

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 31st JULY 2006 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor G.M. Suttle (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 M.W. Pratt

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor Mrs A. Turner

34. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Audley and Tyrer.

35. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No. 23, Councillor Bright wished it to be recorded that he had not been notified of the meeting of the Beach Management Committee held on 6th June 2006, and it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes be amended accordingly.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, 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 30th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

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

(d) It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Turner and RESOLVED:-

That the Resolution in Minute No. 7 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 24th July 2006 be amended to read:-

“That the Assistant Town Clerk liaise with the District Engineer in respect of FIFG funding and also research alternative proposals aimed at maximising grant contribution.”

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

That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 24th July 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

36. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

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

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 26th June 2006 be accepted.

37. **TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism and Environmental Committee held on 26th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

38. **SWANAGE TOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 24th July 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No. 5, Councillor Bright suggested that, in accordance with the practice of “Best Value”, presentations should be invited from three market operators before an agreement is entered into for the 2008 season, and it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be referred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council held to consider policy and resources matters on 14th August 2006.

39. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) The Mayor reported on the impending retirement of Inspector Angie Downer after serving 30 years in the Dorset Police, and expressed his appreciation of the hard work undertaken by her in the best interests of Swanage and the community.

It was AGREED:-

That a letter of appreciation be sent to Inspector Downer.

- (b) The Mayor reported on the excellent start to “Carnival Week”, and expressed his appreciation of the sterling work carried out by the Swanage Regatta and Carnival Committee in organising such a full and varied programme of events for the forthcoming week.

40. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Dorset Coastlinks annual festival of marine conservation, “Seafest”, is scheduled to be held on the Pier on 12th/13th August. The TIC has been invited to have a stand at the festival to promote the Blue Flag and Encams seaside awards.
- (b) The Beach Wardens, in conjunction with Boots the Chemists, are promoting a campaign to encourage and educate people to use sun cream, and will be distributing free samples of high protection sun cream to families on the beach. It is hoped that the “Boots Sun Awareness” team will be involved in the Swanage “Beach Awareness Week” in 2007.
- (c) In accordance with a request put to the Swanage Town Market Committee, short customer surveys will be undertaken to monitor visitors’ awareness and general satisfaction of the market. These surveys will be carried out at the Tourist Information Centre, Beach Gardens and the Holiday Park, and the feedback received will be reported to the next meeting of the Town Market Committee.
- (d) Following the closure of the Wilts and Dorset office in Swanage, the Tourist Information Centre has now become an agent for the National Express coach network.

41. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

The Operations Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) Repairs had been carried out on play equipment at the Recreation Ground and King George’s Field, beach huts, waste bins and dog litter bins.
- (b) Apart from the daily grounds maintenance tasks, extra work had been undertaken to prepare and plant the flower beds for the town’s entry into Britain in Bloom, which is scheduled to be judged on 9th August 2006. Approximately 10,000 plants had been planted within the town areas, but, regrettably, some 1500/2000 have had to be replaced due to vandalism.
- (c) A small amount of line marking had been completed at the Residents’ and Main Beach Car Parks.
- (d) New pedestrian safety barriers had been installed at the Battlegate/Shore Road crossing, and the damaged road closure barrier at the Mowlem had been repaired and reinstated. It was also noted that Dorset County Council was intending to install additional dropped kerbs along Shore Road within the next few months.
- (e) There had been a noticeable increase in vandalism over recent months affecting the Skate Park and sports changing facilities at Main Beach Car Park, children’s play areas on the Recreation Ground and King George’s

Field, bench seats (including memorial benches), signage, beach huts on Shore Road, and the public toilets at Main Beach car park and Burlington Chine.

- (f) Unlawful fly tipping was continuing and garden rubbish had been dumped at Northbrook Copse and other areas in the town.

42. **REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY**

Further to Minute No. 2 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 24th July 2006, detailed consideration was given to the proposals contained in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy.

Having regard to the impact that the proposals would have on the housing allocations and other infrastructure considerations, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a letter of support be sent to Purbeck District Council in respect of limiting development to 105 dwelling units per annum (23 for Swanage) as part of the Local Development Framework.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED:-**

That the Town Council's concerns be registered at the effects of incremental development upon the Town's infrastructure.

43. **CYCLE RACKS**

Further to Minute No. 24 (c) of the Council Meeting held on 26th June 2006, consideration was again given to a request received from Purbeck Transport Action Group (formerly STAG) regarding the provision of additional cycle racks in the town.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that funding was no longer required from the Town Council as this had been provided by the Purbeck Heritage Committee.

Before consideration of the locations for the new cycle racks and upgrading of the existing ones, Councillor Trite declared his interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being the Chairman of the Swanage Railway Co. Ltd., and left the Meeting during the debate.

Consideration was then given to the locations for the cycle racks, and it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the following be approved:-

- i) Retrospective approval of the installation of cycle racks at the Swanage station as the landlord of the Swanage Railway Station site.
- ii) Consent for the upgrading and installation of cycle racks at the site (adjacent to the Mowlem Monument) owned by the Town Council.
- iii) Written support for the above proposals and installation of additional cycle racks in the vicinity of the Stone Quay on the highway owned by Dorset County Council. (Delegated authority to approve the exact location of these racks was granted to Councillor Mrs. Bartlett and the Town Clerk).

44. **2006 EVENTS**
- (a) **Use of Shore Road**
A letter dated 23rd June 2006 was submitted from the Wessex Vehicle Preservation Club requesting permission to finish their annual “Conker Run” on Shore Road on Sunday, 24th September 2006.
It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That the request be approved, subject to adequate marshalling being provided by the organisers of the event.
- (b) **Use of the Beach**
Consideration was given to a request received from the Emmanuel Baptist Church for permission to hold a Baptism in the sea, followed by a barbeque on the beach on Sunday, 3rd September 2006.
It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That the request be approved.
45. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**
The meteorological records for the month of June 2006 were submitted for information.
46. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**
Proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-
That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 4, 4a and 4b, amounting to £238,670.33, £54,061.43 and £65,515.83 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.
47. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**
Councillor Mrs. Turner enquired whether it was the Town Council’s policy to undertake Criminal Record Bureau checks in respect of Councillors and its employees, and it was AGREED:-
That the matter be referred for consideration at a future meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters.
48. **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.

49. **COW LANE AND NEWTON GRANGE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared her interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a close relative of the Chair of Purbeck Housing Trust, and left the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 3 (c) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 8th June 2006, the Clerk updated those present on the current position regarding Cow Lane and the Newton Grange development proposals (a revised plan had previously been circulated to all Members).

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which some concern was expressed at the density of the development, the probable impact of increased traffic on the residents of Newton Rise, and the proportion of the site allocated for affordable housing.

With reference to Cow Lane, a majority of Members expressed a preference for the road to be made one-way south bound, bearing in mind the dangerous junction of Cow Lane with the High Street.

After further discussion, it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a Working Group, comprising of the Town Mayor and Councillors Mrs. Bartlett and Mrs. Turner, be set up to work in conjunction with the Town Clerk and Council's solicitors to liaise with the developer in respect of this development.
