

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 26th MARCH 2007 at 7.20 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor G.M. Suttle (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor B. Audley
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 Mrs. A. Turner (Until 8.15 p.m.)
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M. Tyrer

The Town Mayor welcomed Revd. Sylvia Garrett, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

183. **APOLOGIES**

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

184. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 26th February 2007 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 to discuss planning and other matters on 9th March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 19th March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

185. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Bright, and

RESOLVED:-

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 26th February 2007 be accepted.

186. **SWANAGE TOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Tyrer, and

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 26th February 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Working Group held on 5th March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

188. **BOAT PARK COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Boat Park Committee held on 9th March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

189. **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Conveniences Best Value Review Working Group held on 12th March be approved as a correct record and signed.

190. **ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 13th March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Having regard to the public interest in Agenda Item 8, it was agreed that the matter relating to the Swanage Football Club be considered earlier in the Meeting.

191. **SWANAGE FOOTBALL CLUB**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Audley declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being an officer of the Swanage Town and Herston Football Club, and as his interest was prejudicial, left the

Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a relation of Club Committee Members, but as her interest was non-prejudicial remained in the Meeting.

The Mayor reported on a recent meeting held at the Football Club, at which various issues had been raised. It was noted that the current licence agreement was due to expire on 31st March 2008, and the requirement for security of tenure in order for the Football Club to apply for a variety of grant funding opportunities was highlighted.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Tyrer and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett:-

That a lease term of 50 years be agreed,
commencing on 1st April 2007.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Pratt:-

To approve the granting of a lease in principle,
subject to the agreement of Heads of Terms, to
the Swanage Town & Herston Football Club in
respect of the football ground, as defined in the
conveyance between James Day and Swanage
Town Council dated 24th May 1935.

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

The Amendment was then put to the Meeting as a SUBSTANTIVE MOTION and declared CARRIED, with NINE Members voting IN FAVOUR and ONE ABSTENTION.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a Working Group, comprising of the Town
Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tyrer and the
Town Clerk be set up, and that a meeting be
arranged with representatives from the Football
Club to progress the matter.

The urgent need to upgrade the original changing facilities was also acknowledged, and it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Turner, and RESOLVED:-

That the upgrading of the changing facilities to the
western side of the football ground be approved,
subject to a maximum cost of £5,000.

192. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no specific announcements to make this month.

193. **TOURISM REPORT**

In the absence of the Information Centre Manager, a written report had been

circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting

The following matters were included in the Report:-

- (a) The recent Blues Festival had seen an influx of visitors at the Tourist Information Centre.
- (b) The Destination Management System would soon be used for processing applications for the holiday guide and accommodation availability searches.
- (c) Preparations were under way for the forthcoming season, and the facilities at Beach Gardens would be open from Good Friday.
- (d) Beach Awareness Week would be held from 26th May to 2nd June as part of the “Purbeck Aware Month”. During the Week a “Beach Treasure Hunt” was being organised, the RNLi Beach Safety Roadshow would be present, and approximately 800 activity packs would be available for distribution to the children.

194. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

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

195. **MOORINGS IN SWANAGE BAY**

A letter dated 14th March 2007 was submitted from Knight Frank, acting on behalf of the Crown Marine Estate – Dorset, drawing attention to the number of unauthorised moorings that had appeared in Swanage Bay in recent years, and requesting that consideration be given to the Town Council’s role in any future administration arrangements.

During the ensuing discussion, it was acknowledged that a number of parties should be consulted, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the matter be deferred to enable further enquiries to be made.

196. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of February 2007 were submitted for information.

197. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 12, 12a and 12b, amounting to £112,576.73, £55,896.43 and £71,168.09 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

198. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR THORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

(a) **Play in Swanage**

The Clerk reported on a request received from Gill Dight of Play in Swanage,

requesting support for revised scheme proposals in King George's Field. The matter was in need of urgent attention as the funding application deadline was set for Friday, 30th March 2007.

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

That the following letters of support be sent:-

A general letter of support for the plans for King George's Field by the Council.

A letter of support for the young people's phase 2 and confirmation of the Council's maintenance, ownership and insurance of the equipment.

A request for support of the new plans from the National Playing Fields Association.

(b) Other matters highlighted were:-

(i) Lack of information relating to operational matters/charges introduced for Park & Ride facility at Norden by Purbeck District Council.

(ii) Re-instatement of buying/selling facility at Bulky Household Waste Site.

199. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by Councillor Pratt, 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.

200. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Wilts & Dorset Rent Review**

The Clerk reported on the revised timescales for statements and submissions relating to the rent review, and the position was noted.

(b) **Newton Grange Development**

Further to Minute No. 12 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 19th March 2007, and a supplementary information received from the Council's appointed chartered surveyor, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to Cow Lane and the Newton Grange development scheme.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council to be held on 5th April 2007.

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

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Audley declared a pecuniary interest under the Model Code of Conduct, and as his interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Mrs. Bartlett declared a personal interest under the Model Code of

Conduct by reason of a business connection with the bar and restaurant concessionaire, and as her interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 12 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 9th March 2007, the Town Mayor reported that it was not possible to pursue the draft proposal in relation to the future of the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park. A further option was mooted, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:-

That the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bright and the Town Clerk be authorised to pursue an alternative option to that agreed at the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th March 2007, with the present bar and catering operator.

(d)

Private Beach Hut Sites

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Bright declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a private beach hut licensee, and as his interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 182 of the Council Meeting held on 26th February 2007, and a subsequent meeting with representatives of the Private Beach Hut Site Users, the Clerk reported that a draft licence had now been prepared and approved by the Council's legal advisers.

The position was noted.

(e)

Peveril Point Car Parking

The Clerk reported on a possible legal challenge that may arise following the introduction of the Residents' Parking Scheme at Peveril Point.

It was **AGREED**:-

That the Town Clerk act in accordance with the advice received from the Council's appointed legal advisers.
