Minutes of the Meeting of the **TOURISM COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **Monday** 5th **November 2007** at **9.30** a.m.

Chairman: -

Councillor C R Bright Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor Mrs C Gainsborough
Councillor L Gloyn-Cox
Councillor Mrs G Marsh
Swanage Town Council
Swanage Town Council

Councillor M W Pratt Swanage Town Council (until 11.45

a.m.)

Councillor M Whitwam Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres Assistant Town Clerk

Mr G Brookes Operations Manager (until 11.55 a.m.)

Mr D Green Swanage Railway

Mr A Lander Swanage Fishermen's Association

(until 10.45 a.m.)

Mr H Murray Durlston Country Park (until 11.05

a.m.)

Mr J Page Swanage Pier

Ms L Robinson Thomas Ensor and Son (until 10.00

am)

Mr G Willey Swanage and District Licensed

Victuallers Association (until 11.45

a.m.)

Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Mrs Patrick, Mrs A Holmes, Mr R Marsh, Mr T Williams and Revd Wood.

2) Market Matters

a) Operations Report – Ensors

Referring to information previously circulated relating to the collection of market tolls and coach numbers, Ms Robinson reported that Swanage market had performed in line with other Dorset markets this year, being affected by the poor summer weather. Reference was made to survey information showing that a majority of the 191 people questioned rated it between 3 and 4 out of 5 on a satisfaction scale. Comments included that it was too small and that there should be more farmers/local produce stalls. The need to identify when the survey was undertaken was noted.

b) New locations for market signage

A number of possible options for new market signage were discussed. It was AGREED:

That the provision of a lightweight aluminium sign to fix to the railings of Main Beach Car Park in the summer season be investigated and the results reported to the next meeting of the Tourism Committee.

c) Any other matters relating to the market notified prior to the meeting or for future Tourism agendas

It was requested that an update on the market contract be made to the next Finance and Performance Management Committee meeting. It was noted that the date of the first market in 2008 would be held in the week prior to Easter, on Tuesday 18th March.

Ms L Robinson left the meeting at 10.00 a.m.

3) **Boat Park Matters**

a) Boat Park Charges 2008/09

After detailed consideration it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Boat Park grid fees for 2008/09 be as follows:

		New Charges (Incl. VAT)	New Charges (Excl. VAT)
Up to 13 feet	Summer	£230.00	£195.74
_	Weekly	£ 95.00	£ 80.85
	Winter	£ 95.00	£ 80.85
Up to 22 feet	Summer	£450.00	£382.98
	Weekly	£145.00	£123.40
	Winter	£185.00	£157.45
Up to 29 feet	Summer	£630.00	£536.17
_	Weekly	£160.00	£136.17
	Winter	£270.00	£229.79

10% discount on annual ticket if purchased before 30th April.

It was further resolved:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the daily launch fees for boats and jet skis be set in line with other local providers, the information to be provided on approval of these minutes

at the Monthly Meeting to be held on Monday 26th November 2007.

b) Boat Park Residents Launch Pass

Further to minute 3)c) of the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 23rd July 2007 consideration was given to proposals for a new residents launch pass. Concerns were raised over the practicalities of guaranteeing trailer storage and after further discussion it was AGREED:

That the matter be deferred for further consideration at a future meeting, on the receipt of additional information.

c) Replacement Fishermen's Jetty - Update

Under the Model Code of Conduct, Councillor Mrs Marsh declared a personal interest in this item.

A report detailing options for the future of the fishermen's jetty, prepared by the District Engineer, was considered by members. The importance of the RNLI's proposals regarding the future storage of the Swanage Lifeboat was highlighted, as was the possibility of accessing funding under the new European Fisheries Fund grant scheme from 2008. It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and seconded by Councillor Pratt:

That recommendation 7.4 (that an annual inspection of the structures is carried out and an allowance for repairs and maintenance made in the Council's revenue budget for future years) be accepted and that recommendations 7.1 and 7.3 be deferred pending further clarification of the RNLI's proposals and EFF funding criteria.

