

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Swanage Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND PLANNING** matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 18th JANUARY 2010** at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M. Pratt (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor B. Audley

Councillor C. Bright

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox

Councillor M. Hadley

Councillor Mrs G. Marsh (until 10.55 a.m.)

Councillor Mrs A. Patrick (until 10.45 a.m.)

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor W. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

Councillor A. Wiggins

Public Participation Time

There were no Members of the Public present at the Meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

2. **PLANS**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh did not vote on, or propose, or second any of the motions on the following planning applications, by reason of being a Member of the Purbeck District Council's Planning Board.

Plan No

Delegated Applications

Councillor Audley declared a personal interest in the following application under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of a business association with the applicant, and as this was a prejudicial interest, left the Meeting during its consideration.

Councillor Gloyn-Cox declared a personal interest in the following application under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being an acquaintance of the applicant, and as this was a prejudicial interest, left the Meeting during its consideration.

6/2010/0001

W J Haysom & Son

Variation of Condition 1 of PP 6/2006/1120 to allow quarry operations to continue for a further year.

Belle Vue Quarry, Herston, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

Ocean Bay Watersports

Erect wooden beach hut.

Ocean Bay Watersports, Ulwell Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: Recommend refusal. The agreement with the District Council that no additional structures should be placed on the beach following the recharge scheme should be upheld. A number of inaccuracies were identified within the Design and Access Statement and the economic arguments in favour of the development were judged to be unconvincing.

During discussion of this application, it was agreed that confirmation should be sought from the District Council that all appropriate permissions were in place in respect the applicant's existing beach kiosk.

3. **BALLARD ESTATE – CONSIDERATION OF LETTER FROM MR HAMPTON**

Further to minute 9)b) of the Policy and Planning meeting held on 21st December 2009, consideration was given to a letter dated 7th December 2009 from Mr Hampton on behalf of the Ballard Estate Company expressing dismay at the recent decision of Purbeck District Council's Planning Board to approve an application to insert a dormer window at 103 Bay Crescent. The letter drew attention to an informal agreement with the former Swanage Urban District Council that development would be kept to a low level in the area to protect the character of the Estate.

During the discussion of this issue it was acknowledged that the planning officers had followed existing guidelines and that consideration had been given to the distance of the development from adjoining properties. Nevertheless, concern was expressed that this may provide a precedent for a future intensification of development which would be detrimental to the existing character of this neighbourhood. It was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bright and **RESOLVED:**

That the District Council be requested to incorporate a policy to preserve the low-rise character of Ballard Estate and adjoining properties in the forthcoming Core Strategy and Local Development Framework.

4. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31st December 2009 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

5. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh, and **RESOLVED:-**

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 10 and 10a, amounting to £241,053.51 and £21,347.17 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

Arising from a payment in respect of a contractual matter relating to a vending machine at Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, consideration was given as to how such matters had been dealt with in the contract for sale of the park. It was agreed that the Town Clerk quantify the total cost to the Town Council of this and other contractual matters and report to a forthcoming Council meeting.

6. **SWANAGE MAINLINE RAILWAY CONNECTION – REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Councillor Whitwam declared a personal interest in this item under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Company.

Councillor Trite declared a personal interest in this item under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust.

Consideration was given to the identification of funding for the signalling work required to enable the connection of the Swanage Railway to the mainline. In the absence of any detailed information it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hadley and RESOLVED:

That the matter be deferred to the Annual Estimates meeting to be held on Monday 25th January 2010.

Councillor Mrs Patrick left the meeting at 10.45 a.m.

7. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

(a) **Records for the month of December 2009**

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

(b) **Possible automation of meteorological station**

Further to minute 8 of the Policy and Planning Meeting held on 19th October 2009, consideration was given to a formal proposal from the Met Office to automate the weather station. The question of the cost of connecting electricity to the site was discussed and it was agreed that the Town Council would contribute the cost of undertaking the trench work to be carried out by the Council's employees (estimated at £1,000). It was noted that once the site was automated this would lead to a saving of approximately £2,700 per annum. It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Met Office be informed that the Town Council agrees to the automation of the weather station, subject to their agreement to pay for the connection work to be carried out by the electricity company, clarification over the ongoing payment for electricity to the site, and in respect of any requirement for planning permission for new equipment.

Councillor Mrs Marsh left the meeting at 10.55 a.m.

8. **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

(a) **Dorset and East Devon Coastal Corridor Action Plan**

Consideration was given to the draft Dorset and East Devon Coastal Corridor Action Plan. The contents of the plan were noted and it was AGREED:

That the authors of the Coastal Corridor Action Plan be requested to include the site of the Household Recycling Centre at Panorama Road as a future car park.

(b) **Poole and Christchurch Bay Shoreline Management Plan**

Further to minute 9f) of the Policy and Planning meeting held on 21st December 2009, it was agreed that the District Engineer be invited to make a

presentation on the Shoreline Management Plan to a forthcoming council meeting.

(c) **Marine SACs and SPAs in English, Welsh and Offshore Waters around the UK**

Consideration was given to consultation in respect of marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Grave concern was expressed regarding the possible impact of the introduction of the proposed SAC between Poole Bay and Lyme Regis on the local fishing industry. It was AGREED:

That Mr Alan Lander, chairman of Swanage Fishermen's Association, be invited to discuss the formulation of a response to this consultation with the Deputy Town Clerk and Councillor Gloyn-Cox.

(d) **Street Trading and Pedlar Laws**

A consultation document regarding the reform of Street Trading and Pedlar Laws, issued by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills was considered. Proposals for updating the definition of a pedlar, the introduction of a new certification process, and the transfer of enforcement powers from the police to local authorities were highlighted. During discussion attention was drawn to the need for these new regulations to be uniformly applicable to all street traders and pedlars, whether trading on the public highway or private land. It was RESOLVED:

That the Town Council supports the key proposals for reforming the law relating to street trading and pedlars set out in the consultation document circulated by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, and that the need for uniformity in their application be highlighted.

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

(a) **Haiti Donation**

The possibility of the Town Council donating to the appeal on behalf of the Haiti earthquake victims was raised. Regrettably, it was noted that the Town Council was not permitted to make such a donation under local government legislation.

(b) **Previous Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

Attention was drawn to the need to include on an agenda for a forthcoming meeting representations recently made regarding the STRATA arts project and noise arising from music events on the seafront during August. It was reported that these matters were scheduled to appear on Council agendas during February. The importance of keeping the complainant informed was highlighted.

(c) **Purbeck Schools Review**

It was reported that the Dorset County Council cabinet was due to meet on 20th January 2010 and would determine whether forthcoming consultation in respect of the Purbeck Schools review would include options for the provision of secondary schooling in Swanage. Serious concern was expressed that County Council officers had not given this issue sufficient consideration.

The Meeting concluded at 11.50 a.m.
