

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 29th JANUARY 2007 at 7.20 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor Mrs C.A. Bartlett

Councillor C.R. Bright

Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP

Councillor M. Hadley

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Tyrer

(Until 8.15 p.m.)

In the absence of a clergyman, Councillor Bright offered prayers before the commencement of the Meeting.

145. **APOLOGIES**

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

146. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 18th December 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 5th January 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 22nd January 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

147. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

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

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 18th December 2006 be accepted.

148. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan
Park Committee held on 11th January 2007
be approved as a correct record and signed,
subject to Minute No. 3 e) being amended to
read:-

Handrail to Reception Steps

The recoating repairs to the handrails to the Reception
steps would be undertaken during the winter period
when the Park was closed.

149. **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance
and Performance Management Working Group
held on 15th January 2007 be approved as a
correct record and signed.

150. **CAR PARKS BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Car Parks
Best Value Review Working Group held on 22nd
January 2007 be approved as a correct record and
signed, subject to the Resolution in Minute No. 3
being amended to read:-

“That the availability of weekly car parking permits
be better advertised”.

151. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the absence of the Town Mayor, Councillor Pratt had no specific
announcements to make this month.

152. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Over 4,000 holiday guides had been despatched during January, mainly in
response to the advertising campaign in the Daily Mail and Christmas
Radio Times.
- (b) In addition to recording telephone numbers of visitors enquiring for the
holiday guide, email addresses are also being logged to assist with a direct
marketing campaign later in the year.
- (c) The Destination Management System would shortly be introduced at the
Swanage and Wareham Tourist Information Centres. Appropriate training
would be given to all staff, and once the data had been entered into the
system, a far greater range of services would be available for visitors from
the Information Centres.

153. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

The Operations Manager had no significant matters to report on outside works at the present time.

154. **DOG CONTROL ORDER**

The Clerk reported on a letter received from the Clean Neighbourhoods Officer of Purbeck District Council outlining the proposals for the introduction of a Dog Control Order.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that it was intended to include Swanage beach from the Mowlem to the end of the promenade at North Beach as a “Dog Exclusion Zone” between 1st May to 30th September. Members felt that this area should be extended to include the beach in the vicinity of the Stone Quay and also Monkey Beach, and it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To confirm the Town Council’s support for the making of the proposed Dog Control Orders, and to support the inclusion of Swanage Beach from the end of the promenade at North Beach to the Pier as a Dog Exclusion Zone between 1st May – 30th September.

Consideration was then given to the inclusion of any other specific areas as exclusion zones i.e. Weather Station Field, Sandpit Field etc., but Members did not feel that this was appropriate at the present time.

Further discussion ensued regarding enforcement of the Dog Control Order, and it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Council’s Enforcement Officers and Beach Wardens be trained and empowered to issue fixed penalty notices.

155. **MEMORIAL SEAT**

The Clerk reported on a request received for permission to erect a memorial seat at Herston in memory of Kevin O’Sullivan, who had lost his life as the result of a tragic accident.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the future of this land was under review, and, should permission be granted, it may be necessary to re-site the seat at some time in the future.

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

That the matter be deferred, pending clarification on the wishes of the family.

156. **DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST**

A letter dated 19th January 2007 was submitted from the Dorset Wildlife Trust requesting permission to install special collection bins for unwanted monofilament fishing lines for a trial period of one year. It was intended to install one bin in the vicinity of Ocean Bay, one bin at the Stone Quay, and two bins on the Pier.

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

That the request be approved.

Councillor Bright expressed some concern at the introduction of additional bins and signage in these prominent areas, and moved an AMENDMENT, which was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough:-

That the request be approved, subject to suitable locations being agreed.

Upon being put to the Meeting FOUR Members voted IN FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT and FOUR AGAINST. The Chairman used his casting vote IN FAVOUR of the Amendment, which was then declared CARRIED.

The Amendment was then put as a SUBSTANTIVE MOTION, and CARRIED, with FIVE Members voting IN FAVOUR and FOUR AGAINST.

157. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

158. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 10, 10a and 10b, amounting to £274,718.14, £51,289.72 and £22,194.85 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

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

The following matters were highlighted:-

(a) **Licensing**

Councillor Bright reported on a licensing matter relating to “Bar One” in Swanage, which had been considered by the Licensing Panel at Purbeck District Council. The matter had been adjourned until 9th May 2007 to enable further information to be obtained.

(b) **Station Toilets**

Councillor Trite declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of the Southern Steam Trust, but as his interest was non-prejudicial, remained in the Meeting during the debate. The Clerk reported that he had received notification from the Swanage Railway Company that the station toilets would be closed for repairs/maintenance for approximately two weeks from 29th January 2007.

(c) **Durlston Country Park**

Councillor Hadley referred to the recent lottery bid secured in respect of Durlston Country Park, and it was agreed that a letter of congratulations on this achievement be sent from the Town Council.

(d) **Parking – Stone Quay**

Attention was drawn to the illegal parking that occurred in the vicinity of the Stone Quay, and it was agreed that the matter be referred to the Dorset County Council’s Enforcement Officers.

(e) **Footpath Closure**

The Clerk reported on the concerns of Dorset County Council regarding the stability of a supporting wall along the footpath from Shore Road to De

Moulham Road. As a result of these concerns, it had been decided to close the footpath.

(f) **Ethical Governance Review Day**

The Clerk reported that an “Ethical Governance Review Day” was being held at Purbeck District Council on 31st January 2007, and the Town Council had been invited to send a representative.

It was AGREED:-

That Councillor Mrs. Bartlett be nominated to represent the Town Council at the Meeting.

(g) **Seat**

Councillor Mrs. Bartlett referred to a request received for the re-instatement of the memorial seat outside of the Town Hall.

It was AGREED:-

That the seat be re-instated.

160. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the 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.

144. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Holiday Park – Options Appraisal**

The Clerk updated those present on legal issues relating to the Options Appraisal at the Holiday Park, and subsequent advice received from the Council’s legal advisers.

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

To adhere to the advice received from the Council’s legal advisers, and to suspend contractual relationships with the consultants, pending an urgent review.

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

That the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Bright and Mrs. Farrow be given delegated powers to act on the Council’s behalf in this matter.

(b) **Lease - Wilts & Dorset Bus Co.**

The Clerk updated those present on the outstanding issues relating to the Wilts and Dorset Bus Company lease.

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

That Councillor Bright be authorised to act on the Council’s behalf in this matter in conjunction with the Deputy Town Mayor.