

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND RESOURCES**
matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 23rd**
SEPTEMBER 2002 at 9.30 a.m._

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor G.A. Baume	(Until 11.45 a.m.)
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow	(Until 12.20 p.m.)
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough	
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh	
Councillor J. Roscoe	
Councillor W.S. Trite	(Until 12.10 p.m.)
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon	(Until 12 noon)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. O'Donovan and Woolley.

2. **BUDGET REVIEW AND SEASONAL INCOME**

The Clerk presented a statement of seasonal income for the period to 31st August 2002, together with a statement of seasonal income at the Caravan Park.

The overall position was noted with satisfaction, although some concern was expressed at the letting income received from the Council-owned caravans and the trading figures for the Vista Bar.

3. **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Burlington Chine

Further to Minute No. 3 (b) of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 6th September 2002, the Clerk reported that the facilities were now closed. The future of these toilets had yet to be determined, and the possibility of forming a partnership with the owners of adjacent land and beach huts with a view to joint funding, was mooted.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That a Public Meeting be held on Friday,
25th October 2002 at 7 p.m.

Heritage Centre

Consideration was again given to the operation/opening hours of the Heritage Centre toilets during the shoulder months/winter period.

Members acknowledged the staffing difficulties and the costs involved in manning the facilities outside of the main holiday season, and a lengthy discussion ensued.

During the discussion, Councillor Miller suggested that the Council's permanent toilet cleaners be based at the Heritage Centre toilets, but leave their base at regular intervals to carry out their normal cleaning duties at other locations.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor

Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Heritage Centre toilets be opened for public use between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day.

In the event of vandalism, the toilets should be closed immediately and the situation reviewed.

During the general discussion, the possibility of re-opening the toilets at Mermond Place was considered, and it was RESOLVED:-

That the Operations Manager obtain further information and costs regarding the drains etc. and report to the next Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 21st October 2002.

4. **TREE MAINTENANCE**

Further to Minute No. 3. 2) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th August 2002, the Operations Manager reported that a quotation had not yet been received for the essential tree surgery.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred, pending the receipt of the quotation from the Council's appointed tree surgeon.

5. **SANDPIT FIELD**

Further to the site meeting held at Sandpit Field earlier that morning, the following works were approved:-

- (a) Relay paths and set out additional seating areas in the lower gardens, adjacent to Shore Road.
- (b) Improve and retain the path at the northern end of the Field, adjacent to Walrond Road/junction with Shore Road.
- (c) Re-form angle of slopes to reduce land slippage.
- (d) No action to be taken regarding tree surgery at the present time.

6. **EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon declared a personal interest in the matter under the Model Code of Conduct as a member of the Church.

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10th June 2002, and a subsequent meeting of the Working Party, a letter dated 5th September 2002 was submitted on behalf of the Building Project Group of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, outlining their proposals for the re-development of the Victoria Avenue Chapel site.

Discussion ensued, during which concern was expressed at the size of the proposed Church Hall in comparison with the Church itself, and the extent of the car parking area proposed.

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

That the proposals be agreed in principle, subject to the retention of the existing Council-owned toilet facilities until a replacement building had been constructed.

7. **SWANAGE TOWN AND HERSTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

The Clerk reported on communications with the Swanage Town and Herston Football Club and the Swanage Community Sports Partnership regarding the provision of a new sports facility in the town.

Discussion ensued regarding the availability of grant funding for the project, and the requirement for the application to be supported by the proper constitution of the Football Club.

Concern was expressed regarding the constitutional arrangements of the Club, with particular reference to child protection issues and insurance liability cover.

It was also noted that past Town Mayors had assumed the role of President of the Football Club, and it was AGREED:-

To notify the Football Club that the Town Mayor would no longer be able to act in the capacity of President.

Discussion then centred on the preferred location of a new sports facility, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

To support the feasibility study for the preferred option of the lower playing fields on the site of the former Grammar School.

8. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**
“SOS” Lights Meeting

The Clerk referred to the Meeting of the “Switch on Swanage” Lights Committee that was scheduled to be held that evening, and reported on pledges received to support the Lights Appeal.

£7,500 had been pledged by the Hoteliers Association for festive lighting along the seafront, local traders in the lower High Street had pledged to provide lighting for that area of the town. Other contributions amounting to approximately £3,500 had been pledged (including £1,000 from the Lions Club of Swanage, £500 from the Swanage Conservative Club, £200 from the Residents’ Association and various contributions from other traders and organisations in Swanage) towards the provision of festive lighting in Station Road/Institute Road/High Street. The Council had agreed to allocate the sum of £4,000 towards the lighting displays, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That this sum (£4,000) be donated towards the overall lighting programme, and not designated to illuminate any specific buildings.

9. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, 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.

10. MARKET PROPOSALS

In response to a request for an update on the market proposals from the Swanage Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Members referred to previous discussions on the proposals for an Open Market.

Having regard to their local knowledge and experience in operating markets in this area, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-

That Messrs. Ensors and Cottees be invited to present written submissions for the operation of an Open Market in Main Beach Car Park, commencing on 1st April 2003.

11. LEASE – SANTE FE AMUSEMENT PARK

A letter dated 4th September 2002 was submitted from Valuers acting on behalf of the lessee of the Santa Fe Amusement Park.

Consideration was given to the rental offered, and, following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Roscoe, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-

That the sum offered be not accepted, and, if necessary, the matter be determined by arbitration.

12. LEASE – OFFICE/STORE, RAILWAY STATION

A letter was submitted from a prospective tenant of the office/store at the Station Buildings, outlining his interest in the premises and offering a rental for consideration.

The proposals were noted, and following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Roscoe, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred, pending a formal valuation from the Council's appointed valuer.
