

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council, held at the Town Hall, Swanage, on  
**MONDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2002** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT: -

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

Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett  
Councillor Mrs. J. A. Farrow  
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough  
Councillor Mrs. G. A. Marsh  
Councillor J Roscoe  
Councillor G.M. Suttle  
Councillor W. S. Tritte  
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon  
Councillor M. R. Woolley

62. **APOLOGIES**

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

It was noted that Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan was now making a good recovery from her recent operation, and she wished to record her appreciation of the flowers and good wishes sent to her by her fellow Councillors.

63. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed.

64. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2002 be accepted.

65. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) The Mayor reported on a public meeting of the World Heritage Group held at the Mowlem on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2002. Informative presentations were given by Mr. Malcolm Turnbull and Mr. Alan Leeson (Town Clerk), and forms were available for members of the public to put forward their views and comments.

(b) The Mayor was pleased to report on the arrival of a Virgin train at Swanage station - the first main line train to run through from Wareham for approximately 30 years. This was a great achievement by Swanage Railway and their volunteers in restoring the rail link to Wareham, and many local residents were at the Station to witness this historic event.

(c) The Mayor referred to the "SOS" (Switch on Swanage) Lights Appeal that had been launched by Councillor Suttle, the former Town Mayor. The Appeal had received the support of many local traders and organisations, and he was delighted to report that the sum of £16,500 had now been pledged towards the provision of festive lighting.

66. **TRANSFER OF JUSTICES' LICENCE**

A Notice of Application for the Transfer of the Justices' Licence in respect of the Crow's Nest Inn was submitted for consideration.

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

That no objection be raised to the transfer of the Licence.

67. **PAVILION, BEACH GARDENS**

A letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2002 was submitted from the Treasurer of Swanage Bowling Club outlining their proposals for a suggested revision of the window layout in the Bowls section of the Pavilion at Beach Gardens, and also requesting a date for their annual meeting with members of the Council.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Mrs. Marsh questioned the safety implications if the windows were lowered, and it was **RESOLVED:-**

That these concerns be raised at the forthcoming meeting with the Bowls Club.

68. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE TOWN MAYOR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

(a) **Tree Maintenance Programme**

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2002, consideration was given to the quotation received from the Council's appointed tree surgeon.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Woolley, seconded by Councillor Roscoe, and **RESOLVED:-**

That the quotation for essential tree surgery dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 2000 be accepted.

(b) **State of Dorset Debate**

A letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2002 was submitted from the Chief Executive of Dorset County Council inviting Council representation at

the "State of Dorset Debate" to be held at Kingston Maurward College on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the Town Clerk should represent the Council at the Debate.

69. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of August 2002 were submitted.

70. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

It was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Order on Treasurer Nos. 6, 6a and 6b, amounting to £433,452.91, £86,352.72 and £18,040.33 respectively, be paid and that cheques be drawn therefor.

71. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2002 (copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at end of these Minutes.

72. **SEAFRONT PROPOSALS**

A letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2002 was submitted from Pathfinder Estates Limited outlining their proposals for the development of the seafront area.

The Town Mayor welcomed the opportunity to officially debate the matter.

Following a lengthy discussion, during which Councillor Woolley referred to the Council's existing policy not to dispose of any of its land or premises, it was proposed by Councillor Woolley and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon:-

That a letter be sent to Pathfinder Estates Limited thanking them for their proposals, and informing them that the Council does not wish to proceed with the scheme.

Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon requested that a named vote be taken.

The Proposition was then put to the Council, and voting recorded as follows:-

**In favour:-** Councillor A.H. Miller (Town Mayor, and Councillors Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Farrow, Mrs. Gainsborough, Mrs. Marsh, Roscoe, Trite, Mrs. Wheeldon and Woolley.

**Against:-** Councillor Suttle.

The Proposition was declared CARRIED, with NINE Members voting IN FAVOUR, and ONE AGAINST.

This was noted as a cross-party decision.

73. **FINAL ACCOUNTS 2001/02**

The Clerk presented the Final Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002, and gave a detailed explanation on their compilation.

During the ensuing discussion, Members re-affirmed their policy not to dispose of any of the Council's assets, but to clear the debts by careful management. The Revenue Surplus of approximately £325,000 was noted with satisfaction.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the Final Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002 be formally adopted.

Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough acknowledged the sterling work undertaken by the Town Clerk in the preparation of the Accounts and expressed her appreciation of the prudence exercised by Councillor Suttle (former Town Mayor), Councillor Miller (Town Mayor) and the Town Clerk in managing the Council's affairs.

74. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Roscoe, 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.

75. **CARAVAN PARK**

**Date of Meeting**

It was AGREED:-

That the next Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee be held on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2002 at 2 p.m. at the Caravan Park.

**Staffing Issues**

The Clerk referred to the recruitment of a new Manager at the Caravan Park and reported on the responses received from two recruitment agencies to date. He also reported on difficulties experienced in advertising the vacancy in the British Home and Holiday Parks Association magazine, which would not be published until 24<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

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

To withdraw the magazine advertisement, and pursue the options offered by the recruitment agencies, with a view to holding interviews with applicants on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

(c)

**Contractual Matters**

The Clerk reported on contractual matters at the Caravan Park, and, following discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That, in view of the need to review the new form of agreement, no further contracts be accepted.