

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 26th JUNE 2006 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor G.M. Suttle (Town Mayor) – Chairman
(Until 8.25 p.m.)

Councillor Mrs C.A. Bartlett
Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor Mrs A. Turner
Councillor M.A. Tyrer
(Until 7.55 p.m.)

17. **APOLOGIES**

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

18. **MINUTES**

- (a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor
Bright, and RESOLVED:-
That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
Council held on 22nd May 2006 be approved as a
correct record and signed.
- (b) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs Farrow, and
RESOLVED:-
That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Council held on 8th June 2006 be approved as a
correct record and signed.
- (c) 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
9th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and
signed.
- (d) It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bartlett
and RESOLVED:-
That Minute 9) i) of the Minutes of the Special
Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and
resources matters on 19th June 2006 be amended to
read: 'The financial impact of the public convenience
cleaning service contract and any future contract
exceeding the limits specified in standing orders be
considered by the Finance and Performance Working
Group'.

It was further proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bartlett and RESOLVED:-

That Minute 9) ii) of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 19th June 2006 be amended to read: 'The granting of the Public Convenience cleaning service contract and any delegated authority in contractual or financial matters be referred to a subsequent meeting of Policy and Resources for formal consideration'.

It was then proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bartlett and RESOLVED:-

That Minute 7) of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 19th June 2006 be amended to record that: 'The chairmanship of Committees is to be decided at the first meeting of each Committee'.

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

That, subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 19th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

19. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

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

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 22nd May 2006 be accepted.

20. **CAR PARKING ORDER ADJUDICATION PANEL**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Car Parking Order Adjudication Panel held on 19th May 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to it being recorded in Minute No. 1, that 'Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs J. Farrow'.

21. **CARAVAN PARK BEST VALUE WORKING GROUP**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Best Value Working Group held on 14th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

22. **BOAT PARK COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Boat Park Committee held on 9th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

23. **BEACH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Committee held on 6th June 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

24. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) **Civic Sunday**

The Mayor reported that Civic Sunday, held on 25th June 2006, had been a resounding success and that next year's service would be on Sunday 24th June 2007.

(b) **Public Participation**

For the benefit of Members of the Public present, the Mayor drew attention to the Council's recent decision to allow 15 minutes of public participation time before the commencement of all Committee meetings. It was noted that this would include planning, where applicants would be permitted to speak for three minutes, although it was not intended that Councillors would enter into discussion about items on the agenda

(c) **Cycle Racks**

The Mayor invited Councillor Mrs Bartlett to speak on behalf of Swanage Transport Action Group (STAG). STAG had recently been approached by the Purbeck Action for Cycling Team (PACT) to increase the number of cycle racks in the town. The proposed cost for eight extra racks would be £1,360, and it was hoped that the Town Council might contribute up to half this expense. It was, however, noted that the Purbeck Heritage Committee were proposing to increase the number of cycle racks. After further discussion it was AGREED:-

That the decision be deferred to the next meeting of the Council to discuss Policy and Resources Matters, pending further information on the role of the Purbeck Heritage Committee.

25. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

(a) Footfall in May 2006 at the Tourist Information Centre was down by 3,000 visitors on the previous year and looks likely to be marginally down during June.

(b) Although there is some availability for Shore Road beach bungalows prior to 15th July, thereafter they are fully booked until 9th September. The Spa bungalows are also heavily booked during the school holidays.

- (c) A Tourism Touchscreen is to be installed in the Tourist Information Centre within the next six to eight weeks. This will enable visitors to access information on accommodation, attractions and where to eat 24 hours a day.
- (d) The Jazz Festival will be held between 7th and 9th July 2006, and the Tourist Information Centre will have remaining daily tickets on sale.
- (e) Beach Awareness Week, at the end of May, was highly successful. The Beach Wardens are continuing to promote the Maritime Coastguard Agency 'Keep tabs on your kids' wristbands, and they are now distributed to all the children in the audience of Punch and Judy.

26. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

The Operations Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) The following work has now been completed:
beach recharge, along with installation of new staging for the beach huts;
reinstatement of the revetment by the Stone Quay;
repair of the drains at the Heritage Toilets;
Town Hall emergency roof repairs;
installation of new car parking machines at Main Beach, Residents' and North Beach car parks;
repairs and refurbishment of five waste bins and four bench seats;
refurbishment of the safety surface in the children's play area on the Recreation Ground;
makeover of the toilets at Main Beach car park and Battlegate;
repair of footpath and stone edging along Gilbert Road.
- (b) Apart from the daily grounds' maintenance tasks extra work this month will include the preparation of flower beds for the town's entry into Britain in Bloom. All the hanging baskets have been renewed and town planters have been refurbished and installed in the High Street.
- (c) An increase in dog fouling has been noticed around the town and the District Council enforcement officer has been informed.
- (d) An increase in unlawful fly tipping has been noted on the Council's open spaces.
- (e) There has been a noticeable increase in vandalism over recent months affecting the shelters on Shore Road and Sandpit Field, Bandstand, children's play area on the Recreation Ground, Skate Park and Play Area equipment, four bench seats (including two stone memorial benches), signage, water taps, new trees at Main Beach car park, beach huts on Shore Road, and the public toilets at Herston, Main Beach car park and Peveril Point.

27. **2006 EVENTS**

- (a) **Prince Albert Gardens**
A letter dated 16th June 2006 was submitted from Mr. Jeff Andrews, Swanage Area Youth Worker, requesting permission for an African Drum workshop for young people at Prince Albert Gardens between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd August 2006.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-
That the request be approved.

28. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

29. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 3, 3a and 3b, amounting to £272,486.70, £53,555.59 and £34,715.82 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

30. **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.

Councillor Tyrer left the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

Councillor C R Bright declared a personal interest in the following agenda item under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being the licensee of a private beach hut site, and remained in the Meeting during its consideration.

31. **BEACH MAINTENANCE**

A letter dated 10th June 2006 was submitted from the Council's beach cleaning contractor, requesting an increase in charges for removing seaweed and raking the beach. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the policy of raking the section of the beach that had recently been recharged, given the presence of large wooden splinters. It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh and RESOLVED:-

That the Town Council accept the increase in fees for collection of seaweed, given recent increases in fuel costs, but that any decision on raking the beach be deferred until further information is received from the District Engineer.

It was further RESOLVED:

That the Town Mayor and Operations Manager be given delegated authority to meet the District Engineer as soon as possible in order to resolve the issue of splinters on the beach as a matter of urgency.

32. **DRAFT STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

The Town Clerk introduced the Draft Statement of Internal Control, which required formal adoption prior to inclusion in the statutory statement of accounts. The Town Mayor highlighted the need for an action plan and it was agreed that this would be considered by the Finance and Performance Management Committee. It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Draft Statement of Internal Control be formally adopted.

The Town Mayor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following agenda item under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a relation of the applicant, relinquished the Chair and left the Meeting.

Councillor Pratt assumed the Chair.

33. **JURASSIC COAST PROJECT**

A letter dated 12th June 2006 was submitted from the operator of California Quarry, requesting an extension to the existing access agreement with the Town Council. The importance of this agreement, not only to the Jurassic Coast Project but also to the future of quarrying in the town was noted. It was also noted that the agreement is to be drawn up at the operator's expense and that issues related to the future maintenance of the road required clarification. The need to bring the final agreement before the Town Council for formal approval was highlighted.

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

That the Town Council consent to the drawing up of an access agreement with the operator of California Quarry for the next 50 years, the draft agreement to come before the Council for formal approval.
