Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Swanage Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND PLANNING** matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY**, 19th **JULY 2010** at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor W.S. Trite (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor B. Audley
Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor M. Whitwam

Also in attendance:-

Mr. S. Dring Purbeck District Council Mr. M. Diamond Purbeck District Council

Public Participation Time

There were 12 members of the public present at the Meeting.

MR. M. STOLLERY referred to Agenda Item No. 16 – "Swanage Mainline Railway Connection" – and requested that the Town Council submits a statement to Dorset County Council supportive of the reconnection project.

He then referred to Agenda Item No. 5 – "Core Strategy" – and expressed concern regarding any future development on the Herston Fields site. He reported that approximately two years ago, the fields had been removed from the Conservation Area, and, at that time, an assurance was given that there were no future plans for development in this location. Speaking on behalf of the **PURBECK SOCIETY**, Mr. Stollery raised grave concerns at the possible re-location of the Health Centre to an out-of-town site. Having regard to the large number of elderly residents in Swanage, it was considered to be of paramount importance that the Health Centre facilities should be retained in the town centre, and, if necessary, upgraded on a phased programme. Concern was also expressed regarding the future of Swanage Hospital.

MR. GALLAGHER, on behalf of the Herston Fields Group, was strongly opposed to any development on the Herston Fields site. He had also expressed concern at the removal of these fields from the Conservation Area. He then referred to the frequent use of the fields for recreational activities i.e. picnics, dog walking etc. and reported that an application would be lodged for the eastern field to be designated as a "Village Green".

The above comments were endorsed by MR. S. FOOT, MR. C. HOBBS, MS. L. McMORROW AND MS. L. KENNEDY.

It was noted that a Public Meeting to consider the Herston Fields site was being held at Herston Hall, Jubilee Road, Swanage on Wednesday, 21st July 2010 at 7 p.m.

The **TOWN MAYOR** referred to Agenda Item No. 16 – "Swanage Mainline Railway

Connection". When the item is considered by the Council, he would declare his interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being on the Council of Management of the Swanage Railway Trust and would leave the Meeting during the debate. However, he wished to exercise his right to speak as a member of the public, and requested that the Town Council makes positive statements in support of the Swanage Mainline Railway Connection to Dorset County Council's Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday, 21st July 2010.

COUNCILLOR M. WHITWAM stated that he too would declare his interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a Director of the Swanage Railway Company and would withdraw from the Meeting during consideration of Item No. 16. He also wished to exercise his right as a local elector to speak on the subject. He outlined the importance of the issue, and stressed that it was an opportunity that should not be missed for the Town Council to support the Swanage Mainline Railway Connection.

Before the commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman announced that, in view of the public interest, he would consider Agenda Items 5 (Core Strategy) and 16 (Swanage Mainline Railway Connection) at the beginning of the Meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

2. **CORE STRATEGY**

(a) **Settlement Extensions**

Mr. S. Dring, Planning Policy Manager of Purbeck District Council, introduced the proposals contained in the consultation document 'Where shall we build in Swanage and Corfe Castle 2012-2026?' and drew attention to a number of issues relating to each of the four sites that had been identified as potential locations for significant settlement extensions to the town. During the following debate serious concern was expressed at the legitimacy of the current consultation process following the recent abolition by central government of regional spatial strategies and the housing targets contained therein. The need to prioritise the delivery of affordable housing was highlighted repeatedly and it was noted that the Town Council would welcome further discussions with the District Council to identify appropriate sites

In view of the fact that a public meeting was due to be held regarding building on Herston Fields, it was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Mrs Patrick:-

That formulation of the Town Council's response to the Core Strategy consultation be deferred until the next monthly meeting of the council on Monday 2nd August 2010.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Audley:-

That, having taken note of the abolition of the regional spatial strategy and housing targets, and having regard to local people's views, the Town Council rejects the use of all four sites identified for settlement extensions as presented and requests that prioritisation be given to the provision of affordable housing.

Upon being put to the meeting, THREE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT, SIX Members voted AGAINST, and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Amendment was declared NOT CARRIED.

Councillor Bright requested that a named vote be taken, and it was recorded as follows:-

In favour: Councillors Audley, Bright and Poultney.Against: The Town Mayor and Councillors Gloyn-Cox,

Mrs.Marsh, Mrs.Patrick and Pratt.

Abstention: Councillor Whitwam.

The original Proposition was then put to the Meeting and declared CARRIED, with SIX Members voting IN FAVOUR of the Proposition, TWO Members voting AGAINST, and there was ONE ABSTENTION.

Voting was recorded as follows:-

In favour: The Town Mayor and Councillors Gloyn-Cox,

Mrs.Marsh, Mrs.Patrick, Pratt and Whitwam.

Against: Councillors Audley and Poultney.

Abstention: Councillor Bright.

(b) <u>District Design Guide</u>

It was noted that the District Design Guide drew together existing planning policies and as such its contents were noted.

