

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Swanage Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND PLANNING** matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2011** at 7 pm.

PRESENT:-

Councillor W.S. Trite (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett  
Councillor M. Bonfield  
Councillor I. Brown  
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh  
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick  
Councillor S. Poultney  
Councillor M.W. Pratt  
Councillor G.M. Suttle  
Councillor M. Whitwam

There were four members of the public present at the Meeting.

### **Public Participation**

**MS. JUDI TAYLOR**, Chairman of the Purbeck Olympic Network Group, gave a summary of ideas that were being mooted to commemorate the 2012 Olympic sailing events at Weymouth and Portland. An advertisement would shortly be inserted in The Gazette inviting suggestions for community events/celebrations that could be organised in Swanage to celebrate this special occasion.

**MS. SALLY MALTBY** explained the outline proposals of Coastwatch, NCI Swanage, to form a small marine interpretation centre at Peveril Point. A business plan had been submitted to the Council and was scheduled to be considered later in the Meeting (Agenda Item 10).

**MRS. JEAN GIBBS** referred to the possible appointment of a Town Crier for Swanage, and reported on expressions of interest received following an advertisement in the local press. Terms of Reference had been obtained from Wareham Town Council, for information. This matter was scheduled to be considered later in the Meeting (Agenda Item 9).

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Harris and Wiggins.

2. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

3. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and  
RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 2 and 2a, amounting to £83,315.46 and £46,292.94 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

4. **ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REGULATIONS 2011**

Consideration was given to the revised Accounts and Audit Regulations which became effective on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, and would apply to the preparation, approval and audit of the Council's statement of accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

The main impact of the revision to the Regulations was that the Town Council would be defined as a 'smaller relevant body', with income or expenditure being less than £6.5 million, and, as such, the Council would now only be required to submit an Annual Return for audit.

Following discussion on the simplified capital accounting practice that would be adopted under the new guidance, it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2011, the Town Council submits an Annual Return for audit.

5. **PROPOSALS FOR OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

The Town Clerk reported on concerns that had recently been expressed regarding the proposals for the West of Wight offshore wind farm. It was noted that Eneco had held two consultation events at the Mowlem Theatre during the past year, but the Town Council had not been invited to participate in any formal consultation.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which concerns were raised regarding light pollution, the visual impact from the Jurassic Coast and SSSI, the possible detrimental effect on sealife (lobster/crab crawls) and any impact on tourism.

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

That the Town Council  
(a) registers its interest in the proposals via Eneco's website;  
(b) liaises with Purbeck District Council, and  
(c) invites a representative of the company to make a public presentation prior to a forthcoming Council meeting.

6. **LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

Consideration was given to proposals from Dorset County Council for the introduction of a 'lengthsman scheme', which would provide a local resource that could be directly controlled and administered by the Town Council for minor highway and footpath works.

Dorset County Council would contribute £10,000 towards the employment of the lengthsman, who could be a nominated member of the Town Council's existing workforce.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the Town Council currently undertakes some grass cutting and weed clearance on behalf of Dorset County Council, and the 'lengthsman scheme' would effectively be an extension of this service. Some concerns were raised regarding the possible confusion to members of the public regarding the division of responsibilities of the councils, but it was felt that appropriate publicity given to the scheme should address this situation.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Pratt:-

That a 'lengthsman scheme' for Swanage be progressed with Dorset County Council, and that a draft agreement be prepared for submission to a future meeting of the Council for formal approval.

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

7. **TOWN SQUARE**

The difficulties in maintaining the Town Square and keeping it clean and free of rubbish were again highlighted. Arising from the work of the Waste Management Working Party, the possibility of developing a partnership with the owners of the adjoining food establishments had been raised as a potential way forward to improve the management of the area.

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

That the Waste Management Working Party be authorised to further explore the possibility of developing a partnership with the owners of the food establishments in the Town Square, and report back to a future meeting of the Council.

8. **PURBECK OLYMPIC NETWORK GROUP**

The Town Clerk updated Members on meetings held with officers from Purbeck District Council and Swanage and Wareham Town Councils to explore opportunities for the District arising from the 2012 Olympic sailing events at Weymouth and Portland.

The possibility of increasing the number of moorings in the bay for the greater number of pleasure boats that are likely to be visiting the area had been raised, and a meeting had been held with representatives of the Crown Estate, who manage the sea bed and licence moorings.

The matter would be referred for further consideration at the next meeting of the Beach Management Committee scheduled to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

9. **APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CRIER**

In response to an approach made to the Town Council by Mrs. Jean Gibbs, a local resident, consideration was given to the possibility of reviving the position of Town Crier.

It was proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the revival of the position of Town Crier be agreed in principle, and that delegated authority be given to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to progress the matter.

The Mayor thanked Mrs. Gibbs for the sterling work undertaken regarding the revival of this position.

10. **COASTWATCH PROPOSALS FOR INFORMATION BOARDS**

Consideration was given to proposals submitted by Coastwatch, NCI Swanage for a small marine interpretation centre in the basement of the Coastwatch building and in one of the existing 2<sup>nd</sup> world war structures at Peveril Point.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council fully supports the proposals submitted by Coastwatch, NCI Swanage, for a small marine interpretation centre, and agrees to continue maintenance, grass cutting and insurance of the site.

11. **SWANAGE IN BLOOM**

It was reported that, following the death of Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough and a subsequent hiatus, Mr. Godfrey Moles had revived the Swanage in Bloom competition for 2011. He had organised a judging panel for the competition, and was seeking funding of £200.00 towards the judges expenses and trophies.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a grant of £200.00 be made towards the costs of organising the Swanage in Bloom competition under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

12. **AVAILABILITY OF LAND IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKING PARTY**

The Town Clerk reported on matters in need of attention, and it was AGREED:-

That a meeting of the Availability of Land in Public Ownership for Development of Affordable Housing Working Party, comprising of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Mrs. Harris, Poultney and Pratt, be convened.

13. **REQUEST FOR FILMING**

Before consideration of this item, Councillors Mrs. Patrick and Suttle declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of a business association with the applicant, and left the Meeting during the debate.

A letter was submitted from ECP Video requesting permission to film a tourist documentary, entitled 'Swanage: a seaside summer', depicting local people, attractions and stories found in the town.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett and seconded by the Town Mayor:-

That the request be granted, subject to payment of the sum of £50.00.

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

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

(a) The proposed name for the new access to Prospect Business Park and the future recycling centre is 'Prospect Way'.

- (b) A letter of thanks for the agreed contribution was submitted from the Dorset Blind Association.

15. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matters.

16. **LEGAL ISSUES**

Before consideration of this item Councillor Suttle declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being related to a third party mentioned in the Draft Heads of Terms, and left the Meeting during the debate.

(a) **Land South of Holiday Park**  
**Occupation of Grazing Land**

Further to Minute No. 13 (a) of the Policy and Planning Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the Town Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the occupation of the grazing land south of the Holiday Park.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

To approve the proposed actions of the Town Council's solicitor.

The Meeting concluded at 8.35 p.m.

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