

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND RESOURCES**
matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 10th JUNE**
2002 at 9.30 a.m. -

PRESENT:-

Councillor A.H. Miller (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor G.A. Baume

Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor Mrs. H. O'Donovan

Councillor J. Roscoe

Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

Councillor M.R. Woolley

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Sutton and Trite.

2. **ALBERT MEMORIAL**

The Clerk reported on a letter received from Mr. Paul Randall of Corfe Castle, regarding the possible restoration and re-siting of the Albert Memorial.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon referred to previous enquiries that had been made prior to the opening of Prince Albert Gardens. The possibility of re-constructing the memorial in the Gardens had been mooted, but, following a site visit to Haysoms Quarry, it was realised that several essential pieces of stone were missing (including keystone that would be required at base level). The full cost of re-construction had been estimated to be in excess of £15,000 and this had proved to be prohibitive at that time.

Members again considered the matter, following which it was proposed by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and **RESOLVED:-**

That, having regard to the costs involved, the Council could not commit to the project, and that a letter of explanation be sent to Mr. Randall.

3. **RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEME**

A letter of petition dated May 2002, was submitted from residents in the vicinity of Cornwall Road, requesting that consideration be given to the removal of parking restrictions in Cornwall Road.

Following a lengthy discussion, during which Members acknowledged the parking difficulties experienced by all residents in the town centre, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough:-

That no action be taken in the matter.

Upon being put to the Meeting, SEVEN Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and NONE AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

4. **PRESS RELEASES AND COMMUNICATION**

Concern was expressed at certain reporting procedures and articles that had been published in the local press, together with the general lack of communication between the Council and the public.

Discussion ensued, during which consideration was given to publishing a regular "News Letter" explaining the Council's projects and problems that are experienced.

It was proposed by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a "News Letter" be published quarterly and distributed as a separate insertion in the local press.

5. **DOGS (FOULING OF LAND) ACT, 1996**

A letter dated 16th May 2002 was submitted from the Administrative Services Manager of Purbeck District Council seeking the Council's views on what areas in the parish should be covered under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Following a brief discussion, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To request that the whole of the Parish of Swanage be designated for inclusion under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Before consideration of the next item, Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon declared a personal interest in this matter under the Model Code of Conduct as a member of the Baptist Church, but remained in the Meeting during the discussion.

6. **LAND ADJOINING VICTORIA AVENUE CHAPEL**

A letter dated 17th May 2002 was submitted from Mr. R. T. Pearce of the Baptist Church Project Group, informing Members of their intended proposal to re-build the existing church building and create additional car parking facilities. The acquisition of a small parcel of Council-owned land was sought for inclusion as part of the project.

Following a brief discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That a Working Party, consisting of the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Councillors Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Gainsborough, be formed to progress the matter.

7. **SWANAGE BAY VIEW HOLIDAY PARK - NEW LICENCE AGREEMENT**

The General Manager of the Caravan Park circulated copies of a proposed new Licence Agreement, which had been drawn up in accordance with guidelines issued by the British Holiday Home Park Association and approved by the Council's solicitors.

The document was intended to clarify the responsibilities of both the caravan owner and the Council, and would be offered to all existing and new caravan owners. The Licence would be in existence for the life of the caravan, and would not be subject to annual renewal.

It was proposed by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Roscoe, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the new Licence Agreement be approved

and adopted.

8. **BEST VALUE – PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

(a) **Amended Action Plan**

Further to the Meeting of the Public Buildings Best Value Working Group held on 5th June 2002, the Clerk reported on the urgent priority that should be given to a revised programme of electrical repairs at the Town Hall in view of the health and safety implications.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

i) That Standing Order No. 65(a) be waived;

ii) That the electrical remedial repairs be commenced by the Council's nominated contractor at the earliest opportunity.

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Woolley declared a personal interest in this matter under the Model Code of Conduct as a Member of the Council of Management of the Southern Steam Trust, and left the Meeting during the debate.

(b) **Swanage Railway**

The Clerk referred to Minute No. 4(d) of the Meeting held on 5th June 2002, identifying issues relating to Swanage Railway and actions required.

It was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the recommendations be approved and adopted.

9. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matters.

10. **INVOICING SURCHARGE**

The Clerk reported on cash collection procedures and the administrative charges incurred in the debt collection process.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Baume, and RESOLVED:-

That consideration be given to the possible introduction of a 20% surcharge on accounts that are not settled within 14 days.

11. **LEASES**

(a) **Swanage Choral & Operatic Society**

A letter dated 9th June 2002 was submitted from the Chairman of the Swanage Choral and Operatic Society regarding the use of the Rehearsal

Room by the "Moves Fitness" club. The Society had now wish to contravene the terms of their lease by sub-letting the premises, and had issued notice for the "Moves Fitness" club to terminate the use of facilities by 30th June 2002.

(b)

Toilets–Burlington Chine

The Clerk updated Members on negotiations with Mr. Blogg, of the Cesspit Company, regarding the opening and operation of the toilets at Burlington Chine.

The toilets had been opened for the "Jubilee Weekend" at the beginning of June, but major works still needed to be undertaken.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Baume, and RESOLVED:-

That a Working Group, consisting of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillors Baume and Mrs. Farrow, be formed to progress the matter.

(c)

Family Games Room, Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported on a request received from the concessionaire of the Family Games Room for the terms of the lease to be varied to allow for payments of rent in four equal instalments in May, June, July and August. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Baume, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the terms of the lease be amended to allow for instalments of rent to be paid on the 25th day of May, June, July and August in each year.

The Meeting concluded at 11.40p.m.

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