

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY,**
31st JULY 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.P. Bonfield (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor J.M. Bishop

Councillor C. Finch

Councillor G. Green

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor A. Lejeune

Councillor G.A. Marsh

Councillor T. Morris

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 17 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Revd Chris Moreton, from the Swanage Methodist Church, offered a short prayer before the commencement of 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.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Car wash event in Main Beach Car Park.
- Timescale for re-opening and future operation of Peveril Boat Park.

Councillor Bonfield opened the Council Meeting at 7.05 p.m.

52. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Suttle.

53. **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. 10 – Councillor Green declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a local artisan and ‘pop-up-shop’ user.

Agenda Item No. 17 – Councillor Finch declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of having an economic development role at Purbeck District Council.

Agenda Item No. 17 – 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. 17 – Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust.

54. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Marsh, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 26th June 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

55. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Morris, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 3rd July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

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

It was noted that, due to the amended date of the meeting, the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 28th July 2017 would be submitted for approval at the next monthly meeting of the Council to be held on 21st August 2017.

57. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30th June 2017 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

58. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Lejeune, and
RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 4 and 4a, amounting to £198,562.75 and £65,098.16 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

59. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Bonfield welcomed Flight Lieutenant Mary Brennan and cadets from 2185 (Swanage) Air Training Corps. He was keen to continue the practice of appointing a Mayor's Cadet and had invited representatives from the ATC to nominate a cadet for this position in 2017/18.

Cadet Leanne Godfrey was put forward for this post and was presented with a sash by the Town Mayor in recognition of the position.

In making the presentation, Councillor Bonfield acknowledged the sterling

work undertaken by the cadets for the benefit of the town.

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

(a) **Life Education Wessex**

Consideration was given to a request received from Life Education Wessex seeking a donation towards the work of providing health and drug prevention education at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School.

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

That the sum of £590 be donated towards the cost of providing health and drug prevention education at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School.

(b) **Durlston Country Park**

Consideration was given to a request received from Durlston Country Park seeking a donation towards the £1 million 'Durlston Pleasure Grounds Project'. As well as enhancing Durlston's Victorian landscape the project will also bring socio-economic benefits, providing apprenticeships and opportunities for people with dementia and learning disabilities.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that funding from the Town Council would help to unlock significant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and it was proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a pledge to donate the sum of £9,500 towards the 'Durlston Pleasure Grounds Project' be given.

61. **EVENTS**

(a) **Use of Main Beach Car Park**

A letter dated 5th July 2017 was submitted on behalf of 'Friends of Durlston' requesting permission to hold a 'car washing' event in Main Beach car park to raise funds for Durlston Castle.

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

That permission be given to hold a 'car washing' event in Main Beach car park, subject to liaison with the Council's Operations Manager.

(b) **'Switch on Swanage'**

A letter was submitted from the Chair of 'Switch on Swanage' requesting permission to use the forecourt outside of the Taxi Office for fundraising activities in connection with the Christmas event on Saturday, 2nd December 2017.

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

That permission be granted for the use of the forecourt outside of the Taxi Office in connection with the 'Switch on Swanage' Christmas event on Saturday, 2nd December 2017.

Further to her declaration of interest under Minute No. 53, Councillor Green remained in the meeting during consideration of the following item, but did not take part in the discussion or vote on the Proposition.

62. **ARTISANS ON THE BEACH**

Following the successful use of beach huts for 'Pop Up Shops' by local artisans in recent years, consideration was given to proposals to promote these facilities during the Christmas period 2017/18.

It is suggested that the Town Council retains responsibility for marketing and beach hut administration, and that an Event Organiser be identified to implement the work required to take forward the event (see Briefing Note prepared by the Visitor Services Manager entitled 'Artisans on the Beach').

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Marsh, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the proposals set out in the Briefing Note entitled 'Artisans on the Beach', including a total charge of £75 per hut, be approved and adopted.

63. **BOAT PARK**

Further to Minute No. 251 of the Council meeting held on 24th April 2017, and subsequent receipt of a topographical survey and a final structural engineers' report, proposals for repairing works and four options of possible retaining wall design solutions were submitted for consideration.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which some concerns were raised at the extent of the proposed works and the estimated costs of the scheme.

It was proposed by Councillor Poultney and seconded by Councillor Marsh:-

To accept the recommendations of the Boat Park Working Party to proceed with Option 4 (reinforced concrete wall with railings on top), and to seek tenders for this work.

