

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 25th JANUARY 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor J.M. Bishop

Councillor M.P. Bonfield

Councillor C. Finch

Councillor G. Green

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor A. Lejeune

Councillor G.A. Marsh

Councillor T.J. Morris

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 16 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Councillor Poultney welcomed Revd Mark Hatto, who offered a prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Matters relating to potential oil/gas drilling at California Quarry, including a request that an item be re-instated on the Agenda for monthly Council meetings - ‘Proposals for Future Gas Drilling at California Quarry’.
- An enquiry as to when funds were likely to be available from the De Moulham Trust.

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

196. **APOLOGIES**

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

197. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interest under the Code of Conduct as defined by regulations made under section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011, and requests for Grants of Dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Councillor Trite declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust.

Agenda Item No. 14 – Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust.

198. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 21st December 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 18th January 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

199. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 4th January 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

200. **BUDGET MONITORING**

- (a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31st December 2015 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

201. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 10 and 10a, amounting to £78,015.17 and £56,523.89 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

202. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had attended various events during the past month, but in view of the number of matters yet to be considered during the meeting, he did not wish to report specifically on these events at the present time.

203. **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2016**

Further to Minute No. 182 of the Council meeting held on 21st December 2015, Members were invited to submit their nominations for Volunteer of the Year Award 2016.

It was RESOLVED:-

That Mo Andrews, Jean Gibbs and Sue MacWilliams be jointly nominated for 'Volunteer of the Year Award' 2016 in recognition of their sterling work for the Swanage Area Dementia Community.

204. **HM QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

A letter dated 12th January 2016 was submitted from the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils highlighting HM Queen's 90th Birthday on 21st April 2016, and stating that in celebration of this milestone, it was intended that beacons be lit that evening across the United Kingdom, to mark the unique moment in history. It was agreed that enquiries be made of Durlston Country Park regarding

potential hosting of a beacon lighting ceremony. It was further noted that the editor of the Purbeck Gazette had informally offered to assist with the identification of a local resident who shared their birthday with the Queen to light the beacon.

205. **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT**

Further to Minute No. 183 of the Council meeting held on 21st December 2015, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the future provision of youth services in Swanage.

The Town Council had registered its interest with Dorset County Council in acquiring the Youth Centre premises with a view to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust developing a business plan for the future provision and operation of this facility.

It was noted that a Public Forum meeting was scheduled to be held at the Youth Centre on Thursday, 4th February 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

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

(a) Following a meeting of the Local Plan Steering Group earlier in the day, the Clerk reported that 56 representations had been received by Purbeck District Council in response to the recent pre-submission consultation exercise. If the District Council approves submission at its meeting on 23rd February it is anticipated that will take place in early March with an inspection in May and the outcome potentially being made known in August.

207. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that a contract in the sum of £18,990 had been awarded to Radian Ramps for the supply and installation of additional Skate Park equipment at King George's Field. Funding for this equipment had been provided by Mrs Lorna Haines, and Members expressed their appreciation of this generous donation.

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

(a) **Items of Information**

i) **Swanage Post Office Sorting Office**

Attention was drawn to the proposed closure of the Swanage Post Office Sorting Office.

Following discussion, during which concerns were expressed at the proposed closure of this facility and the potential loss of jobs, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Marsh, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a letter be sent expressing the Council's concern at the proposed closure of the Swanage Post Office Sorting Office and seeking an explanation regarding this course of action.

ii) **Sector Led Body for Audit Procurement**

The Clerk reported on proposals for the transition from the current situation of appointment of the Council's external auditor by the Audit Commission to one in which the appointment is made by the Sector Led Body. The Town Council could opt out, and procure its own external auditor, but Members confirmed that they had no desire to do so.

(b) **Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

i) Annual Parish Assembly – To agree date and venue of Meeting.

Further to their declaration of interest under Minute No. 197, Councillors Trite and Whitwam remained in the meeting during consideration of the following item, but took no part in the debate and did not vote on the Proposition.

209. **SWANAGE RAILWAY**

A letter dated 4th January 2016 was submitted from the Swanage Railway Company requesting permission to carry out refurbishment work on the canopy over the booking hall entrance on the south side of the main station building.

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

That landlord's consent be given to Swanage Railway Company to carry out refurbishment works on the canopy over the booking hall entrance to the station building.

210. **BOAT PARK**

Consideration was given to a Briefing Note outlining the deliberations of the Boat Park Working Party regarding the future operation of the Boat Park.

During the ensuing discussion, Members agreed that the Council should retain the operation of the Boat Park in-house, subject to further consideration of improved facilities i.e. greater security measures.

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

That further information and costings be obtained regarding the possible construction of appropriate fencing and the installation of a security barrier at the Boat Park.

Consideration was then given to the proposed extension of the western jetty and demolition of the eastern jetty by the RNLI contractors. During the following discussion, it was noted that arrangements for funding of the jetty works remained to be finalised.

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

That approval be given for the RNLI to proceed with the demolition of the eastern jetty and extension/improvement of the western jetty, in-line with submitted plans.

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

That the Town Clerk be granted delegated authority to conclude negotiations with the RNLI in respect of financing the jetty works, subject to ratification by the full Council.

211. **TOWN HALL**

(a) **Installation of Defibrillator**

The Clerk reported on a request received from Dorset Police that consideration be given to the installation of a defibrillator in the Town Hall.

In light of a presentation given by a member of the Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership, Members noted the aims of the Partnership to purchase and maintain strategically located lifesaving equipment for the town.

It was agreed that the Town Council co-operate with the Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership in this regard.

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 16 (b), 17 and 18 (in relation to the financial and business affairs of third parties).

(b) **Upgrade of Public Address System in Council Chamber**

Consideration was given to quotations received for the upgrade of the public address system in the Council Chamber, including induction loop system. During the ensuing discussion, Members enquired whether the system would be flexible to allow for additional microphones, if necessary.

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

That a budget provision up to £4,500 be approved for the upgrade of the public address system in the Council Chamber, and that clarification be sought regarding the flexibility of the system.

212. **SWANAGE MARKET**

Further to Minute No. 171 (b) of the Council meeting held on 23rd November 2015, consideration was given to tenders received for the operation of Swanage Market.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were divided as to the preferred day of operation of the Market, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for determination at the meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to be held on 1st February 2016 to enable further information to be obtained.

213. **STONE QUAY/MONKEY BEACH CONCESSIONS**

The Clerk reported on matters relating to the operation of boat concessions from an area between the Stone Quay and Monkey Beach.

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

That an advertisement be placed in the local press inviting Expressions of Interest to operate boat concessions from an area between the Stone Quay and Monkey Beach.

It was further RESOLVED:

That officers be instructed to commence discussions to formalise licence arrangements with Marsh's Boat Trips for the use of the Stone Quay, and with the Swanage Sea Rowing Club in respect of the pontoons used for gig launching in the vicinity of Monkey Beach.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.