

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 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

Councillor M. Hadley

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor M.W. Pratt

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M.A. Tyrer

The Mayor welcomed Revd. Will Watts, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

170. **APOLOGIES**

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

171. **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 27<sup>th</sup> February 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(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 planning and other matters on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Before consideration of this item, the Town Mayor declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of his business association with the Council's contractor, and as this was a prejudicial interest, left the Meeting during the debate.

In the absence of the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough assumed the Chair.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to it being recorded in Minute No. 16, that whilst delegated authority had been given to

the Mayor (Councillor Miller) and the Town Clerk to negotiate the terms of the toilet cleaning contract, advertising on Council-owned vehicles was considered to be outside of this remit, and should be dealt with as a separate issue.

Upon being put to the Meeting THREE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and NONE AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

The Town Mayor re-assumed the Chair.

172. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2006 be accepted.

173. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no specific announcements to make this month.

174. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) "Fair Trade" fortnight at the Tourist Information Centre had once again proved very successful, and created much interest with both residents and visitors alike.
- (b) The "Fair Trade" display had now been replaced with a display to promote awareness of Swanage's entry in the "Britain in Bloom" competition.
- (c) Delivery of the Caravan and Camping leaflets and the new Swanage Facilities leaflets were expected in the following week, and these would then be distributed through holiday parks, Tourist Information Centres and other local attractions.
- (d) Coach companies had been contacted in an effort to encourage them to increase the length of their stay in Swanage, particularly on Market days, and information packs had been prepared for distribution to their passengers.
- (e) The Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre is scheduled to open on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 11 a.m. and an invitation was extended to everyone to take part in a "treasure trail" around the town on that day.
- (f) A fund-raising "Family Disco" in aid of the "Switch on Swanage" lights appeal is being held at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

175. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

In the absence of the Operations Manager, there were no matters to report on outside works at the present time.

176. **2006 EVENTS**

(a) **Arts & Craft Exhibitions – Swanage Regatta & Carnival**

Further to Minute No. 3 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006, and a subsequent letter received from Ms. T. Lovell giving clarification of the goods to be sold and financial donations, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the request from the Swanage Regatta & Carnival Association to hold Arts and Crafts Exhibitions on 23 days during 2006 be approved.

(b) **Use of Beach**

A letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006 was submitted from the Hon. Secretary of the Swanage Regatta and Carnival requesting the use of the beach on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July for promotional activities by sponsors of the Swanage Carnival 2006.

Following discussion, during which concern was expressed at the area of beach required at this busy time, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the request be agreed in principle, subject to the exact location and area to be agreed with the Clerk.

(c) **Sandpit Field**

i) **Rotary Club of Swanage & Purbeck**

A letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2006 was submitted from the Rotary Club of Swanage & Purbeck requesting permission to hold their annual Summer Fete on Sandpit Field on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2006.

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

That the request be granted.

ii) **Friends of Swanage Hospital**

A letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006 was submitted from the Friends of Swanage Hospital requesting permission to hold their annual Hospital Fete on Sandpit Field on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2006. Permission had previously been granted to hold the event on Prince Albert Gardens, but Sandpit Field was now considered to be a preferable venue.

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

That the request be granted.

(d) **Prince Albert Gardens**

A letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 was submitted on behalf of ACTS requesting permission to hold their annual “March of Witness” through the town on Good Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2006, followed by a short ecumenical service in Prince Albert Gardens.

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

That the request be granted.

(e) **Former Shelter Area, Shore Road**

A letter was submitted from Mrs. N.Hart, on behalf of the Swanage Painting Group, requesting permission to hold Art Exhibitions on the former shelter area, Shore Road on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2006. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-  
That the request be granted.

(f) **Stone Quay**

The Clerk reported on a request received from the Kings Korner Band seeking permission to perform on the Stone Quay on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2006. During the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed at the suitability of this venue, bearing in mind the number of musicians that would be performing, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-  
That permission be given for the Kings Korner Band to perform in the area adjacent to the kiosk on the Stone Quay.