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

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED**, with ONE ABSTENTION:-

That Dorset Property be appointed to undertake the tender process and carry out the role of contract administrator, at an estimated cost of 11.5% of the contract award price.

64. **SWANAGE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION – SLIPWAY PROJECT PROPOSAL**

A letter dated July 2017 was submitted from the Swanage Fishermen's Association outlining a proposal to extend the western slipway and improve the fishermen's amenities at the Boat Park. The support of the Town Council was sought in order to progress the project.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bishop, seconded by Councillor Lejeune, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Town Council agrees in principle to support the proposed project to extend the western slipway and amenities of the fishermen's facility at the Boat Park.

65. **BEACH GARDENS**

(a) **Tennis Coaching Fees**

Following the annual meeting with representatives of the Swanage Tennis Club consideration was given to the court fees to be charged for coaching of non-tennis club members.

During the ensuing discussion, Members wished to encourage children and young people to use the facilities at Beach Gardens, and it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Harris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a court fee of £4.20 be charged for the coaching of non-Tennis Club members, and that the trial period for free coaching of children be extended until 31st March 2018.

It was also noted that the Tennis Club coach wished to operate a number of free cardio training sessions, and requested that the Town Council waive any fees on these occasions.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Harris, and RESOLVED:-

That the request be agreed in principle, and that delegated authority be given to the Mayor, Chairman of Tourism and a member of the management team to approve the free cardio training sessions.

(b) **Upgrade of Tennis Court Perimeter Fencing**

The deteriorating condition of the perimeter fencing of tennis court no. 7 was highlighted. It was noted that this court is currently designated as a community activity area and is used for basketball and a football kick around area, and concerns had been raised that the existing fencing was not up to the required standard for such use.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bishop, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That expenditure of up to £14,000 be authorised for the installation of perimeter surround fencing, to be paid for from the General Fund.

(c) **Bowling Green**

Further to Minute No. 244 (a) i of the Council meeting held on 24th April 2017, the Clerk reported that tenders had been invited for the installation of the artificial surface at the Bowling Green - the closing date for submissions being 14th August 2017.

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

- (a) Councillor Marsh reported that the next meeting of the DAPTC Larger Councils Committee would be held on 1st September 2017 at Corfe Mullen.

67. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

Items of Information

- (a) The Mayor reported on the impending retirement of Mrs. Linda Burgess from the Council's management team. He paid tribute to Mrs. Burgess' sterling work at the heart of the Town Council, working closely with the last three Town Clerks in both administrative and financial matters, including minuting Council meetings for more than three decades. He also remarked on her dedication to duty and the excellent support she had given to him and his predecessors as mayor's secretary. The Mayor, on behalf of Town Councillors, then presented

Mrs. Burgess with a bouquet of flowers, and wished her a long and happy retirement.

In reply, Mrs. Burgess thanked the Town Mayor for his good wishes and remarked that it had been an honour and a privilege to have been able to work on behalf of her home town throughout her working life.

Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- (a) Tourism/Transport Agenda – Double parking in Lower High Street. Request DCC Traffic Warden presence in evening.
- (b) Transport Agenda – Concern re waiting time for Studland/Sandbanks ferry during busy times – Request that appropriate signs be displayed at strategic points giving notice to motorists of approximate waiting time.
- (c) Transport Agenda – 30 mph speed restriction on A351 through Harmans Cross increases volume of heavy traffic using B3351 Corfe Castle to Studland Road.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Poultney, 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 item 13 by reason of commercial confidentiality.

Further to their declarations of interest under Minute No. 53, Councillors Finch, Trite and Whitwam remained in the meeting during consideration of the following item, but did not take part in the discussion or vote on the Proposition.

69. **RELOCATION OF TOWN COUNCIL DEPOT**

A Briefing Note dated July 2017 was presented by the Town Clerk giving background information regarding the current depot site in Kings Road and options for its possible relocation.

The Working Party had given lengthy and detailed consideration to the possible options and associated cost implications. Further discussion ensued, following which it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED:-

To accept the recommendation of the Depot Relocation Working Party, as set out in the briefing note circulated prior to the meeting.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That a negotiating team, comprising of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bishop, Town Clerk, Operations Manager, and the Council's valuer be appointed to progress the matter.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 p.m.
