

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY,**
27th FEBRUARY 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor J. Bishop

Councillor M.P. Bonfield

Councillor C. Finch

Councillor G. Green

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor A. Lejeune

Councillor G. Marsh

Councillor T. Morris

Councillor G. Suttle

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 9 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Before opening the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed members of the public and made a short statement regarding the fire evacuation procedure, filming/audio recording etc. of the Meeting, and a summary of the procedure for Public Participation Time.

Revd. Mark Hatto, from the Emmanuel Baptist Church, offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- An update was provided by representatives of Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust regarding the refurbishment of The Centre (formerly know as Swanage Youth Centre) and future bookings of the facilities. An 'Open Day' was scheduled to be held on 1st April 2017, prior to the opening of The Centre on 3rd April 2017.
- Traffic management – Shore Road.
- Future availability of loud hailer for use by Swanage Town Council.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 7.15 p.m.

197. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies to report from Members for inability to attend the Meeting.

198. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Agenda Item No. 9 (b) – Councillors Marsh declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being Purbeck District Council’s representative on the Swanage Pier Trust.

Agenda Item No. 9 (b) - Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being the Town Council’s representative on the Swanage Pier Trust.

Agenda Item No. 20 (a) – Councillor Bonfield declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being Chairman of Swanage and District Angling Club.

199. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Morris, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of
the Council held on 30th January 2017 be
approved as a correct record and signed.

200. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by the Town Mayor, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and
Consultation Committee held on 6th February 2017 be
approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

201. **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by the Town Mayor, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport
Committee held on 8th February 2017 be approved
as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

202. **POLICY, FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Finance
and Performance Management Committee held on
15th February 2017 be approved as a correct record and
signed.

Consideration was given to the following recommendations contained in the
Minutes:-

3. **Social Media Policy**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Green, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the draft Social Media Policy be adopted as an
interim measure, subject to review by the Communications
Working Party and future consideration of any proposed

amendments submitted to the Town Clerk.

6. **Review of Corporate Risk Register**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the amended Corporate Risk Register 2017/18
be adopted.

203. **WORKING PARTIES**

(a) **Communications Working Party**

At its meeting on 8th February 2017 the Communications Working Party received an informative presentation from Claire Lodge, Purbeck District Council's Communications Officer. Having considered both the risks and the substantial benefits of having a social media presence, the Working Party recommended that the Town Council should establish a Facebook page, to be used as an electronic noticeboard to help distribute information about the Council and its work in the community.

It was proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Morris and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Town Council establishes a Swanage Town
Council Facebook page, to be launched at the earliest
opportunity.

204. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31st January 2017 was submitted for
information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

205. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and
RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer
Nos. 11 and 11a, amounting to £69,606.58 and £57,938.51
respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

206. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had recently attended a Reception and Briefing by The Army Engagement Team at the Tank Museum, Bovington, and was pleased to report that the presence of the army at Bovington and Lulworth was virtually secured for the foreseeable future.

207. **GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2017/18**

Consideration was given to the following requests for grants and
donations:-

Councillor Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item under the Code of Conduct by reason of being the Town Council's representative on the Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau. He remained in the meeting during the discussion, but did not vote on the Proposition.

(a) **Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau**

Further to Minute No. 176 of the Council meeting held on 23rd January 2017, Councillor Morris reported on discussions with officers of the CAB regarding the level of contribution provided by the Town Council towards the continuation of the CAB service in Swanage.

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

That a further sum of £500 be donated towards the
continuation of the CAB service in Swanage.

(b) **Swanage Stroke Club**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the sum of £318.00 be donated towards the provision
of a beach hut on Shore Road for the period 1st July to 4th
August 2017 for use by local residents.

Further to their declarations of interest under Minute No. 198,
Councillors Marsh and Whitwam remained in the meeting during
consideration of the following item, but did not take part in the debate or
vote on the Proposition.

(c) **Swanage Pier Trust – Pirate Festival**

Consideration was given to a request received from the Swanage Pier Trust
seeking a donation towards the cost of the Pirate Festival 2017.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield:-

That the sum of £500 be donated towards the cost of
the Pirate Festival 2017.

This proposition failed to secure a seconder and was withdrawn by the
proposer.

A proposition was then moved by Councillor Morris and seconded by
Councillor Green:-

That the sum of £300 be donated towards the cost of
the Pirate Festival 2017.

Upon being put to the Meeting, NINE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the
PROPOSITION and there were THREE ABSTENTIONS, whereupon the
PROPOSITION was declared CARRIED.

208. **EVENTS 2017**

A schedule of events using Town Council facilities in 2017 was submitted
for information.

Arising from the above, consideration was given to a request from the
Swanage Regatta & Carnival Association seeking permission to use the former
shelter site on Shore Road for trading during the carnival period.

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

To adhere to the Town Council's policy not to
allow commercial trading on the former shelter
site on Shore Road.

Consideration was then given to a further request from the Swanage
Regatta and Carnival Association for permission to hold a 'Family Fun Day' on
Prince Albert Gardens on Saturday, 29th July 2017.

It was proposed that the event would run from 2 p.m. to approximately
9.45 p.m. and would include a 'Kids Disco', Rodeo Bull competition, and
inflatable rides. It was noted that the number of inflatables would not exceed a total
of two across both Sandpit Field and Prince Albert Gardens.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That permission be given to the Swanage Regatta and Carnival Association to hold a 'Family Fun Day' on Prince Albert Gardens as part of Carnival Week.

