

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2006** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT: -

Councillor A.H. Miller (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett

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 G.M. Suttle

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M.A. Tyrer

(Until 8 p.m.)

In the absence of a Clergyman, Councillor Mrs. Marsh offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

152. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies to report for inability to attend the Meeting.

153. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 3rd February 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the Resolution in Minute No. 4 (b) being amended to read:-

“That the Town Council endorses the offer of support from the Building Preservation Group to Purbeck District Council. The Town Council also re-affirms its previous decision not to re-instate the ‘Albert the Good’ monument, but would consider any future proposals that may be submitted.”

154. **RESCISION OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTION**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 35 a), consideration was given to the following special resolution, signed by the Town Mayor and Councillors Mrs. Wheeldon, Mrs. Marsh and Pratt.

That Minute No. 149 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 be rescinded.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Hadley questioned the procedure to be followed when rescinding a previous resolution, and was assured that the process had been followed in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

The Town Mayor explained that only six Members had been present at the Meeting when Minute No. 149 had been approved, and he did not consider that this decision was truly representative of the full Council and, therefore, requested that the matter be reconsidered.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Minute No. 149 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 be rescinded, and that the matter be given further by the Council.

155. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Having regard to matters raised at the Public Participation Time held prior to the Council Meeting, it was AGREED:-

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 be accepted, subject to the amendments raised at the Public Participation Time held prior to the Council Meeting.

156. **SWANAGE TOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

157. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No. 6 (c), and further information received, it was AGREED:-

Having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the matter be considered later in the Meeting when the public and press had been excluded.

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to it being recorded that Councillor Suttle had tendered his apologies and the Town Mayor was appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

158. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor reported on the following matters:-

- (a) The Swanage Beach Recharge Scheme was progressing well and was expected to be completed by mid-May 2006.
- (b) Purbeck District Council, in partnership with SWERDA, had acquired an area of approximately 5.5 acres of land off Victoria Avenue for industrial use, which would provide additional employment opportunities.
- (c) Three CCTV surveillance cameras were to be installed in the Lower High Street (originally, it was envisaged that only two cameras and masts would be installed, but the revised scheme using public houses and wall mounted brackets enabled an additional camera to be purchased within the funding available). The Town Mayor wished to record his appreciation of the co-operation received from the landlords of licensed premises in the area by allowing the equipment to be attached to their property.

159. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Footfall during February at the Tourist Information Centre was considerably up on the corresponding period in 2005.
- (b) The recent "half term" week had seen an influx of visitors to the town, and preparations were now under way for a busy season ahead.
- (c) "Fair Trade" fortnight commences on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006, and, as usual, the Tourist Information Centre would be promoting "Fair Trade" products.
- (d) "Easter Chicks" (supplied by a local resident) were on sale at the Information Centre, the proceeds from which would be donated this year to the Swanage Railway.
- (e) In 2005, Beach Gardens achieved a "Partners in Success Best Practice in Business" award. It has now continued the process and achieved the "Partners in Success Plus" award.

160. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

The Operations Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) Refurbishment and repair works were currently being undertaken at various toilet blocks in the town.
- (b) Repairs to the safety surface and play equipment at the Recreation Ground had now been completed, and also repairs to the damaged play equipment in King George's Field and the Sydenham Road play area.

- (c) Preparations had been carried out in readiness for the installation of CCTV surveillance equipment in King George's Field.
- (d) Repairs had been carried out to the beach bungalows on Shore Road, seats and benches in various locations throughout the town, and also refurbishment of the litter bins.
- (e) Resurfacing works had been completed at the Boat Park, and the parking areas relined.
- (f) Preparations were being made for the installation of five new parking machines at the Main Beach and Residents' Car Parks.
- (g) Flower beds and other garden maintenance duties were being undertaken in readiness for the forthcoming summer season.

