

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Swanage Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND RESOURCES** matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 19th AUGUST 2002** at 9.30 a.m.,

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor G.A. Baume (Until 12.20)
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. H. O'Donovan
Councillor J. Roscoe
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Farrow, Mrs. Gainsborough and Woolley.

2. **BUDGET REVIEW AND SEASONAL INCOME**

The Clerk submitted details of seasonal income received for the period to 31st July 2002, and the overall position was noted with satisfaction.

3. **GENERAL WORKS PROGRAMME**

In response to a request received from Councillors, the Town Clerk submitted a programme of works to be carried out by the Operations Department, scheduled to commence in the autumn.

Detailed consideration was given to each item, and the following recommendations were AGREED:-

1) **Public Conveniences**

Toilet facilities on the seafront were considered to be of paramount importance, and grave concern was expressed at the frequent drainage problems that occurred at the Shore Road conveniences.

It was RESOLVED:-

That prices be obtained for urgent drain repairs as a priority, and other works be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

During the discussion, the Operations Manager drew attention to the condition of the roof of the toilets at Burlington Chine, and it was RESOLVED:-

That having regard to health and safety, the facilities be closed from the beginning of September 2002.

2) **Trees**

Consideration was given to the schedule of works, which would require the services of an appointed tree surgeon.

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

That prices be obtained for the following works:-

Northbrook Copse	-	Crown lifting and dead wood removal.
Northbrook Cemetery	-	Removal of overhanging dangerous branches.
Godlingston Cemetery		Removal of overhanging dangerous branches.
Beach Gardens	-	Topping and felling of eight dangerous pine trees.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That no action be taken regarding the removal of the flowering cherry trees at Prince Albert Gardens and Godlingston Cemetery at the present time.

3)

Sandpit Field

Consideration was given to the proposed schedule of works, and it was AGREED that:-

- a) The levelling of paths etc. be continued.
- b) Reinstatement and re-seeding be undertaken to the electricity service ditch.

During the discussion, the need for additional seating on Sandpit Field was acknowledged, and the siting of memorial benches for local residents was considered.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That information on styles and prices of seats be obtained.

4)

Bandstand

The need for additional seating at the Bandstand was acknowledged, but concern was expressed at the vandalism that occurred in this area. A suggestion was made that the installation of lighting may be a deterrent to vandals, and of benefit as a health and safety measure.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That further information be obtained regarding the type and prices of suitable seating, and also for the installation of lighting in this location.

5) Recreation Ground – Play Area

Consideration was given to the condition of the equipment in the children's play area, and although some items had been repaired, the "Sputnik" was considered to be at the end of its useful life.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That prices be obtained for replacement items of equipment.

6) Seafront

The Clerk reported on requests received for the installation of shower

facilities on the beach, and, following a brief discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That further information regarding designs and costs be obtained.

The need for a safety inspection and, possibly remedial repairs, to the Mowlem Monument was highlighted, and it was suggested that a letter be sent to John Mowlem Ltd (Construction Company) seeking financial assistance towards this project.

7) **Spa Bungalows Site**

The Clerk reported on works that were required on the Spa Bungalows site, which included repairs to the general surface, safety railings and the possible replacement of eight bungalows.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration under the Best Value Review.

8) **Town Hall Car Park**

Attention was drawn to the deteriorating condition of the Town Hall Car Park, and, following a brief discussion, it was RESOLVED:

That no action be taken in the matter at the present time.

9) **The White House**

Consideration was given to the following works which were proposed for the Tourist Information Centre. These included the removal and replacement of the Reception Counter and display, and general repairs and remedial works to the building.

It was RESOLVED:-

That general repairs and maintenance work be undertaken, but all other matters be deferred for consideration in conjunction with the Best Value Review.

10) **Memorial Seating**

Members were reminded that the Council had an agreed policy only to allow memorial seats if donors were prepared to pay a maintenance fee to cover a five year period.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

To adhere to the existing policy, and to encourage the placement of traditional wooden bench seats with a more robust design.

4. **REQUEST FOR SITE FOR COMMUNICATIONS MAST**

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 9th August 2002, a letter dated 14th August 2002 was submitted from SST (UK) Ltd requesting a site for a communications mast on Council-owned land to the south of the household waste site.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred, and that a strongly worded letter be sent seeking further information regarding

design plans, confirmation of planning approval, technical details and further licensing requirements concerning linkage of the system to the area.

5. **BEACH HUTS – SEASONAL CHARGES 2003**

Consideration was given to the charges for the hire of beach huts during the 2003 summer season.

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

That the existing weekly charges be increased by 5% (rounded up to the nearest £) with effect from 1st April 2003.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That consideration be given to the annual hiring charges for 2003 at a future meeting of the Council.

6. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**
Godlingston Cemetery

The Clerk reported on a request received for a specific grave space in Godlingston cemetery.

It was RESOLVED:-

To offer a grave space close to the one requested.

7. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest 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.

8. **NORTH BEACH CAR PARK**

Consideration was given to the terms of the lease for the storage facility for the Isle of Purbeck Arts Club in North Beach Car Park.

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

That the matter be deferred to enable further information to be obtained from the Council's solicitors.

9. **STAFFING AND RECRUITMENT**

Following the resignation of the General Manager and his wife at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, consideration was given to the staffing and operational requirements at the Park.

Members confirmed their decision concerning the temporary arrangements (Minute No. 47 of the Council Meeting held on 29th July 2002), including the transfer of the site maintenance to the responsibility of the Operations Manager.

After a detailed discussion, in which the need to maintain caravan sales was recognised, it was AGREED:-

To invite two interested parties to discuss
and submit terms.

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