209. **COMMUNITY ORIENTEERING PROPOSAL**

Further to Minute No. 11 of the General Operations Committee meeting held on 20th July 2016, consideration was given to a request from the outdoor activities company Land & Wave seeking permission to install a community orienteering course at King George's Field. The facility would be funded, installed and maintained by the outdoor activities company.

Following discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That permission to install a community orienteering course at King George's Field be granted for a trial period of one season.

210. **COMMEMORATION OF CIVILIAN WAR DEAD**

Consideration was given to a proposal that a stone plaque be installed at the war memorial on the Recreation Ground in memory of the civilians who were killed as a direct result of enemy action in Swanage during World War II.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a budget provision of up to £4,000 be approved for a stone plaque in memory of the civilians who were killed as a direct result of enemy action in Swanage during World War II.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk, Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor to agree appropriate wording to be inscribed on the plaque.

211. **PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM**

Further to previous discussions, during which the need for an outdoor public address system had been acknowledged, details of a portable outdoor public address system were presented.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That approval be given for the purchase of a portable outdoor public address system up to a maximum cost of £300.

212. **BANDSTAND**

Further to Minute No. 8 of the Policy, Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 15th February 2017, consideration was given to the future of the bandstand.

It was reported that the roof of the bandstand was found to be structurally unsound when refurbishment works were commenced back in 2012 to address serious storm damage. It had been hoped to have the bandstand restored but sadly the structure had deteriorated beyond repair due to water ingress and having been warped by ground movement. It was estimated that a replacement bandstand was estimated to cost in the region of £80,000.

Initial discussions had been held with a representative of the Swanage Town Band. The possibility of improving facilities at Prince Albert Gardens had been mooted as an alternative to replacing the bandstand and the band's views had been sought on these different options.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bishop and seconded by Councillor Trite:-

That the remaining uprights be removed from the structure to the level of the railings and that a period of one year be allowed to enable proposals for the site to be evaluated.

An Amendment was moved by Councillor Suttle and seconded by Councillor Bonfield:-

That a period of six months be allowed to enable proposals for the site to be evaluated, following which if no viable project has been identified, the existing structure should be removed and the site filled in.

Upon being put to the Meeting, TEN Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Amendment, ONE Member voted AGAINST and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Amendment was declared CARRIED.

The Amendment was then put as a SUBSTANTIVE MOTION and declared CARRIED, with TEN Members voting IN FAVOUR of the Substantive Motion, one voting AGAINST and there was ONE ABSTENTION.

213. **BOAT PARK**

It was reported that a conditional survey had recently been undertaken to establish the surface condition of the concrete and tarmacadam surfaces within the Boat Park, and to agree repairing works to be undertaken by the RNLI contractors as a result of damage caused during the construction of the new Boathouse.

During the ensuing discussion, consideration was given to the Council's commitment to improving the facilities at the Boat Park, and it was felt prudent that a complete tarmacadam resurface, grid and line marking be undertaken in conjunction with the RNLI repair works whilst the Boat Park was unoccupied.

It was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a budget provision of £40,000 be approved for resurfacing, grid and line marking works at the Boat Park.

214. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

An update was provided on matters relating to Local Government Reorganisation, and the recent proposal to form two unitary authorities in Dorset. It was noted that although Purbeck District Council had voted against these proposals, along with two other authorities (Christchurch Borough and East Dorset District Council), a submission had been made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government seeking approval to proceed with the merger. An 'in principle' decision was anticipated by the end of March.

215. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

(a) Councillor Marsh reported that she had attended a meeting of the DAPTC Towns and Larger Councils at Wareham on 27th January 2017.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 19th May 2017.

- (b) Councillor Whitwam reported that he had attended meetings of the following organisations during the past month:-
- Pub Watch
 - Purbeck Transport Action Group
 - Purbeck Rail Partnership

216. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

There were no delegated matters to report at the present time.

217. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

Items of Information

- (a) Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute – 11th November 2018. It was agreed that the Town Council should seek to ensure that Swanage participates in this event. Contact would be made with Dursilton Country Park regarding a beacon lighting in the parish.
- (b) The Centre – Update from Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust.
- (c) Councillor Whitwam reported that the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust had now set up a Volunteer Bureau in the Swanage library.

Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- (a) Swanage in Bloom.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under Standing Order No 1 c), in the public interest, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under agenda items 20 (a) and due to consideration of legal and financial advice, information relating to the financial and business affairs of third parties, and reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Further to his declaration of interest under Minute No. 198, Councillor Bonfield left the meeting during consideration of the following items.

218. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Swanage Angling Club**

Further to minute No.194 (a) of the Council Meeting held on 30th January 2017, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the lease for the newly constructed clubhouse at Peveril Point.

Councillor Marsh declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item under the Code of Conduct by reason of a long-standing connection with Swanage RNLI. Councillor Marsh remained in the meeting during consideration of the matter, but did not take part in the debate or vote on the Proposition.

(b) **RNLI Boathouse**

Further to minute No. 194 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 30th January 2017, the Town Clerk reported that, to date, no further information had been

received from the RNLI regarding the financial settlement for use of the Boat Park during the construction works.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 p.m.
