

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 24th APRIL 2006 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT: -

Councillor G.M. Suttle (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor C.R. Bright

Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough

Councillor M. Hadley

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor M.W. Pratt

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M.A. Tyrer

(Until 8.25 p.m.)

The Mayor welcomed Revd. Will Watts, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

186. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Mrs. Bartlett.

187. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27th March 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 7th April 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Tyrer, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 10th April 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

188. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 27th March 2006 be accepted.

Arising from the above, Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough was pleased to report that local children from the 1st Ulwell and 7th Swanage Brownie Groups had commenced painting the flower planters in Main Beach Car Park. The work was of an excellent standard, and the children were willing to continue the painting theme on flower planters in other locations in the town. Judging for the town's entry in the "South and South East England in Bloom" competition will take place on 14th July 2006.

189. **TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Tyrer, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism and Environmental Committee held on 27th March 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

190. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 29th March 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

191. **BOAT PARK COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Boat Park Committee held on 31st March 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

192. **SWANAGE TOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 3rd April 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

193. **CAR PARKS BEST VALUE WORKING GROUP**

Proposed by Councillor Tyrer, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Car Parks Best Value Working Group held on 5th April 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

194. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no specific announcements to make this month.

195. **TOURISM REPORT**

The Tourist Information Centre Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) Footfall at the Tourist Information Centre was slightly down during March, but approximately 1500 more visitors had called at the TIC during the past year compared with the previous year.
- (b) Swanage had again been successful in achieving the Encams Seaside Award. To achieve this prestigious award, as a resort beach 29 criteria had to be met, which included water quality, general management, safety, cleanliness and the provision of information.
- (c) Swanage had featured in a "Shop Till You Drop" article in the April edition of the Coach Drivers' Club magazine. Valuable publicity would be gained from the promotion of the unique shops and market, as well as encouraging the coach operators to extend the duration of their scheduled visits to the town.
- (d) Staff at the Tourist Information Centre had compiled a collection of walking leaflets, entitled "Popular Walks in Purbeck", which included routes to Old Harry Rocks, Corfe Castle and Worth Matravers. As well as the walking route, the leaflets also included information on the history, flora and fauna of the area.
- (e) The Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre is scheduled to open on Monday, 3rd April at 11 a.m. and an invitation was extended to everyone to take part in a "treasure trail" around the town on that day.
- (f) The sale of the "Easter Chicks", knitted by a local resident and sold at various outlets in the town, had raised approximately £550 which would be distributed between the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline and the Swanage Railway.

196. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

In the absence of the Operations Manager, there were no matters to report on outside works at the present time.

197. **2006 EVENTS**

(a) **Swanage Folk Festival**

Further to Minute No. 2 (c) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20th February 2006, a letter dated 17th March 2006 was submitted from the Organisers of the Swanage Folk Festival requesting permission to hold a dance in the marquee on Sandpit Field on Thursday evening, 7th September 2006.

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

That the request be granted.

198. **LICENCE APPLICATION**

A letter dated 18th April 2006 was submitted from Purbeck District Council seeking the Town Council's observations on an application for the renewal of a Gaming Permit in respect of Playland Amusements, Swanage.

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

That no objections be raised to the renewal of the Gaming Permit.

199. **COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE**

A letter dated 18th March 2006 was submitted from Mr. V. Saville requesting permission to place a small commemorative plaque on a public seat at Peveril Point.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh and seconded by Councillor Bright:-

That the request be approved, subject to the safety and suitability of the proposed seat.

Discussion ensued, during which Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough expressed her concern at the principle of allowing private notices on public seats.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Hadley:-

That details of the proposed plaque (i.e. size and wording etc) should be submitted for approval in the first instance.

This Amendment failed to secure a seconder.

The original proposition was then put to the Meeting, and declared CARRIED, with seven Members voting IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and ONE AGAINST.

