

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND RESOURCES**
matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 20th**
JANUARY 2003 at 9.30 a.m. _

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett

Councillor G.A. Baume

Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor Mrs. H. O'Donovan (Left at 10.a.m.)

(Returned at 10.30 a.m.)

Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

2. **BEST VALUE**

2001/2002 Audit

Members had before them copies of the Best Value Audit Report, prepared by the District Auditor, and consideration was given to the Council's official response to the document.

Detailed consideration was given to each item contained therein, and the draft response prepared by the Town Clerk.

It was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the draft response prepared by the Town Clerk be approved.

(b) **Best Value Working Group 2003**

The Clerk reported on the requirement to form a Working Group to undertake the Best Value Review of the Tourist Information Centre, Beach Huts, Beaches etc.

During the ensuing discussion, the importance of continuity in the Best Value Review was highlighted.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred until after the Town Council election in May 2003.

3. **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

The Clerk gave a brief guide to the services provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks and the benefits that would be available to the Council through membership.

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

That, Mr. Alan Leeson, Town Clerk, become a

member of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

4. **BUDGET REVIEW**

Further to Minute No. 122 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 13th January 2003, the Clerk reported on the Council's current vehicle stock (including the recent sale of the landrover), and the urgent requirement for replacement vehicles.

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

That the purchase of 2 x 6cwt Citroen vans
be approved at a cost of £4,800 each.

Consideration was then given to the replacement play equipment to be installed at the Recreation Ground.

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

That the purchase of a roundabout and seesaw
be approved in principle. Further information
regarding the type and design of the equipment
to be obtained and submitted to the next meeting
of the Council on Monday, 27th January 2003.

5. **MOWLEM TRUST**

A letter dated 9th December 2002 was submitted from the Mowlem Trustees, outlining the refurbishment and modernisation programme for the building, and seeking the Council's support in their bid for lottery funding.

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

That a letter in support of the application be sent.

Arising from the above, reference was made to the festive lighting in the town, and the removal of the "Welcome to Swanage" sign at Herston to allow for building works to be carried out.

It was **AGREED:-**

That the Trustees be requested to reconsider
their decision regarding the attachment of festive
lighting to the Mowlem building.

6. **RESEARCH PROJECT**

A letter dated 20th December 2002, was submitted from the University of Plymouth, outlining their research project for the Swanage area, and seeking the Council's support for the proposals.

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

That the Council gives its support to the project,
but permission for the use of the Town Council
logo be not granted.

7. **LICENSING BILL PROPOSALS**

The Clerk highlighted the new licensing proposals and the effect these

will have on the performance of live music in pubs, clubs, schools, churches, village halls etc.

Councillor Mrs. Marsh expressed grave concern that the proposals will create a serious threat to live music in England and Wales, and her comments were endorsed by other Members.

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

That a letter of objection, in the strongest possible terms, be sent to Mr. Jim Knight, MP.

8. **RECYCLING FACILITY**

A letter dated 17th December 2002 was submitted from the Environmental Services Officer of Purbeck District Council, requesting a site for a "Book Bank" for the collection of unwanted books that can be re-sold in the Oxfam charity book shop.

A brief discussion ensued, following which it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Baume, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That permission be not granted, there being no further space available for additional recycling containers.

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 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.

Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon declared a personal interest in the following matter under the Model Code of Conduct, due to family connections, and, as this was a prejudicial interest, left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared a personal interest of a pecuniary nature in the following matter under the Model Code of Conduct, and as this was a prejudicial interest, left the Meeting during the debate.

10. **LEASES**

Lifeboat Station

A letter dated 7th January 2003 was submitted from the RNLI requesting the Council's permission, as Landlords, to construct a first floor extension to the Inshore Lifeboat boathouse.

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

That permission be granted.

In granting the above permission, it was considered that this would be an ideal location for the siting of CCTV surveillance equipment to cover the Council's Boat Park, and it was FURTHER AGREED:-

That the permission of the RNLI be sought in this regard.

Councillor Mrs. Bartlett declared a personal interest in the following matter under the Model Code of conduct, as an employee of the applicant, and as this was a prejudicial interest, left the Meeting during the debate.

(b) **Fisherman's Catch**

A letter dated 16th January 2003 was submitted from the lessee of the Fisherman's Catch, seeking the Council's approval to carry out alterations and extension to the premises.

Following detailed consideration, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Baume, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the request be agreed in principle, subject to further information regarding the programme of the proposed works, and further consultation regarding the rear retaining wall and detailed plans.

(c) **Shop – Caravan Park**

The Clerk reported on a letter that had been received from the lessee of the shop at the Caravan Park seeking termination of the lease. An offer was also made in respect of an outstanding debt.

Following detailed consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED, with ONE ABSTENTION:-

That the lease be rescinded with immediate effect, and that the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be authorised to seek legal advice on determining the matter.

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