

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 21st AUGUST 2006** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.W. Pratt (Deputy Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor B. Audley (from 7.20 p.m.)

Councillor Mrs C.A. Bartlett

Councillor C.R. Bright

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP

Councillor M. Hadley

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor M. Tyrer

Councillor Mrs A. Turner

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

The Deputy Town Mayor welcomed Revd. D. Hodson, from the Emmanuel Baptist Church, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

50. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from the Town Mayor and Councillors Mrs. Farrow and Trite.

51. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to it being recorded that Councillor Bright had offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Arising from Minute No. 43 iii), Councillor Mrs. Bartlett reported that, following a site visit with the Town Clerk, a suitable location for the cycle racks had been identified in the vicinity of the Stone Quay, and it was intended the racks would be installed during September 2006.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Turner, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Reference was made to Minute No. 5 and it was reported that illegal parking of vehicles in the lower High Street was persisting and that no enforcement action appeared to have been taken against the offenders. The Town Clerk informed those present that, in accordance with the resolution of Minute No. 5, the matter had been referred to Dorset Police, but he had been informed that the Parking Enforcement Officers only carried out evening duties in Swanage with police presence and that no officers were available at the present time.

Grave concern was expressed at this explanation, and it was felt that strong representation should be made to Dorset Police on this matter.

52. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

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

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006 be accepted.

53. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the absence of the Town Mayor, there were no specific announcements this month.

54. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Footfall figures at the Tourist Information Centre, to date, were considerably down on the corresponding period in 2006. This was despite the very good weather and the general influx of visitors to the town. Initial enquiries show that visitors are sourcing their information through the Internet before arriving in the town, but further investigations will be carried out in this regard during the winter period.
- (b) The recent "Seafest" weekend, held on the Pier, had proved very successful, particularly with the children, who had been encouraged to "spot the dangers" shown on the display in order to be awarded an activity pack.
- (c) Staff at the Tourist Information Centre were preparing to send out a mailshot to over 200 coach companies who would now be planning their itineraries for 2007.
- (d) Tickets and programmes for the forthcoming Folk Festival (8<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> September) were now available from the Tourist Information Centre.
- (e) 2006 was the last year of the Encams Seaside Award scheme. This would be replaced by the Quality Coast Award, the purpose of which would be to recognise different parts of the coastline that were well managed to suit the needs of the different users. A requirement for this Award would be the combination of a sound management system and targeted communication to specific user groups to ensure that they experience quality visits to the coast. Further requirements for entry would be announced in September. Encams would continue to administer the "Blue Flag".

55. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

In the absence of the Operations Manager, there were no matters to report on outside works currently being undertaken.

56. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of July 2006 were submitted for information.

57. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 5, 5a and 5b, amounting to £169,483.74, £40,126.10 and £27,565.44 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

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

There were no additional items of information to report that were in need of urgent consideration.

59. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Deputy 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.

60. **STAFFING ISSUES**

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006, the Clerk updated Members on staffing issues relating to the administration at the Town Hall.

The temporary arrangement for two additional part-time employees was working well, and the successful applicant for the full-time position had commenced employment with the Town Council that day.

Unfortunately, one key member of the Town Hall administration staff was still on long-term sick leave, and Members re-iterated their best wishes for a speedy recovery to good health.

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

That the temporary staffing arrangements be continued until the Council's overall staffing review is determined.

It was FURTHER AGREED:-

That the current arrangement to close the Town Hall offices at 1 p.m. daily be continued to enable the accumulated backlog of work to be addressed, and that a telephone answer machine be installed to cover "out of hours" enquiries.