

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**
OCTOBER 2003 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor H.J.F. Agelink
Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett
Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough
Councillor Mrs. H. O'Donovan
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor M.A. Tyrer

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

2. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

(a) **Caravan Park**

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr Gerry Rutter, from Leisure Concepts, who had been invited to give a presentation to the Council on design proposals for the Caravan Park.

Mr. Rutter gave a general outline of the proposal to upgrade the administration building, which included relocating the reception area to the southern side of the entrance (previously used as a Games Room), relocating the staff/offices and opening up the entrance to the Vista Hall. The stage would also need to be re-sited to maximise the superb views and outlook from the building. Proposals for the bar and a designated dining area were also considered, together with ideas to improve the outside entrance area. Terraces were suggested, and the possibility of introducing a roof terrace over the swimming pool was also mooted. Detailed drawings of the outline proposals were submitted for information and further consideration.

Members welcomed the ideas submitted, and noted how the ideas arrived at through the Best Value process had been professionally depicted in the proposed scheme. Mr. Rutter was thanked for his detailed and informative presentation.

It was AGREED:-

That the matter be considered in more detail by the
Caravan Park Best Value Working Group.

(b) **Seafront Enhancement (incl. Spa Bungalows)**

Further to Minute No. 2 of the Meeting of the Seafront Stabilisation Working Group, the Clerk reported that there was a waiting correspondence from Graham Thorne & Partners, the Council's approved surveyor, regarding the surveys undertaken in the area of the Recreation Ground.

It was AGREED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at a
meeting of the Seafront Stabilisation Working Group
and reported to a future meeting of the Council.

3. **BUDGET REVIEW**

(a) **Seasonal Income - General**

The Clerk submitted a statement of seasonal income to date, and detailed consideration was given to the information provided. Most trading areas had exceeded the estimated budget, and the overall position was noted with satisfaction.

ii) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park**

Details of income received to date at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park were also submitted for information, and the General Manager gave a brief synopsis of the overall position.

Further to Minute No. 2(a)ii) of the Meeting held on 22nd September 2003, the Clerk explained the amended format of the Statement, which was now consistent in showing net income figures for all trading areas at the Caravan Park.

The compilation of information regarding caravan sales was questioned, and it was agreed that further consideration be given to this matter.

4. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

(a) **Spa Bungalows and Seafront Enhancement**

Further to Minute No. 2 of the Meeting of the Seafront Stabilisation Working Group held on 28th July 2003, the need to commence work at the Spa site and Sandpit Field during the winter period was acknowledged.

The Operations Manager had carried out a structural assessment and drainage survey at the Spa site, which had identified an urgent need for work to the drainage system and the replacement of five Spa bungalows.

The terraced areas and pathways were also in need of urgent attention.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Bright reported on a "Public Parks Initiative", which provided funding for the regeneration of public open spaces, and was of the opinion that the Council may be eligible for grant aid towards the proposed works. He sought the Council's approval to obtain further information on this matter, and stressed that no work should commence on the pathways which may disqualify any future application for funding that the Council may wish to submit.

Following a lengthy debate, it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the replacement of five huts at the Spa site be approved, together with drainage works and repairs up to a maximum cost of £25,000.

It was FURTHER AGREED:-

That, having regard to the urgency of the matter, work to the pathways on the seafront are below Sandpit Field be agreed, but deferred for a short period to allow for further information on the "Public Parks Initiative" being obtained by Councillor Bright.

5. **PAYMENT OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 22nd September 2003, consideration was given to the possible payment of allowances to Parish and Town Councillors. (Proxy Voting Slip had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting, for those wishing to vote on the matter but unable to attend the Meeting).

It was again noted that the payment of allowances was discretionary, and that the terms and level of any allowances would be separately assessed for each Council by an Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Clerk reported on information obtained regarding the level of basic allowances, which were assessed on the number of electorates within the parish, and also the level of travelling and subsistence expenses that may be paid.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and seconded by Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan:-

That the Town Council agree in principle to the payment of a basic allowance to Members, up to a maximum of £230 per annum, as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel, and that the payment of travel and subsistence be paid for approved duties.

Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough requested that a named vote be recorded, and voting took place as follows:-

In favour:- Councillors Agelink, Mrs. Bartlett, Bright, Mrs. Gainsborough, and Mrs. O'Donovan.
Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon exercised her proxy vote in favour of the Proposition.

Against- Councillors Mrs. Farrow, Miller (Town Mayor), Pratt and Tyrer.

The Proposition was declared CARRIED.

It was FURTHER AGREED:-
That a list of approved duties be prepared by the Town Clerk.

6. **JUSTICES' LICENCE**

A Notice of Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence in respect of the Red Lion was submitted for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Bright, and
RESOLVED:-

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

7. **ANY OTHER MATTER THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT** There were no additional matters in need of urgent attention.
