

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 27th APRIL 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor B. Audley
Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor M. Hadley
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough
Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor G.M. Suttle
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M. Whitwam

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

The Mayor welcomed Father Tony Delsenk, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MRS. H. BASSON explained the work of the Dorset Blind Association. She reported that the Swanage branch had approximately 100 members who were blind or partially sighted. The services provided by the Association were of great benefit to their Members, and she requested that favourable consideration be given to the request for funding to be considered under item 5 (a) of the Council Agenda.

MR. P. CLARK referred to the April 2009 edition of “Swanage Matters”, and the article entitled “Council Tax Rise due to Unprecedented Circumstances”, which he did not consider fully reflected the reasons for the 37% increase in the Council tax for 2009/10. He acknowledged the need for prudence in the forthcoming year, but hoped that this would not severely impact on the future retention of the Tourist Information Centre and Town Hall buildings and the services provided.

MRS. M. SKINNER requested that the hearing loop in the Council Chamber be utilised when Meetings were in progress.

MR. M. STOLLERY referred to an enquiry made by the Purbeck Society on matters relating to the De Moulham Trust, and requested further information on subjects raised.

MRS. M. SKINNER enquired whether the meeting of the Caravan Park Committee would be held on 29th April 2009, as scheduled. She was informed by the **TOWN CLERK** that all meetings of the Caravan Park Committee had been suspended until the “bidding” process had been completed. It had not yet been determined when these Committee meetings would be re-instated.

MR. T. BUCK, on behalf of the Swanage Bowling Club, thanked the Council for the recent improvement works undertaken at the Beach Gardens pavilion.

COUNCILLOR M. HADLEY had expressed his concern regarding the content of the Council's newsletter, "Swanage Matters", and was disappointed that his comments had not been recorded in the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2009.

MR. I. SAUNDERS was impressed with the appearance of the recently-constructed coastguard building at North Beach Car Park. He then drew attention to the deteriorating condition of the storage hut in the north west corner of the car park, and asked that the owners of the building be requested to carry out appropriate improvements.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.20 p.m.

135. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Mrs. Patrick.

136. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 30th March 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the following being recorded in Public Participation Time:-

Mr. C. Card referred to "Social Housing" that had been mentioned in a Member's election leaflet, and enquired whether the site of approximately one acre to the left of the complex at the Holiday Park had been identified for this purpose. He was informed that this parcel of land was outside of the "settlement boundary" and could therefore not be used for this purpose.

Arising from Minute No. 134, Councillor Hadley requested that greater detail be recorded in the Minutes when "Items of Information" are raised.

Minute No. 134 (f) – Parking, Stone Quay.

Concern was expressed that a serious accident may occur due to the indiscriminate parking of vehicles in the vicinity of the Stone Quay.

Minute No. 134 (h) – School Buses.

Issues were raised relating to the bus service provided for pupils attending the Purbeck School. The buses were often late, and in many locations, there was no shelter for the children in inclement and cold weather.

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

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

Arising from Minute No. 6, Councillor Hadley wished it to be recorded that he considered that the article entitled "Council Tax Rise due to Unprecedented Circumstances", published in the April 2009 edition of Swanage Matters, did not

fully reflect the reasons for the 37% increase in the Town Council's precept for 2009/10.

- (c) Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, 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 20th April 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed.

137. **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 Committee held on 6th April 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Consideration was then given to the recommendations contained in the Minutes, as follows:-

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

To the disposal of the Pavilion, Bowling Green and Tennis Courts by the granting of three individual leases satisfied that the provisions of Section 127 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 with regard to the General Disposal Consent (England) 2003 in terms of the promotion or improvement of social well-being and the difference between the unrestricted value of the land to be disposed of and the consideration for the disposal does not exceed £2,000,000 (two million pounds) were met.

- Proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Poultney:-

To agree the term of the proposed leases i.e. 21 years or 50 years (the preferred option of the Swanage Tennis Club being 50 years).

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

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

That, for continuity and in order to progress the matter, those Councillors with delegated authority, i.e. Councillor Pratt, Councillor Trite and Councillor Mrs. Patrick, continue to act on behalf of the Town Council in the lease negotiations.

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

To adopt the contents of the Briefing Note as the basis for drafting heads of terms (to be agreed by the respective Clubs) and approved by the Council.

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

That the proposed revenue contribution of £10,000 be increased to £12,500 in year one, reducing by £2,500 per annum (this increased sum to be met from identifying additional budget savings, if possible).

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Putting Green be let out as a concession (commencement date to be determined) and that expressions of interest be invited.

138. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Order on Treasurer No. 1a, amounting to £62,697.72 be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefore.

139. **REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-

That Item 5 – Requests for Funding – be deferred for consideration later in the Meeting.

140. **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

(a) **Purbeck Heritage Strategy**

Consideration was given to the Draft Purbeck Heritage Strategy 2009-2014 Consultation.

A brief discussion ensued, during which it was requested that copies of the full document be circulated to all members.

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

That the matter be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Council at which an appropriate response be formulated.

(b) **Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan**

Members were reminded of the need to respond to the Draft Dorset and East Devon Coast (Jurassic Coast) World Site Management Plan by 9th June 2009. Copies of the full document were available on request from the Town Hall.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at a Future meeting of the Council.