(c) <u>Townscape Character Appraisal</u>

Receipt of the Townscape Character Appraisal was noted.

(d) Retail Impact Assessment

Consideration was given to the retail impact assessment in respect of the provision of an additional supermarket in either Wareham or Swanage. Concern was expressed at the impact of a new supermarket in either town on the business of local shopkeepers.

It was RESOLVED:

That further consideration of this item be deferred until the Monthly Council Meeting on Monday 2nd August 2010.

3. **SWANAGE MAINLINE RAILWAY CONNECTION**

Before consideration of this item, the Town Mayor declared his interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being on the Council of Management of the Swanage Railway Trust and as his interest was prejudicial, he left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Whitwam also declared his interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a Director of the Swanage Railway Company, and as his interest was prejudicial, he also left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Mrs. Patrick assumed the Chair.

Further to Minute No. 8 of the Policy and Planning Meeting held on 26th April 2010, and a subsequent meeting of the Dorset County Council Cabinet held on 30th June 2010, the County Council requested a statement of the Town Council's continued support of the proposed Swanage mainline railway connection.

During the ensuing discussion, Members re-affirmed their support for the project, but were mindful of the constraints affecting any financial commitment.

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

That the Town Council wholeheartedly supports the proposed re-connection project and would consider what contribution it could make within its legal powers, either financially or in kind.

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

4. **PLANS**

Delegated Applications

6/2010/0406 **Mr N Hardy**

O/A Erect a detached two storey dwelling and garage.

51 Rabling Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No comment, pending possible future discussions by the Town Council as the corporate trustee of the De Moulham Estate Trust.

Before consideration of the next application, Councillors Audley and Pratt declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being close neighbours of the applicant, and as their interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

6/2010/0418 **Mr P Rust**

Demolish existing garage and erect double garage with storage area above.

2 Princess Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection, subject to there being no commercial use of the building.

6/2010/0421 **Ms E Pearson**

LISTED Re-roof stone slate roof and insert conservation rooflight.

83 High Street, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2010/0429 **Harrop & Booth**

Convert existing loftspace to create living accommodation and install dormer window on north elevation. (Revised scheme to PP 6/2010/0322).

20 Mariners Drive, Swanage. **OBSERVATION:** No objection.

6/2010/0432 **Mr M Jones**

Install 16 solar photovoltaic panels on rear roof elevation.

Larks Rise, 279B High Street, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2010/0434 Mr B Forte

Demolish existing and erect replacement sunlounge. Demolish garage and erect replacement two storey extension to form garage and utility room with bedrooms over. Alterations to dormer window to insert balcony on north elevation.

2 Sunridge Close, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection, subject to there being no commercial use of the premises.

Application for information only:-

6/2010/0431 Mr D Lucas

Proposed non-material amendment to PP 6/2007/0540. (Demolish existing building and erect retail shop on ground floor with eight flats over) – Request to make amendments to windows on north and east elevations.

2-4 Kings Road, Swanage.

5. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30th June 2010 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

6. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 4 and 4a, amounting to £390,110.28 and £48,537.91 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

7. SOUTH EAST DORSET TRANSPORT STUDY

Consideration was given to the South East Dorset Transport Study Consultation Leaflet (copies having been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting).

Members had few observations on the proposals in general, but fully endorsed Theme C – providing through trains to Swanage. Some concerns were expressed at any future increases in long-stay parking charges, proposed congestion charges and ferry price increases which would adversely affect local residents who travelled to work in the Bournemouth/Poole area.

8. **DORSET COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the Draft Dorset Community Strategy for 2010-2020.

During the ensuing discussion, Members acknowledged the importance of

bringing together local partners from the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to co-ordinate the views of local people. However, some concerns were expressed regarding the future role of "Community Partnerships" following the recent change of government.

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

That the Town Council does not submit an official response to the document, but that individual Councillors submit their own comments to the questionnaire.

9. "WATER WALKERS"

A letter dated 15th June 2010 was submitted from Mr Sven Schmidt seeking a site from which to operate a "Water Walkers" attraction.

Following discussion, during which it was recognised that a level site was required for the water pool, it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That permission to operate a "Water Walkers" attraction be not granted, as the Council did not have a suitable site available for the water pool.

10. ICE CREAM CONCESSION

A letter was submitted from Mr. R. Lucas of Swanage, requesting permission to operate an ice cream van from either Main Beach Car Park or Broad Road Car Park during the summer season.

During the ensuing discussion, Members felt that further information relating to health and safety, environmental, risk assessments and other issues was necessary, and that the application for the current season should have been lodged earlier in the year to allow for these issues to be addressed.

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

That the request be not granted for the 2010 summer season, bearing in mind the timescale.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That the Town Council reviews its policy relating to the operation of concessions on Council-owned property.