Upon being put to the meeting FOUR members voted IN FAVOUR of the PROPOSITION and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the PROPOSITION was declared CARRIED.

d) Any other matters relating to the Boat Park notified prior to the meeting or for future Tourism agendas

The Chairman requested that the feasibility of installing a payment machine be investigated and a proposal be put to the next Committee meeting.

Mr Lander left the meeting at 10.45 a.m.

4) <u>Matters arising from the Minutes of the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 23rd July 2007</u>

There were no matters arising.

5) <u>Approval of the Minutes of the Beach Management Sub-Committee Meeting</u> held on 18th May 2007

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee

held on 18th May 2007 be approved as a correct record.

6) <u>Approval of the Minutes of the Beach Management Sub-Committee Meeting held on 22nd October 2007</u>

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 22nd October 2007 be approved as a correct record.

Arising therefrom, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following recommendation in relation to the 5 knot buoys be accepted:That the layout be changed so there are 3 fixed visual points (last groyne/Victoria Avenue
Jetty/Coastwatch lookout) these buoys should be larger in size and the line of buoys be brought out of the mooring area GPS positions as follows:

1. 50 37.35N 001 56.90W

2. 50 36.75N 001 57.20W

3. 50 36.70N 001 56.65W

7) Tourism Report

In the absence of the Tourist Information Centre Manager and Tourism Officer there were no matters to report.

Mr H Murray provided the Committee with an update in respect of the Durlston World Heritage project, which had been successful in its Heritage Lottery bid for £3.25 million. Durlston Castle is to be refurbished as a learning centre and gateway to the Jurassic Coast. The expected start date for the work is September 2008. Committee Members wished to record their thanks to the Friends of Durlston for their work at the Country Park. It was agreed that an update on this project be placed on the agenda of future Tourism Committee meetings.

Mr Murray left the meeting at 11.05 a.m.

8) Tourism Committee Priorities – Update

a) Public Toilet Opening Times and Retention of Taps

Under the Model Code of Conduct Councillor Bright declared a personal interest in respect of the retention of taps and Councillor Whitwam declared a personal interest in respect of the Station Toilets.

Members discussed the possibility of opening Burlington Chine public toilets during the winter months. It was noted that they had been kept open last winter

and that it would be beneficial to the winter tourist trade to have some public toilets open between Studland and Swanage Main Beach. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Mrs Gainsborough:

That the Tourism Committee recommend to the General Operations Committee that Burlington Chine toilets be kept open during daylight hours in winter.

Upon being put to the meeting FOUR members voted IN FAVOUR of the PROPOSITION and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the PROPOSITION was declared CARRIED.

Consideration was then given to the opening times of the Station Toilets, now managed by Swanage Railway. It was noted that when not operating trains the toilets were closed at 4 p.m., and 5.30 p.m. on operating days in low season. It was AGREED:

TO RECOMMEND:

That a service level agreement be put in place between the Town Council and Swanage Railway in respect of the Station Toilets.

Members then considered the opening times of all public toilets. It was noted that opening times had been reduced in the past to reduce the level of vandalism. After lengthy discussion it was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Councillor Pratt:

That the Tourism Committee recommend to the General Operations Committee that all public toilets be kept open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. year-round except as follows:

Main Beach Car Park – closed in winter except for events and weekends as at present;

Spa – closed in winter;

Battlegate – closed in winter;

Peveril Point – to close at 5 p.m. in winter.

Upon being put to the meeting FOUR members voted IN FAVOUR of the PROPOSITION and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the PROPOSITION was declared CARRIED.

Councillor Pratt and Mr Willey left the meeting at 11.45 a.m.

b) 2012 Olympics – TIC Manager Report

It was AGREED:

That due to shortage of time items 8)b), 9), 10) and 14)a) be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

It was FURTHER AGREED:

That items 12) and 13) be taken ahead of items 11) and 8)c).

12) Town Square - Purchase of Flags

Consideration was given to the ordering of new flags for the Town Square. It was reported that the cost of replacing the flags with the same design was £78.50 each, (on the basis of a minimum order of 30) and that this was considerably less expensive than having new designs printed.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That a further quantity of flags be purchased, with enquiries to be made of Purbeck District Council whether funding can be acquired from their Tourism budget.

The Operations Manager left the meeting at 11.55 a.m.

