

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 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 W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 24 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.

In the absence of a clergyman, no prayers were offered before the commencement of the Meeting.

### **Public Participation Time**

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Report of an incident involving a vehicle and cyclist at Cow Lane.
- Availability of photographic material to substantiate matters raised relating to Panorama Road.
- A request that ‘Exploratory Drilling for Hydrocarbons near to California Quarry’ be included as a standard item on the Agenda for each monthly Council meeting.
- Concerns expressed regarding a letter sent by the Principal Planning Officer, Minerals and Waste Planning, Dorset County Council to Barton Willmore stating that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) would not be required as part of the planning application for the exploratory drilling for hydrocarbons near to California Quarry.
- A request that the Town Council supports a consultation on the Preferred Options arising from the review of the Purbeck Local Plan.

Before inviting questions/comments regarding future options for The Bandstand on the Recreation Ground, the Mayor read a Press Release that had been published, and informed those present that a Public Meeting would be held at the Emmanuel Baptist Church Hall in May (date to be confirmed) to consider all suggestions/proposals for the future of The Bandstand. Mr

Paul Rabbitts (an expert on bandstands) would be invited to address the meeting.

The Mayor then invited comments from the audience, and points raised included:-

- Future options for The Bandstand.
- Offers of practical support and fundraising.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

219. **APOLOGIES**

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

220. **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.

221. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

222. **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 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

223. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Finch, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

224. **WORKING PARTIES**

(a) **Public Conveniences Working Party**

At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 the Public Conveniences Working Party discussed the provision of public toilets by the Town Council. It was noted that public toilets were currently provided in eleven locations, incurring annual maintenance/cleaning costs of approximately £150,000. Given this level of expenditure, after careful consideration of cost saving options, the working party did not wish to propose any closures, instead preferring to see a programme of investment to upgrade the facilities.

The following recommendations from the working party were put to the Meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Finch, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a policy of maintaining and improving the Town Council's public conveniences be confirmed.

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

To add the refurbishment of Mermond Place public conveniences to the priority capital programme for 2017/18 and to agree to the working up of draft proposals to enable costing of the work prior to final agreement at a future meeting.

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

To agree to explore the disposal of the vacant concrete space adjoining Burlington Chine.

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

To maintain the public conveniences at Battlegate and the Spa in their current state and review provision in this vicinity as part of planned stabilisation works at the Spa and Weather Station Field, currently planned for the early 2020s.

(b) **Sports Facilities Working Party**

i) **Swanage Bowls Club**

Further to Minute No. 166 (b) of the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016, discussions were continuing with the Swanage Bowls Club regarding a lease of the bowling green and introduction of an artificial playing surface. Heads of Terms would be brought to the Council in due course.

ii) **Swanage Town & Herston Football Club (STHFC)**

Further to Minute No. 166 (a) of the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016, the Town Council was working with the STHFC and the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust in regard to lease negotiations and improvement of the facilities. Heads of Terms would be brought to the Council in due course.

(c) **Affordable Housing in Swanage**

Consideration was given to the appointment of a Working Party to explore the delivery of affordable housing in Swanage.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by

Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following Members be appointed to the Affordable Housing Working Party:

The Town Mayor, and Councillors Bishop, Bonfield, Finch, Green, Harris, Lejeune, Morris, Trite and Whitwam.

225. **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

(a) **Change of Date**

Attention was drawn to the forthcoming Dorset County Council elections and purdah, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED:-

That the Annual Parish Meeting be re-arranged for Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at The Centre (formerly known as the Youth Centre) at 7.00 p.m.

(b) **Standing Orders**

Consideration was given to draft Standing Orders for the Parish Assembly, prepared in accordance with the National Association of Local Council (NALC) guidelines and Part III of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Following discussion, during which it was recommended that the word 'questions' be replaced by the word 'motions' in Section 2, paragraphs 1 and o, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Harris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the draft Standing Orders for the Parish Assembly be approved and adopted, subject to the above amendments.

226. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

227. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 12 and 12a, amounting to £130,718.17 and £39,727.86 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

228. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following events during the past month:-

- Chairman's Meeting at Purbeck District Council on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.
- Local Plan Review held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017.
- A Presentation Evening for 'Volunteer of the Year' on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Purbeck District Council, when Mr Frank Roberts had been presented with an award for his sterling work in the community.

229. **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**

Further to the Purbeck Local Plan Review meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Councillor Trite reported that it had been agreed to establish a Purbeck Infrastructure Forum and five Local Forums to help inform and shape the Local Plan Review.

It was noted that each Local Forum would be chaired by an elected member of Purbeck District Council, and that Councillor Suttle had been appointed to chair the South East Purbeck Local Forum, which encompassed Swanage.

The Town Council had been invited to nominate representatives to serve on the South East Purbeck Local Forum, and following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That Councillors Bishop and Green be nominated to represent the Town Council on the South East Purbeck Local Forum.