177. **JURASSIC COAST GATEWAY SIGNS**

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the Clerk submitted details of the existing “Welcome to Swanage” signs, incorporating photographic images of the Jurassic Coast Gateway Signs and the wording “Southern England in Bloom Winner”.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were appreciative of the work undertaken in providing this information, and favoured Option 3 which incorporated all of the wording into one sign.

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

That Option 3 (enhancement of the existing “Welcome to Swanage” signs) be agreed in principle, and that costings be obtained for these enhancement works.

It was further proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the word “Eastern” be excluded from the “Gateway to the Jurassic Coast” sign.

During the discussion, it was acknowledged that the new signs may take some time to prepare, and it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Tyrer, and RESOLVED:-

That the “Jurassic Coast Gateway” signs prepared by Dorset County Council, be erected on existing traffic sign poles on a temporary basis.

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

(a) **Use of Sandpit Field**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Pratt declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being the Branch

Treasurer of the Royal British Legion, but as his interest was non-prejudicial, remained in the Meeting during the debate.

A letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 2006 was submitted from the Royal British Legion County Executive, outlining their proposal to hold a Parade and celebration event to commemorate HM The Queen's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday and the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal British Legion during the weekend 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> August 2006, and requesting the use of Sandpit Field in connection with these celebrations.

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

That the request be granted.

(b) **Empowerment and the Deal for Devolution**

Consideration was given to the consultation document entitled "Empowerment and the Deal for Devolution", prepared by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

During the ensuing discussion, it was acknowledged that the proposals were in a formative stage, and that a White Paper giving further information would be published in the summer of 2006. However, having regard to the position of the Town Council as one of the 41 Best Value Town and Parish Councils, and the premier status of the Council, it was considered that a response should be formulated expressing the Town Council's views on the proposals.

These views should highlight the importance of involving local residents in making democratic decisions, the involvement of local organisations in the community, and working together in local environmental issues, as well as emphasising the important role of the Town Council in providing the many functions and services for both residents and visitors alike.

Members expressed support for the measures aimed at genuine empowerment of individuals at a community level, but a note of caution was registered in respect of disenfranchising the local electorate at the proposed strategic level.

179. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

180. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 12, 12a and 12b, amounting to £513,940.59, £56,372.24 and £23,665.10 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

181. **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.

182. **SWANAGE BEACH RECHARGE SCHEME**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Bright declared his interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a private beach hut owner, but as his interest was non-prejudicial, remained in the Meeting during the discussion.

The Clerk updated those present on the progress of works on the Beach Recharge Scheme. It was anticipated that the section of beach in the vicinity of the outfall jetty would be completed by 10<sup>th</sup> April 2006, although access to the beach may still be required by the contractors after that date, and the overall scheme should be completed by the second week in May. Staging for the existing ice cream concession and private beach hut sites would not be erected until the recharge works were completed.

It was AGREED:-

That a meeting be arranged with the ice cream concessionaire to discuss operational issues.

183. **STONE QUAY**

Further to Minute No. 10 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006, and a subsequent letter from the Council's appointed surveyor, the Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with Dean and Dyball on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2006, in order to progress the implementation of remedial works to the Stone Quay. The District Engineer from Purbeck District Council would also be in attendance.

184. **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, MERMOND PLACE**

Further to Minute No. 10 (c) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006, consideration was given to the re-instatement of the public conveniences at Mermond Place.

Quotations received did not fully reflect the work to be undertaken, and, following discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That a detailed specification and Schedule of Works be prepared before further quotations are invited for the re-instatement of the public conveniences at Mermond Place.

185. **NEWTON GRANGE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

(a) **Review of Scheme Proposals**

Further to Minute No. 12 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006, the Clerk reported that Swan Country Homes were reviewing their proposals for the development of Newton Grange, and would defer the use of the Town Hall Annexe to exhibit the proposals until the amended scheme had been prepared.

(b) **Legal Issues**

The Clerk updated Members on legal issues relating to landownership in the vicinity of Newton Grange, and the clarification of outstanding matters currently being researched.