13) Jurassic Coast Bus

The importance of the Jurassic Coast bus coming to Swanage to improve the town's transport links as a gateway town was highlighted. This gained the support of the outside representatives present. It was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Town Clerk write to Dorset County Council requesting that Swanage be added to the route of the Jurassic Coast bus.

11) **Scale of Charges 2008/09**

a) Beach Gardens

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gainsborough and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Beach Gardens tennis fees for 2008/09 be as follows:

	New Charges	New Charges
	(Incl. VAT)	(Excl. VAT)
BEACH GARDENS	£	£
Tennis		
Singles/Doubles Hourly	7.00	5.96
(hourly per court)		
With Club Member	4.00	3.40
Club - Adult (Year)	115.00	97.87
Club - Junior & Students (Year)*	35.00	29.79
Club - Adult (Summer)	78.00	66.38
Club - Junior & Students (Summer)	25.00	21.28
Club - Adult (Winter)	42.00	35.74
Club - Junior & Students (Winter)	13.00	11.06
Schools (per court)	4.00	3.40
Children (under 16 years 12-2 pm.)	2.50	2.13

Family Membership (Husband & wife plus up to 2 children * in Junior/Senior Club) 180.00 - Year 153.19 - Summer 165.00 140.43 - Winter 77.00 65.53 * Charge for each additional child 23.00 19.57 **Racket Hire** 0.75 0.64 **Tennis Ball Hire** 0.50 0.43

*£9.00 to be retained by the Tennis Club for the Junior Development Programme as agreed in Minute No.2 of the Policy & Resources Meeting held 22/01/01

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Beach Gardens bowls fees for 2008/09 be as follows:

	O	New Charges (Excl. VAT)
Bowls	£	£
Club Season - Adults	125.00	106.38
Club Season - Juniors (under 16)	30.00	25.53
New Member - (Introductory Season only)	62.50	53.19
Hourly (per person)	3.25	2.77
Hourly (under 16 accompanied by an adult)	1.25	1.06
Hire of Slips (per pair per game)	2.10	1.79
Hire of Woods (per set of 4 per game)	2.10	1.79

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Beach Gardens putting and pavilion fees for 2008/09 be as follows:

	New Charges (Incl. VAT)	New Charges (Incl. VAT)
Putting	£	£
Per Round - Adults	2.50	2.13
Per Round - Children (under 16)	1.00	0.85
Family (2 Adults + 2 Children)	6.00	5.11
Pavilion		
(Charges include heating, lighting and use of kitche	n and equipment)	
Per Session (1 section)	18.00	15.32
Morning, Afternoon or Evening (2 sections)	25.00	21.28

Proposals to introduce a 'pensioners put for a pound' offer were discussed and it was further RESOLVED:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Tourist Information Centre Manager have the delegated authority

to use promotions to increase usage as and when she sees fit.

Consideration was also given to the opening times of Beach Gardens for the 2008 season. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That, on the recommendation of the Tourist Information Centre Manager, Beach Gardens be open for Easter but then closed until May Day Bank Holiday, the facility being opened at weekends if the weather is good.

b) Beach Bungalows

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Beach Bungalow Prices for 2008/09 be approved as per Minute 2) of the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 25th June 2007, as follows:

New Charges	New Charges	
(Incl. VAT)	(Excl. VAT)	
t	t	

BEACH

Bungalows

The Spa & Shore Road

PROPOSED SCALE OF FEES WEEKLY - 2008 SEASON (approved Minute 2 Tourism Committee 25/06/07)

*including electricity & equipment

Easter - Fri 25th April	31.00	26.38
Sat 26th April - Fri 4th July	55.00	46.81
Sat 5th July - Fri 5th September	137.00	116.60
Sat 6th September - Fri 26th September	55.00	46.81
Sat 27th September - Fri 31st October	31.00	26.38

PROPOSED SCALE OF FEES DAILY - 2008 SEASON (approved Minute 2 Tourism Committee 25/06/07)

Easter - Fri 25th April	7.00	5.96
Sat 26th April - Fri 4th July	9.00	7.66
Sat 5th July - Fri 5th September	21.50	18.30
Sat 6th September - Fri 26th September	9.00	7.66
Sat 27th September - Fri 31st October	7.00	5.96

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Stroke Club (Annual rental) for 2008/09 be as follows:

New Charges	New Charges		
(Incl. VAT)	(Excl. VAT)		
£	£		
(1st April - 30th Sept)			
645.00	548.94		

Stroke Club (Annual rental)

Councillor Bright declared a personal and prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct, by reason of being a private site licence holder, and left the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor MrsGainsborough, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Councillor Mrs Marsh assume the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Marsh assumed the Chair.