230. **EXPLORATORY DRILLING FOR HYDROCARBONS NEAR TO CALIFORNIA QUARRY**

Further to Minute No. 7 d) of the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017, consideration was given to a letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 sent by the Principal Planning Officer, Minerals and Waste Planning, Dorset County Council to Barton Willmore stating that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) would not be required as part of any forthcoming planning application for the exploratory drilling for hydrocarbons near to California Quarry.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their surprise and disappointment that this decision had been reached, and drew particular attention to matters previously raised by the County Council's consultees.

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

That a strongly worded letter be sent to Dorset County Council requesting that DCC does everything in its power to encourage the applicant to undertake an EIA prior to a decision being made on any forthcoming planning application.

231. **BANDSTAND, RECREATION GROUND**

Further to Minute No. 212 of the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017, and subsequent press coverage and correspondence received from local residents regarding the Bandstand, it was proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Finch, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a Working Party be formed, consisting of the Town Mayor and Councillors Finch, Green, Harris, Lejeune and Trite, to collate and consider correspondence/information received from members of the public relating to the Bandstand.

Following further discussion, during which reference was made to the unique structure of the existing bandstand, and the interest shown by Mr Paul Rabbitts (a bandstand expert), it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a Public Meeting be held at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Swanage to consider options/suggestions for the future of the bandstand, and that Mr Paul Rabbitts be invited to address the meeting.

232. **BOAT PARK**

The Visitor Services Manager reported on interest expressed by a number of local outdoor activity companies in using the beach as a site for the launching of kayaks. Concerns had previously been expressed by the Council over the potential

conflict between water based craft and beach users, and it was suggested that consideration be given to the use of the Boat Park as a launching facility for these commercial kayaking activities.

Following detailed consideration of the proposals contained in a Briefing Note prepared by the Visitor Services Manager, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Morris, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That approval be given to the Visitor Services Manager to create a licence for the launching of kayaks from the Boat Park for a trial period from 1st June 2017 to 16th July 2017 which would provide assurance that this arrangement would create a mutually beneficial relationship with the outdoor activity companies concerned.

It was **FURTHER AGREED:-**

That a fee of £200 be levied for the use of the facilities, as described above.

233. **SPA BEACH HUTS**

Consideration was given to a proposal put forward by the Visitor Services Manager for the introduction of additional beach huts on a vacant open space at The Spa. An area on the upper-middle level of the site had remained vacant since the removal of eight beach huts that had fallen into disrepair, and having regard to the increased demand for this site, it was suggested that eight 'luxury' wooden beach huts be erected in this location.

Following detailed consideration of the costings and anticipated demand, it was proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That approval be given for the erection of eight 'luxury' wooden beach huts on the upper-middle level of The Spa site at a maximum cost of £25,000, to be expended from the General Fund.

It was recommended that the work should be completed by the end of June 2017 in order to maximise the income from these new facilities, and it was **FURTHER RESOLVED:-**

That a schedule of proposed charges for the new 'luxury' huts be submitted to a forthcoming Council meeting for consideration.

234. **SWANAGE IN BLOOM**

Further to Minute No. 140 of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015, and the subsequent appointment of a Working Party, Councillor Lejeune again expressed her interest in resurrecting 'Swanage in Bloom'.

Following a brief discussion, it was **AGREED:-**

That a meeting of the 'Swanage in Bloom' Working Party be convened in October 2017 to progress the matter.

235. **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 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017. It had been suggested that those in attendance should be permitted to vote on motions put forward at the meetings, but it was felt that the views of the

representatives may not necessarily reflect those of the Council they are representing if the issues have not previously been discussed.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

- (b) Councillor Finch reported that she had attended meetings of the Swanage Chamber of Trade & Commerce and the Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association during the past month.
- (c) Further to Minute No. 207 (a) of the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017, Councillor Morris relayed the grateful thanks of the Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau for the increased level of the Town Council's contribution towards the continuation of the CAB service in Swanage.

236. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

**Items of Information**

- (a) Herston Fields – Recommendation that the application for 'Village Green' status be approved. This recommendation would be considered by Dorset County Council's Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017.
- (b) It was reported that the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust were now operating a Volunteer Bureau in the Swanage library.
- (c) It was reported that Historic England had officially listed the war memorial on the Recreation Ground as a Grade II structure.

**Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

- (a) Request to review mayor-making procedure.

**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 19 and 20 (a) and for reasons of commercial confidentiality and the consideration of legal matters.

238. **CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

An e-mail dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 was submitted from Dorset County Council outlining their fee structure for contract management in respect of the refurbishment of the public toilets at Main Beach car park and the toilets at the Town Hall.

Following discussion, during which the specialist nature of the works was acknowledged, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the fee structure for contract management in respect of the refurbishment of the public toilets at Main Beach car park and the toilets at the Town Hall submitted by Dorset County Council (11.5% of total contract fee) be accepted.

It was noted that other professional fees for measured buildings surveys and structural engineer's advice would be funded from the Council's existing budget for legal and professional fees.

239. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **RNLI Boathouse**

Further to minute No. 218 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 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 8.40 p.m.

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