Councillor Bright enquired regarding the re-opening of the Mermond Place toilet facilities, and it was AGREED:-

That this matter be referred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

161. **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

(a) **Advisory Cycle Lane – Ulwell Road**

A letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006 was submitted from the Traffic Management section of Dorset County Council expressing their concerns at the speed of traffic on the 30 mph section of Ulwell Road and seeking the Council's views on the proposal to introduce an advisory cycle lane on each side of the road from a point opposite 79 Ulwell Road to a point in the vicinity of 52 Ulwell Road. It was expected that the introduction of this cycleway would have the effect of pushing motor vehicles to the centre of the carriageway and subsequently reducing the speed of the traffic. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Tyrer, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To endorse the proposals of the Dorset County Council to introduce an advisory cycle lane on Ulwell Road.

(b) **Shore Road – Safety Measures**

Councillor Hadley referred to a recent accident on Shore Road, and requested that consideration be given to the introduction of safety measures in the section of road between the Mowlem and Victoria Avenue. A lengthy discussion ensued, during which the Town Mayor referred to previous traffic calming measures mooted by Dorset County Council. The possibility of introducing "safe crossing places" was also considered. Having regard to the implications of the proposals, it was RESOLVED:-

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

(c) **Jurassic Coast Gateway Signs**

A letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006 was submitted from Dorset County Council, enclosing sketches of the proposed Jurassic Coast Gateway Signs and seeking the Town Council's comments on the suggested locations.

Discussion ensued regarding the content and size of the signs, and whether the signs were standard for all Gateway Towns.

It was proposed by Councillor Suttle and seconded by Councillor Hadley:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006 to enable further information to be obtained.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Mrs. Marsh:-

That the proposed locations of the signs be approved.

This Amendment failed to secure a seconder.

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

(d) **Speed Indicator Device – Ulwell Road**

Consideration was given to a proposal for the introduction of a speed indicator device on Ulwell Road, and following a brief discussion, it was AGREED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters to enable further information to be obtained.

162. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE TOWN MAYOR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were three additional matters in need of urgent attention, but having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be considered, it was agreed that these matters be discussed later in the Meeting when the press and public had been excluded.

163. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

164. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 11, 11a and 11b, amounting to £195,203.86, £38,744.17 and £31,014.93 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

165. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 (copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at the end of these Minutes.

166. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, 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.

167. **STAFFING REVIEW PROPOSALS**

Further to the meeting of the Joint Staffing Working Group held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2006, consideration was given to the proposals contained in the Report submitted from the Group.

The Clerk updated Members on the staffing issues at the Caravan Park, including the transfer of staff relating to the bars and catering functions, which had prompted a review of the Council's senior management structure.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To accept all the recommendations of the Joint Staffing Working Group contained in the Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006.

168. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

Further to Minute No. 6 (c) of the Caravan Park Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006, consideration was again given to the level of deposit that should be paid by the purchaser in order to secure the order of a caravan.

During the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed that a payment equivalent of 75% of the transaction was not practicable, and it was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred to enable further information to be obtained from other Holiday Park operators.

169. **ANY OTHER MATTERS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

(a) **Swanage Youth Centre**

Further to Minute No. 105 of the Council Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005, Councillor Suttle and the Town Mayor updated those present on issues relating to the Swanage Youth Centre.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Trite and seconded by Councillor Pratt:-

To re-affirm the Council's previous decision that the Town Mayor should remain as the Town Council's representative on the Swanage Youth Centre Management Committee.

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

(b) **Site for New Business Concession**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Suttle declared a personal and prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of his business interests, and left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Bright also declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct, but as this was non-prejudicial, remained in the Meeting during the discussion.

Further to Minute No. 149 of the Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and the rescission of this Resolution (Minute No. 154 above),

consideration was again given to the introduction of an ice cream concession in the vicinity of Ocean Bay. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that considerable interest had been shown in this possible new business venture. It was also re-iterated that any new structure introduced should be unobtrusive and in keeping with the design of the beach huts in this location. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Pratt:-

That a new ice cream concession be introduced in the vicinity of the Ocean Bay.

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.

Consideration was then given to the terms of the concession, and it was proposed by Councillor Pratt and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow:-

That the concession be awarded for a period of three years, and would allow the sale of goods as permitted in the lease for the existing ice cream concession.

(c) **Bank Mandate**

The Clerk reported on the requirement for a replacement cheque signatory to be appointed, following the disqualification of Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon.

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

That Councillor Colin Bright be authorised as a cheque signatory for the Town Council.

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