

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Swanage Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND PLANNING** matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2009** at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M. Pratt (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor B. Audley  
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough  
Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox  
Councillor Mrs. G. Marsh  
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick  
Councillor S. Poultney  
Councillor M. Whitwam

### **Public Participation Time**

There were no members of the public present at the Meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

2. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes), and the position was noted.

(b) **Future format of Town Council's Management Accounts**

An example of the revised format of management accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 was submitted for information. It was RESOLVED:  
That in future the management accounts be reported on a quarterly basis to the Finance and Performance Management Committee.

3. **OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT – MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

A Programme of Works undertaken by the Operations Department during April/May 2009 was submitted for information, and the position was noted.

The Operations Manager explained that the new toilets at North Beach Car Park were yet to be accepted by the Town Council due to continuing drainage problems.

4. **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

(a) **Purbeck Heritage Strategy**

Consideration was given to the draft Purbeck Heritage Strategy and concern was expressed at the lack of reference to the importance of the sea. It was also noted that the proposed Jurassic Coast project at Suttles' Quarry had been omitted. It was RESOLVED:

That Councillor Gloyn-Cox and the Deputy Town Clerk draft a response for consideration at the Monthly Meeting to be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009.

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

Consideration was given to the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan 2009-14 Consultation Draft and it was again RESOLVED:

That Councillor Gloyn-Cox and the Deputy Town Clerk draft a response for consideration at the Monthly Meeting to be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009.

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

(a) **National Association of Field Studies Officers Conference**

Information was received from the National Association of Field Studies Officers regarding their annual conference to be held at Purbeck House Hotel in January 2010.

6. **FINAL ACCOUNTS – AMENDMENT TO 2007/08 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

Further to recent correspondence with the Audit Commissions's Audit Manager, Member's considered revisions to the 2007/08 Final Accounts and Annual Governance Statement. It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and seconded by Councillor Mrs Patrick:

That the Town Clerk be authorised to delete the paragraph containing the phrase "until tested" from the 2007/08 Final Accounts, as requested by the Audit Commission.

Upon being put to the meeting SIX Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and TWO AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

7. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, under Standing Order 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 legal issues.

8. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Holiday Park Disposal**

Briefing Notes had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting, highlighting a number of issues requiring determination prior to the Council receiving a report from its appointed agent on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Acting on a request made by its appointed legal and professional advisers, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by the Town Mayor and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

To agree the extension of the lease term from 99 years to 105 years, as recommended by Jacobs and Reeves solicitors in their letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

It was further proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh:

That the Town Clerk be instructed to convey to Jacobs and Reeves solicitors the views expressed concerning the tender process.

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

Councillor Mrs Patrick left the Meeting at 11.15 a.m.

In accordance with legal advice received (minute 14 of the Special Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 refers), detailed consideration was given to the criteria to be applied by the Council in its evaluation of the tender offers. It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gainsborough and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Town Council will apply its Value for Money policy in determining its grant of lease in the disposal of the Caravan Park.

The possibility of the Town Council receiving a significant premium was raised, and the need to consider contingency arrangements if that situation arose was highlighted. It was noted that enquiries had been made of Purbeck District Council regarding their Treasury Management Policy. It was RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk be sanctioned to make continued enquiries regarding treasury management and investment portfolio consultancy services, of more than one adviser.

Members received an update in respect of a number of other issues with potential ramifications for the disposal of the Park, including allegations made regarding interference with post, refuse collection services and electoral registration of caravan owners. The difficulties facing staff members at the Holiday Park were highlighted and acknowledged.

(b) **Newton Grange**

Councillor Mrs Marsh declared a personal interest in this item under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a board member of Purbeck Housing Trust.

It was reported that agreement had still not been reached with the developers of Newton Grange in respect of Cow Lane, as no suitably detailed site plan had yet been provided.

The Meeting concluded at 12.20 p.m.