200. **FINGERPOST SIGN**

A letter dated 19th April 2006 was submitted from the Manager of the Swanage Youth Hostel seeking the Council's permission to erect a fingerpost sign in the vicinity of the bus/rail terminus. Consideration had previously been given by Dorset County Council for a brown tourist sign, but it was now considered that a pedestrian fingerpost sign would be more appropriate in this location.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright:-

That the request be not granted, as the proposed sign was not in keeping with existing fingerpost signs.

This proposition failed to secure a seconder.

A FURTHER PROPOSITION was then put by Councillor Tyrer, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the request for a fingerpost sign be granted, subject to no cost being incurred by the Town Council.

201. **STREET NAME – NEW DEVELOPMENT – 72/74 KINGS ROAD**
 A letter dated 12th April 2006 was submitted from the Administrative Services Department of Purbeck District Council seeking the Town Council’s observations on a proposal to name the new development at 72/74 Kings Road “Swanwick Mews”.
- During the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed that confusion may arise with the nearby development named “Swanbrook Mews”, and it was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-
 To recommend that the new development be named
 “Court Close”.
202. **CAR PARKING ORDER**
 Following the recent publication of the revised Car Parking Order, the Town Clerk outlined the requirement to set up an Adjudication Panel to consider and respond to any objections received in respect of the Order.
- Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
 That members of the Car Parks Best Value Working Group be appointed to serve on the Adjudication Panel (i.e.the Town Mayor and Councillors Bright, Mrs.Farrow, Hadley and Tyrer).
203. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE TOWN MAYOR DECIDES ARE URGENT**
 There were no additional matters in need of urgent attention.
204. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**
 The meteorological records for the month of March 2006 were submitted for information.
205. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**
 Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-
 That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 13, 13a, 1 and 1a, amounting to £91,752.47, £73,529.94, £160,124.75 and £41,415.72 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.
206. **STANDING ORDERS**
 Further to Minute No. 6 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10th April 2006, consideration was given to the Council’s Standing Orders, which had been updated to comply with the District Audit recommendation.
- Having regard to the significant implications of the document and further observations submitted by Councillor Bright, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 15th May 2006.

207. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matters.

208. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

(a) **Stone Quay and Revetment**

Further to Minute No. 183 of the Council Meeting held on 27th March 2006 and Minute No. 9 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10th April 2006, the Clerk reported on quotations received for the cost of essential works to the Stone Quay and revetment area.

Estimated costs of the works are as follows:-

External pointing of the Stone Quay.	£ 9,661.00
Removal of stone sets and infill of voids with concrete.	£11,214.00
Repairs to revetment area.	£43,300.00

It was noted that repair works to the revetment area in the sum of £31,000 had previously been approved (Minute No. 10 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20th March 2006 refers), but additional repair works, estimated to cost an additional £12,500, had now been identified.

The Clerk reported that a meeting was scheduled to be held with the insurance loss adjusters on Wednesday, 26th April 2006, and it was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred, pending further discussions with the insurance loss adjusters.

209. **OPERATIONAL MATTERS - HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES**

The Clerk reported on two areas that had been highlighted as being in need of attention, and expressed concern at possible health and safety implications.

These were the stability of the boundary wall between the Downs and Seymer Road, and the surface of the Town Hall Car Park.

Further information, and quotations for remedial works, were being obtained, and having regard to the probable impact of the cost of these works on the Council's Capital Programme, it was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

210. **PRIVATE BEACH HUT SITES**

Before consideration of this item, the Town Mayor and Councillor Bright declared their personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct, by reason of direct family usage, and as their interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

In the absence of the Town Mayor, Councillor Pratt assumed the Chair.

Further to Minute No. 5 (d) and 5 (e) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10th April 2006, and representations received from private beach hut owners, consideration was again given to the proposed introduction of an additional ice cream concession in the vicinity of Ocean Bay.

As it would be necessary to sacrifice six existing private beach hut sites, the legal implications of such action were considered.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 15th May 2006 to enable further information to be obtained.
