

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 30th OCTOBER 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor J.M. Bishop
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, twenty three 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.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns expressed regarding proposals for an exploratory drilling rig, 6km offshore from Old Harry Rocks.
- Swanage Jazz Festival – it was reported that fundraising had been successful and the festival would be going ahead in 2018. Thanks were given to the Town Council for its support.
- Clinical Services Review - concerns reiterated regarding the proposed changes to local healthcare that were agreed at the meeting of the Governing Body of NHS Dorset CCG on 20th September 2017, and a request made for the Town Council to support steps being taken by local residents to challenge these decisions.
- A presentation given on Swanage Museum's proposals for the reinstatement of the Prince Albert Memorial.
- Support expressed for the renaming of the Recreation Ground to Queen Victoria Gardens.

124. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Finch and Suttle.

125. **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.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

126. **MINUTES**

- (a) Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Council held on 25th September 2017 be approved
as a correct record and signed.
- (b) Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Harris, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:
That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of
the Council held on 18th October 2017 be approved
as a correct record and signed.

127. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Green:-
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and
Consultation Committee held on 2nd October 2017 be
approved as a correct record and signed.

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

128. **BUDGET MONITORING**

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

129. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Morris, and
RESOLVED:-
That the accounts specified in Payment Schedule 7,
amounting to £274,464.09 be authorised.

It was noted that Councillors appreciated the new format of the Payment
Schedule, and thanks were given to the Council's Finance Manager.

130. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Bonfield reported that in his capacity of Mayor he had
attended the following events during the past month:-

- The launch of Dorset's first community-based Admiral Nurse Service at a special event at Durlston Castle, which also celebrated a year of campaigning and fundraising by the Dementia Friendly Communities in Swanage and Wareham. Rachel Murray had been welcomed as Purbeck's first Admiral Nurse at the event, and fundraising had already commenced for a second nurse for Purbeck.
- A visit to Wessex Water's Swanage Sewage Treatment Works, which had been worthwhile and very informative.
- Litter Free Purbeck 'Bin your Butt' Campaign roadshow, held in Swanage Station.
- Swanage Regatta and Carnival Committee Presentation Evening – it was reported that £25,600 had been donated to local good causes.

131. **CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2016/17 – APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL RETURN**

The Annual Return in respect of the audit for 2016/17 was submitted from BDO LLP (the Council's external auditor). It was noted, with satisfaction, that the Return had been approved and that a matters arising report had not been issued.

It was noted that an adjustment had been made to the figure included in Box 9, Section 2. The adjustment had been requested by the auditor so as to include the capital expenditure incurred on improvement works undertaken to the Tourist Information Centre building during the year within the total value of fixed assets.

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

That the Annual Return in respect of the audit for 2016/17 be approved and accepted.

132. **ALBERT MEMORIAL – TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM SWANAGE MUSEUM**

Further to the presentation given during Public Participation Time, consideration was given to a proposal document prepared by the Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre which detailed the history/background of the Albert Memorial, and included a request for it to be re-erected in Prince Albert Gardens, in time for the bicentenary of the Prince's birth on 26th August 2019. The obelisk had been the first memorial to be raised in memory of Prince Albert in the country, and had stood at the top of Court Hill from 1862 until 1971.

Following a discussion, Members were in agreement that more time was required to assess the proposal, including reviewing the potential location of the obelisk, and identifying possible funding options. A suggestion was made that a working party should be formed which could review the information in greater detail, and present its findings to a future Council Meeting.

The Town Mayor invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow members of the public to address the Council, and respond to questions relevant to Agenda Item 9.

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

That a working party be appointed, consisting of Councillors Bonfield, Green, Bishop, Marsh and Trite, to review the proposal in greater detail, and present its findings to a future Council Meeting.

133. **POTENTIAL RENAMING OF RECREATION GROUND AS QUEEN VICTORIA GARDENS**

Further to Minute 86 (a) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 21st August 2017, consideration was given to a request received for the possible renaming of the Swanage Recreation Ground. The Recreation Ground was home to the town's War Memorial, Bandstand and a play park, and was situated adjacent to Victoria Avenue. It was felt that the renaming would be more fitting for Swanage's heritage as a Victorian seaside resort.

The Town Mayor invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow members of the public to address the Council, and respond to questions relevant to Agenda Item 10.

It was noted that the Recreation Ground had previously been the site of a dairy farm, and had only been laid out as a recreation area for members of the public following the First World War. In light of this information it was proposed by Councillor Bishop and seconded by Councillor Harris:-

That the name of the Recreation Ground should remain unchanged.

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

134. **DAPTC**

(a) **Resignation of Swanage Town Council Representative**

Councillor Marsh reported that she had decided to step-down as one of the Town Council's two DAPTC representatives. It was noted that the Town Clerk remained the Council's other representative.

The Town Mayor invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow members of the public to address the Council, and respond to questions relevant to Agenda Item 11(a).

(b) **Consideration of motions to be considered at AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the DAPTC was scheduled to be held on Saturday, 4th November 2017. The Town Council had been invited to discuss the Motions to be considered at the meeting, and agree a voting mandate for the Council's representative, if appropriate. Members had no comments they wished to raise at the meeting.

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

(a) Councillor Whitwam reported that he had attended meetings of the following organisations during the past month:-

- **Pub Watch** – Councillor Whitwam was pleased to report that there had been no incidents.
- **Litter-free Purbeck** - 'Only rain down the drain' Campaign.

136. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

Further to Minute 91(a) of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 6th September 2017, the Town Clerk reported that a fee of £720 had been agreed for the use of North Beach car park for the Swanfest music event held on 1st October 2017. The organisers of the event would pay half of the fee to the Town Council, and half to Swanage Town & Herston Football Club as a donation.

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

Items of Information

- (a) Meeting with Richard Drax MP – update on matters raised. Further to Minute 104 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 25th September 2017, copies of the replies received to the MP's enquiries had been circulated. Disappointment was expressed regarding the response received from the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the charging of business rates on public toilets, and also in relation to the statutory position of the Registration Service which meant that online registration of deaths could not be permitted. It was noted that a question raised regarding the reduction in schools funding had not been answered as yet, and a request was made for officers to follow-up this outstanding matter.
- (b) Proposed offshore exploratory drilling rig 6km offshore from Old Harry Rocks. A copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report had been circulated. It was reported that representatives from Corallian Energy Limited

had accepted an invitation to speak about the proposed Colter drilling operation at Dorset Coast Forum's Annual Meeting on 9th November 2017. It was noted that the meeting would be attended by the Town Clerk and the Visitor Services Manager.

Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- (a) NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group - Improving Dorset's Healthcare Consultation. Further to Minute 105 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 25th September 2017, a response had been received from the CCG. Disappointment was expressed regarding the content of the letter, which was felt to be inadequate and did not fully answer the questions and concerns raised. It was therefore proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Whitwam and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That this matter be placed on a future Monthly Council Meeting agenda for further consideration.

The County Councillor confirmed that he would attend the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on 13th November to represent the Council's concerns.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Green, 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 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

138. **CLEANING OF COUNCIL BUILDINGS – EXTENSION OF PUBLIC TOILETS CLEANING CONTRACT**

Consideration was given to the arrangements for cleaning the Town Hall and Tourist Information Centre. It was noted that JD Facilities, the Council's appointed public toilet cleaning company, had been contracted to carry out the work but that this had not been formalised as an extension to their existing contract.

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

To approve the arrangements that had been put in place for cleaning the Town Hall and Tourist Information Centre by JD Facilities for the short-term, and to authorise officers to proceed with a tender process in the near future.

139. **PUBLIC TOILET REFURBISHMENT SCHEME – AWARD OF CONTRACT**

Further to Minute 113 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 25th September 2017, it was reported that a tender process had been undertaken in respect of the refurbishment and upgrade of four public conveniences at Beach Gardens, the Town Hall, King George's and Mermond Place. Consideration was given to an analysis of the tender returns produced by Dorset Property. It was proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Westmade Construction be engaged to undertake the public toilet refurbishment scheme, at a contract price of £279,966.

140. **TOWN HALL ANNEXE – REQUEST FOR LEASE RENEWAL FROM**

DORSET POLICE

Members considered a request from the Estates Coordinator at Dorset Police to renew the lease of the Town Hall Annexe on the basis of current terms and conditions, subject to agreement of a revised rent. It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the lease of the Town Hall Annexe to Dorset Police be renewed on current terms and conditions, subject to agreement of a revised rent.

141. **RENT REVIEWS – TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL’S VALUER**

(a) **Wilts and Dorset Bus Depot, Kings Road**

Further to Minute 114(b) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 25th September 2017, consideration was given to further correspondence received from the council’s valuer. It was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Harris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the rent for the Wilts and Dorset Bus Depot, Kings Road, be agreed in line with the valuer’s advice at £40,000 p.a.

(b) **Seabreeze Restaurant, Shore Road – rental for gated area**

Further to Minute 136(a) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 31st October 2016, correspondence from the Council’s valuer was submitted for consideration, setting out a revised rental offer from the tenants of Seabreeze restaurant in respect of the gated area adjoining the building. It was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Morris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Council rejects the lower rental offer submitted by the tenants.

(c) **Telecommunications Masts, Main Beach Car Park and Days Park**

Consideration was given to advice received from the Council’s valuer in respect of the ongoing rent review of the telecommunications masts at Main Beach Car Park and Days Park. It was proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Council’s valuer be authorised to settle the current rent review in accordance with the figures set out in his e-mail dated 11th October 2017.

142. **BOAT PARK – CONSIDERATION OF TENDERS FOR CONSULTANTS’ REPORT**

Further to Minute 119 of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18th October 2017, consideration was given to cost estimates provided by leisure consultants to carry out a report on the options for the future operation of Peveril Point Boat Park. Having evaluated the specialisms of each of the companies and the nature of the services to be provided, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Sport, Leisure and Culture Consultancy (SLC) be engaged to produce a report on the future operation of Peveril Point Boat Park at a cost of £3,725 plus expenses (capped at a maximum of £300).

143. **INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL BOWLING GREEN, BEACH GARDENS –
UPDATE**

Further to Minute 121(b) of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18th October 2017, the Town Clerk provided an update in respect of the award of tender for the installation of an artificial bowling green at Beach Gardens. It was noted that Swanage Bowling Club had raised a number of questions regarding the specification of the work. A response was currently awaited from the contractor in respect of the points raised. It was AGREED:

That, once a response has been received from the contractors, the Sports Facilities Working Party meet with the Bowling Club to discuss their concerns, and report further to a forthcoming Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 p.m.