It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gainsborough and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND: That the Private Site fee for 2008/09 be as follows:

	New Charges	New Charges
	(Incl. VAT)	(Excl. VAT)
	£	£
Private Sites	285.00	242.55

Councillor Mrs Marsh relinquished the Chair.

Councillor Bright reassumed the Chair.

c) Tourist Information Centre

It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Tourist Information Centre charges for 2008/09 be as follows:

	New Charges (Incl. VAT)	New Charges (Excl. VAT)
	£	£
TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE		
Advertising Board 3ft x 4ft (Annual)	380.00	323.40
Advertising 'A' Boards	200.00	170.21
Accommodation Service - Serviced	10%	10%
Accommodation Service - Self-catering	5%	5%
Caravan And Camping Leaflet Advertising	110.00	93.62
Website Advertising - Full Page	N/A	0.00
- Link Page	N/A	0.00
- Line Entry	N/A	Free
Registration Fee (One season only)	N/A	0.00

d) Peveril Point

It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs Gainsborough and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Peveril Point charges for 2008/09 be as follows:

	New Charges (Incl. VAT)	New Charges (Excl. VAT)
PEVERIL POINT	*	3 ₩
Angling Club Lease expires 30/04/2023		
Angling Club Hut and Land		£450.00
		(Excl VAT)
Foreshore - Dinghy Storage (Angling Club) Dug-Out Storage Area, Rear of Waterside (per	180.00	180.00
week)	7.20	7.20
Garage (rear of 1, Old Coastguard Cottages)	vacant	vacant
Fishermen's storage (former Gents Public	vacant	vacant
Conveniences: rear of 1, Old Coastguard Cottages)		
Garage Site (rear of Peveril Cottage) Lease expired 27/06/2004 - Notice to quit - effective date 11/02/05	vacant wef 11/02/05	
Rent of Hut Site (East of Lifeboat House)	170.00	170.00
Fishermen's Huts	335.00	285.11
Boathouse Sites x 2 (West of Lifeboat House)	200.00	200.00

e) Beach Concessions

Councillor Mrs Marsh declared a personal interest in this item under the Model Code of Conduct.

It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Boat Ring, Boat Operating and Punch & Judy charges for 2008/09 be as follows:

	New Charges	New Charges (Excl. VAT)	
	(Incl. VAT)		
	£	£	
BEACH CONCESSIONS			
Monkey Beach Boat Rings	60.00	51.06	
(Private)			
Pleasure Boats			
(exceeding 30 passengers)	635.00	540.43	
(not exceeding 30 passengers)	565.00	480.85	
(not exceeding 12 passengers)	190.00	161.70	
Motor Boats (not exceeding 15 feet)	125.00	106.38	

110.00 360.00 (plus VAT)

In reference to the Beach Chair and Pedalcraft rights, it was AGREED:

That clarification is required in respect
of the areas of operation prior to
agreeing the fees for 2008/09.

Consideration was given to a letter dated 22nd October 2007 from Dorset Association for the Disabled requesting a discount for a beach hut booking for June, July, August and September 2008. It was noted that the Town Council had a policy in place not to offer discount rates to new applicants. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That this request be refused, although the Tourist Information Centre Manager has the delegated authority to offer discounted rates outside of the main season.

8)c) <u>Information Gathering/Market Research</u>

The importance of information gathering and market research was noted. The need to draw together existing documents such as the Purbeck Section of the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site Carrying Capacity Evaluation Report was highlighted and it was AGREED:

That a special meeting of the Tourism Committee be held early in 2008 to discuss information gathering and market research.

The Meeting closed at 12.35 p.m.		