRY FEES**

Consideration was given to the proposed increases for the use of the Shell Bay-Sandbanks ferry to be introduced on 1st April 2010.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the proposed increases were well above inflation, and Members considered this to be a serious imposition on local residents who were reliant on this service. It was also noted that although pre-paid books of tickets were available at a discounted rate, these did not appear to be included within the Order and were not advertised in the current and proposed Schedule of Charges.

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

That the Town Council registers its formal objection to the application submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport by the Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road & Ferry Company for an Order to revise the charges for the use of the ferry between Sandbanks and South Haven Point.

73. **SWANAGE BAY VIEW HOLIDAY PARK – GYM PROPOSALS**

Further to Minute No. 2a of the Finance and Performance Management Committee meeting held on 4th August 2008, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the installation of the gymnasium/fitness centre at the Holiday Park.

The need to upgrade the toilets in the Quarryman had been identified, and the requirement for a shower room had been acknowledged in conjunction with the installation of the gym/fitness centre. Detailed consideration was then given to the cost of providing these facilities.

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

That formal approval be given to the refurbishment of the Quarryman toilets (to include a shower facility in each of the ladies and gents toilets) at a capital cost of £15,000.

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

Mr. Scudamore requested permission to address the Meeting. The Chairman did not accede to the request to invoke Standing Order No.69 and continued with the business to be transacted.

It was noted that budget costs of £10,400 for the gym installation had been approved, of which £7,400 had been invested in the infrastructure improvements. Additional expenditure was envisaged, and formal approval of the revised estimated cost of £11,200 was sought.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick:-

That revised estimated costs for the provision of the gym/fitness centre facilities in the sum of £11,200 be approved.

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

Consideration was then given to the fees to be charged for the use of the facilities, and it was RESOLVED:-

That the following charges be adopted:-

Induction fee of £10.00 (includes entry admission card)

Daily:-	Inclusive charge	£5.00
	Gym only	£4.00
	Over 60 – inclusive charge	£3.50

Weekly:-	Inclusive charge	£10.00
	Gym only	£ 8.00

	Over 60 – inclusive charge	£ 6.50
Quarterly:-	Inclusive charge	£70.00
	Gym only	£60.00
	Over 60 – inclusive charge	£30.00

* Inclusive charge covers use of gym, swimming pool and sauna.

Special Group Rates:-

10% reduction for group of 5 or more people

15% reduction for group of 20 or more people

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That no annual fees be introduced at the present time.

During the ensuing discussion, questions were raised regarding the income and expenditure predictions, and it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the matter be deferred to the Special Meeting of the Council scheduled for 7th November 2008 to enable detailed consideration to be given to the Business Plan.

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

There were no additional matters of information to report at the present time.

75. **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.

76. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Options Appraisal**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the Options Appraisal and specialist legal advice that was being sought through Purbeck District Council. During the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed at the anticipated increase in the District Auditor's fees as a result of the legal challenge and other unresolved issues.

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

That the Clerk be requested to obtain a breakdown of the anticipated fees from the District Auditor.

(b) **Telecommunications Mast, Football Club**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Audley declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of Swanage Town and Herston Football Club, and as his interest was prejudicial, left the meeting during the debate.

Councillor Mrs. Marsh also declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being Vice-Chairman of the PDC Planning Board. As her interest was non-prejudicial, she remained in the Meeting during the debate. It was reported that the proposed Vodafone telecommunications mast was the subject of a planning application to be discussed by the PDC Planning Board on Thursday, 30th October 2008, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-

That the Town Council's views be presented in person to the Board.

(c) **Lease – Fisherman's Catch**

The Town Mayor declared a personal interest in the following item under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of his acquaintance with the family and as his interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Trite assumed the Chair.

Further to Minute No. 62 (d) of the Council Meeting held on 25th September 2008, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the lease of the Fisherman's Catch. It was reported that negotiations between the parties had ceased and Members noted that the existing lease terms would continue.

The Town Mayor re-assumed the Chair.

(d) **Newton Grange/Cow Lane**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Patrick declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason a business relationship with contractors to the developer, and as her interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Mrs. Marsh also declared a personal interest in the following matter under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of the Purbeck Housing Trust Board. As her interest was prejudicial, she left the Meeting during the debate.

The Clerk updated Members on legal and planning issues relating to the Newton Grange development. It was noted that the Town Council was awaiting receipt of finalised plans approved by the highway authority from the developer.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 p.m.