11. PROPOSAL FOR BUS USERS' GROUP

An e-mail dated 9th July 2010 was submitted from Mr C Harris, of Go South Coast, outlining a proposal to set up a Bus Users' Group in Swanage. It was suggested that the group comprise of a small but representative group of bus users in Swanage, and Council representation on the Group (when formed) was invited. The use of a suitable room in the Town Hall for the Group approximately three times per year was also requested.

During the ensuing discussion, Members felt that this Group should come under the umbrella of the Purbeck Transport Action Group, and it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To recommend that Go South Coast approach the Purbeck Transport Action Group with a view to holding joint or consecutive meetings.

12. **BEACH GARDENS**

(a) **Junior Tennis Camp**

An e-mail dated 11th July 2010 was submitted from the Swanage Tennis Club requesting permission to run a Junior Tennis Camp on 25th and 26th August 2010.

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

That permission be granted, subject to appropriate CRB checks being obtained.

(b) Swanage Bowling Club

Further to Minute No. 7 of the Policy and Planning Meeting held on 17th May 2010, it was reported that an appropriate site for the Swanage Bowling Club storage shed (10' x 8') had been identified in the vicinity of the Northbrook Road/Cauldon Avenue boundary.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Audley, and RESOLVED, with ONE ABSTENTION:-

That permission to site a storage shed in the vicinity of the Northbrook Road/Cauldon Avenue boundary be granted.

13. **BEACH ACTIVITIES**

An e-mail dated 10th July 2010 was submitted on behalf of the Emmanuel Baptist Church requesting permission to hold beach activities and distribute leaflets during August.

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

That the request be approved in principle, subject to details to be agreed by the Acting Town Clerk and Tourist Information Centre Supervisor.

14. **DISABLED BADGE HOLDER PARKING**

A letter dated 30th June 2010 was submitted from the Revd E Pratt drawing attention to the limited number of parking spaces for disabled badge holders in the vicinity of the Health Centre, and outlining the difficulties experienced when these are fully occupied and there is an appointment to keep. It was requested that consideration be given to making additional spaces available for use by the disabled badge holders by reducing the number of spaces currently designated for use by taxi permit holders.

During the ensuing discussion, it was acknowledged that the full allocation of spaces was required by the taxi drivers who operate their businesses from this area

The abuse of this area by some inconsiderate drivers who used the spaces for free parking when shopping was also highlighted, and it was suggested that an approach be made to the Manager of the Swanage Health Centre seeking their cooperation in resolving the issue, possibly by the issuing of identification for those attending appointments at the Health Centre.

It was RESOLVED:-

That a letter be sent to the Manager of the Swanage Health Centre seeking co-operation in resolving the issue.

15. METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS

The meteorological records for the month of June 2010 were submitted for information.

16. <u>ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING</u> AGENDAS

(a) **Swanage Minor Injuries Unit**

A letter dated 23rd June 2010 was submitted from Dorset County Council informing the Town Council that the recommendation of the Scrutiny Review Panel in respect of the Swanage Minor Injuries Unit would be considered by the relevant Committee on 28th July 2010.

(b) <u>Car Park Charges – Special Events</u>

It was reported that, due to the programming of the parking meters, there would be no reduction in car parking charges for special events during the 2010 summer season.

(c) **Quality Council Status**

It was requested that "Quality Council Status" be included as an item on a forthcoming Council Agenda.

(d) Swanage Regatta & Carnival

Attention was drawn to a live music event which had been advertised without identification of the band. It was reported that the performing band was a local group, and that the Dorset Police were aware of the event.

(e) **Planning Appeal**

The Planning Inspectorate had upheld the decision of Purbeck District Council to dismiss the Appeal lodged in respect of 5 Station Road.

(f) Planning Approval

The application in respect of the Rangers' bungalow at Durlston Country Park had been approved by Dorset County Council.

17. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

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.

18. KING GEORGE'S FIELD – CHANGING FACILITIES

A proposal by Sports Solutions GB (SSGB) for the development of facilities at King George's Field was submitted for consideration.

During the ensuing discussion, Members supported the proposals in principle, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred to enable further information regarding references and alternative service providers to be obtained.

19. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) Lease - Santa Fe Amusement Park

Consideration was given to a request received from the lessees of the Santa Fe Amusement Park to assign the leases to two new tenants. It was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be referred to the Council's legal advisers to enable appropriate references and and other associated matters to be pursued.

It was noted that no costs should be borne by the Town Council in respect of any lease assignments.

(b) <u>Lease – Ice Cream Kiosks</u>

A letter dated 8th June 2010 was submitted from the lessee of the Ice Cream Kiosks requesting a variation of the lease agreement to include additional family members.

It was RESOLVED:-

The Meeting concluded at 1.10 p.m.

That the matter be referred to the Council's legal advisers.

It was noted that no costs should be borne by the Town Council in respect of any variation to the lease agreement.