141. **REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

(a) **Dorset Blind Association**

Further to Minute No. 1 (d) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 23rd January 2009, consideration was given to a request received for funding from the Dorset Blind Association.

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

That the sum of £500 be donated to the Dorset Blind Association, subject to budget.

It was further RESOLVED:-

That the procedures for receiving and processing future requests for funding be considered by the Finance and Performance Management Committee.

(b) **Swanage & District Dart League**

A letter was submitted from Swanage & District Dart League seeking a donation towards the cost of staging the Annual Finals and Presentation Night of the Swanage & District Dart League on Saturday, 13th June 2009.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That no donation be made to the Swanage & District Dart League, it being considered to be outside of the remit of Swanage Town Council.

(c) **Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance**

Consideration was given to a request received to discuss possible fundraising initiatives on behalf of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

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

That representatives of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance be invited to make a presentation, including their new initiatives, to a future meeting of the Council.

142. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

(a) **Swanage Pier Trust**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh reported that she had attended a meeting of the Swanage Pier Trust on 13th March 2009. She would present a report to a future meeting of the Council.

144. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

The Town Clerk reported that a structural engineer's report had been commissioned in respect of the boat park jetties, to be financed from the existing budgets.

145. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of March 2009 were submitted for information.

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

(a) It was reported that the Annual Parish Assembly would be held at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park on Wednesday, 6th May 2009, as this venue provided access for the disabled.

- (b) Attention was again drawn to the bus service provided for pupils attending the Purbeck School. The buses were often late, and in many locations, no shelter was provided in inclement and cold weather.
- (c) Concern was expressed that a serious accident may occur due to the indiscriminate parking of vehicles in the vicinity of the Stone Quay. It was suggested that the Town Council erect a “No Parking” sign in this area. It was noted that the Town Council could not accept responsibility for property that was not within its ownership, and it was suggested that the matter be referred to Dorset County Council as a matter of urgency. During the discussion, it was reported that the Town Council’s Enforcement Officer’s had been requested to monitor the situation, and report to the next meeting of the Transport Committee to be held on 6th May 2009. It was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and **RESOLVED:-**

That a schedule of matters of concern, under the jurisdiction of Dorset County Council, be presented to the meeting of the Transport Committee to be held on 6th May 2009 before being referred to Dorset County Council.
- (d) The first steam train for approximately 40 years was scheduled to arrive in Swanage from Waterloo at 1.15 p.m. on Saturday, 2nd May 2009.
- (e) Members were reminded that Purbeck District Council were holding a “Planning Workshop” at Church Knowle on Tuesday, 19th May 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

147. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason 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.

148. **HOLIDAY PARK – QUARRYMAN TOILETS**

Further to Minute No. 8 (b) of the Council meeting held on 20th April 2008 and detailed information contained in a Briefing Note prepared by the Town Clerk dated 26th April 2009, consideration was given to the refurbishment of the Quarryman toilets at the Holiday Park.

Having regard to the proposed disposal of the Holiday Park, it was proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To adhere to the professional advice received that no refurbishment works be undertaken to the Quarryman toilets at the present time.

149. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Holiday Park Disposal**

i) **Lease Proposals**

There were no matters to report on the lease proposals at the present time.

ii) **Outstanding Disputes**

Further to Minute No. 8 (b) of the Council meeting held on 20th April 2009, and a subsequent offer received from the owners of a caravan who were in dispute with the Council, consideration was given to the issues in dispute (as outlined in the Briefing Note dated 27th April 2009).

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Suttle and seconded by Councillor Pratt:-

That a specified sum be received in respect of the 2008/09 season and to permit the owners access to their caravan, provided that income from lettings in 2009 be allocated against the outstanding sums due, and any balance remaining being subject to recovery and/or legal action in due course.

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.

iii) **Electoral Registration**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to electoral registration.

(b) **Professional Indemnity Claim – Update**

Further to Minute No. 6. (g) of the Policy and Planning meeting held on 9th April 2009, it was reported that the proposed settlement had been agreed by the legal teams representing each party, subject to the finalisation of a confidentiality clause.

(c) **Former Munitions Store – Receipt of Valuer’s Report and Granting of Lease**

Councillor Mrs Marsh declared a personal interest under the model code of conduct by reason of being in receipt of an RNLI pension.

Consideration was given to advice received from the Council’s appointed surveyor and valuer, following which it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by the Town Mayor and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the recommendation of the Council’s surveyor be accepted and that a lease be granted to the RNLI in accordance with the draft heads of terms contained in the briefing note dated 24th April 2009.

(d) **Former Coastguard Building – Receipt of Valuer’s Report and Granting of Lease**

Councillor Hadley declared his personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a personal friend of an interested party, and as his interest was prejudicial left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Mrs. Marsh also declared her interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being in receipt of an RNLI pension, and as her interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 123 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 23rd February 2009, Members received confirmation of acceptance of the offer made to the RNLI, following which it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Suttle and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the terms negotiated by the Council’s surveyor be noted and that a lease be granted to the RNLI. in accordance with the draft heads of terms contained in the briefing note dated 24th April 2009.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the leases for the two buildings be kept separate to enable maximum flexibility in the future.

The meeting concluded at 9.35 p.m.
