

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the
Swanage Town Council held at the Town Hall,
Swanage on **MONDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER 2011**
at 7.00 p.m.

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 M. Whitwam
Councillor A. Wiggins

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 8 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Dorset Wildlife Trust

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr. Brian Bleese, from the Dorset Wildlife Trust, to the meeting.

Mr. Bleese then gave a detailed and informative presentation on the role and scope of the Dorset Wildlife Trust and the valuable work undertaken by members of the Trust and volunteer workers.

On the conclusion of the Presentation, the Mayor thanked Mr. Bleese for the information provided and invited questions and comments from the audience.

The Mayor opened the meeting for Public Participation at 7.05 p.m.

Public Participation Time

MS. HELEN O'CONNOR updated those present on matters relating to Education Swanage and their quest to set up a 'Free School' in Swanage. Representatives from Education Swanage had attended an interview with the Department for Education on Wednesday, 10th August 2011, and were now awaiting a decision on their application, which should be received by mid-October.

MR. MAX STANFORD, on behalf of the Swanage Labour Party, expressed concerns that the setting up of a 'Free School' in Swanage may be detrimental to the Purbeck School at Wareham and felt that secondary education should be provided by the local authority, and not by way of a 'Free School'. He enquired whether any other options i.e. a split site school had been explored. **MS. O'CONNOR** replied that the option of a split site school had originally been put forward by Education Swanage, but this suggestion had not been taken up by Dorset County Council.

MR. J. JAMES was pleased to report that the parking restriction signs had now been erected along the 'finger' roads off De Moulham Road.

MS. COLETTE DRAYSON, on behalf of PEAT (the Purbeck Environmental Action Team), reported that a public meeting had been arranged to consider Dorset's Renewable Energy Strategy at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 15th September 2011 at the Parish Hall on The Quay in Wareham. Mr. P. West, Dorset County Council's renewable energy officer, would be giving a talk on the issues that surround energy in Dorset.

MR. P. BROWN once again drew attention to the number of camper vans that were parking along Shore Road.

Revd. John Wood offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

The Town Mayor then opened the Council Meeting at 7.20 p.m.

53. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Miss Harris.

54. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 1st August 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 15th August 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No. 8, it was reported that the Great British Dive event scheduled for 24th September 2011, was now likely to be postponed.

55. **PLANS**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh did not vote on, or propose, or second any of the motions on the following planning applications, by reason of being a Member of the Purbeck District Council's Planning Board.

**Delegated
Applications**

6/2011/0522 **Mr A Price**

Replace existing roof with new higher roof to form living rooms at first floor level with front balcony and rear Juliette balcony.
46 Bay Crescent, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: Recommend refusal. This application constitutes gross overdevelopment of the site and is out of keeping with the scale and character of the street scene. Concerns were also expressed regarding overlooking of neighbouring properties.

6/2011/0531 **Mr T Ives**

Erect two storey rear extension and insert dormer window in east and west elevations to facilitate loft conversion.

8 Gordon Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2011/0533 **Widehorizons Outdoor Education Trust**

Installation of 36 solar photovoltaic panels and 2 solar thermal panels on existing roof.

Townsend Study Centre, Cobblers Lane, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

56. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (a) The Mayor reported that he had sent a letter of condolence to the Red Arrows following the tragic accident which resulted in the death of one of their team after a flying display at the Bournemouth Air Festival.
- (b) The Mayor reported that Mr. David Holman, the Gazette reporter, was currently unwell, and sent best wishes to him for a speedy recovery.
- (c) The Mayor reported that he had attended the following civic events during the past month:-
- A concert by Swanage Town Band.
 - A 'Civic Walkabout' in Wareham.
 - The Chairman of North Dorset's Civic Day.
 - The Mayor of Salisbury's Civic Day.
 - The first civil wedding held at the Town Hall, Swanage on 14th August 2011.
- (d) In the absence of the Mayor, who was on holiday, the Deputy Mayor had attended the following events:-
- RNLI Raft Race.
 - RNLI Lifeboat Service.

57. **DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL'S DAY CARE SERVICES AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

A letter dated 24th August 2011 was submitted from Dorset County Council – Adult and Community Services, outlining the requirement to make savings of £600,000 from the in house day service budget by 2014. This would impact on the provision of day care services and vocational services throughout the county.

Locality consultation meetings were scheduled to be held at six venues in the county to enable public consultation on three options for savings that were currently being considered by Dorset County Council.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the Purbeck Community Meeting had been arranged to take place on the evening of 24th August (the same date that the letter had been circulated) and Members expressed grave concern at the lack of notice given to such an important meeting.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a letter be sent to Dorset County Council – Adult and Community Services – requesting that an additional Purbeck Community Meeting be held, with wider publicity and an appropriate period of notice being given, to provide the opportunity for full consultation.

58. **EDUCATION SWANAGE**

Following the decision by Dorset County Council to close Swanage Middle School and move to a two-tier education system in Purbeck, the objective of Education Swanage to open a Free School in the town and preserve high-quality secondary education in Swanage was progressing.

A comprehensive Briefing Note had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting, detailing the progress of Education Swanage to date and setting out the issues around site ownership, planning, affordable housing and sports facilities raised by the proposals for a Free School. Following an intense interview at the Department for Education to interrogate their business plan for the Free School, Education Swanage was now waiting to hear whether they had been selected to go through to the next stage.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which Members commended the sterling work undertaken by Education Swanage, and re-iterated their support for delivering the best education for local children. During the debate, some concerns were raised that the provision of a Free School may have a detrimental impact on some services provided by the Purbeck School at Wareham.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick:-

That the Town Council's officers be authorised to work with Education Swanage as a priority to explore what role the Council has in bringing the Swanage Free School to fruition.

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.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That a Report would be submitted to the Council when clarification of any of the issues around site ownership, planning, affordable housing and sports facilities was available.

59. **CAR PARKING**

In recognition of the valuable assistance given by cadets from the 2185 (Swanage) DF Air Training Corps with car parking during the Carnival, Members wished to make a donation to the Corps.

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

That the sum of £350 be donated to the 2185 (Swanage) DF Air Training Corps.

60. **DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

Consideration was given to seven motions for resolution at the DAPTC Annual General Meeting on 5th November 2011.

Following a brief discussion, it was AGREED:-

That the Town Council did not wish to express any specific views on the motions for resolution. Comments would be left to the discretion of the Town Council's representative after listening to the debates.

61. **SWANAGE COASTAL CHANGE FORUM**

A letter dated 20th July 2011 was submitted from Rupert Lloyd, Jurassic Coast Pathfinder Project Coordinator, seeking the Town Council's support of the proposed Swanage Coastal Change Forum.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Brown, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council fully supports the proposed Swanage Coastal Change Forum.

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

There were no matters to report from Council representatives on outside organisations at the present time.

63. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

Items of Information

- (a) Road works that would necessitate road closures would shortly be undertaken by Dorset County Council in Seaward Road and Washpond Lane.
- (b) An Open Meeting to discuss Dorset's Renewable Energy Strategy was scheduled to be held in the Parish Hall at Wareham on Thursday, 15th September 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 p.m.
