

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2006** at 7.15 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  
Councillor M. Tyrer

The Mayor welcomed Revd. Mike Davis, from the Kings Church, who offered prayers before the commencement of the Meeting.

105. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Trite.

106. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> November 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 policy and resources matters on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.

107. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

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

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006 be accepted.

108. **SWANAGE TOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**  
Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Bright, and  
RESOLVED:-  
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage  
Town Market Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006  
be approved as a correct record and signed.
109. **ALLOTMENTS BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**  
Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and  
RESOLVED:-  
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments  
Best Value Review Working Group held on 31st  
October 2006 be approved as a correct record and  
signed.
110. **JOINT STAFFING WORKING GROUP**  
Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Tyrer, and  
RESOLVED:-  
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint  
Staffing Working Group held on 1<sup>st</sup> November  
2006 be approved as a correct record and signed.
111. **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**  
Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and  
RESOLVED:-  
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance  
and Performance Management Working Group  
held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006 be approved as a  
correct record and signed.
112. **ALLOTMENTS BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**  
Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and  
RESOLVED:-  
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments  
Best Value Review Working Group held on 15<sup>th</sup>  
November 2006 be approved as a correct record  
and signed.
113. **CCTV WORKING GROUP**  
Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow,  
and RESOLVED:-  
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the CCTV Working  
Group held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006 be approved as a  
correct record and signed.
114. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
(a) The Mayor was pleased to report that, despite the inclement weather, the  
arrival of Father Christmas and the "Switch on Swanage" Festive Lights on  
Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2006, had been a very successful and enjoyable  
event.  
On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, Chairman of the  
Swanage Lights Committee, wished to record her appreciation of the help  
afforded by the following people, which had resulted in such an enjoyable  
day:-

Mike Dimarco and helpers, STC Operations Department, Alan Leeson, Barry Audley, Andy Romsey, Kevin Wells, Rufus Stimpson, George Willey, Gill Richings, June Farrow, Linda Welsh, Caroline Finch, Julia Moon, Alison Holmes, Gary Suttle, Swanage Rowing Club, Swanage Regatta & Carnival Committee, Swanage Railway, Purbeck Brass and Colin Bright, Swanage Town Band, Corbens, Dinos and “Circus Skills”.

- (b) The Mayor announced that the Town Carol Service would be held at St. Mary’s Parish Church at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2006.
- (c) The Mayor reported that Dorset County Council had submitted a major funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for project development at Durlston Country Park. A successful site assessment had already been carried out, and a decision regarding the funding application was expected on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006.
- (d) The Mayor reported that the “Pelican” crossings in Station Road were scheduled to be replaced by the newer “Puffin” crossings. These were considered to be more beneficial regarding traffic flow, as there was no amber light governing the timing of the traffic lights, but a sensor detecting pedestrian movement.

115. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) The school half-term holiday at the end of October had been a busy period and had attracted an influx of visitors to the town. The display for Dorset Food Week at the Tourist Information Centre had once again been well received – the ice cream tasting being particularly popular!
- (b) Footfall at the Tourist Information Centre during September and October was slightly up on the corresponding months in 2005.
- (c) Beach hut bookings for the 2007 summer season had commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> November, and, as usual, the Shore Road bungalows were already fully booked for the Swanage Regatta and Carnival Week.
- (d) Ticket sales for the National Express coach service were going well, as the Tourist Information Centre becomes established as the main Swanage agent.
- (e) The 2007 Swanage and Purbeck Holiday Guide was now available for distribution at the Tourist Information Centre (having been delivered earlier in the day), and copies were circulated to all Members at the Meeting.

116. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

The Operations Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) Resurfacing works to the Town Hall Car Park and pathways at Godlingston cemetery had now been completed.
- (b) The Dorset County Council Highways Department had recently installed 26 additional dropped kerbs throughout the town, and had commenced

major resurfacing works in Victoria Avenue. These works were scheduled to last for approximately 5-6 weeks.

- (c) Damaged play equipment at the Recreation Ground and King George's Field had been repaired.
- (d) Damaged litter bins had been repaired.
- (e) A number of drainage covers had been removed along the High Street and Victoria Avenue, and the matter was currently being investigated by Dorset County Council.
- (f) A number of areas had been subjected to graffiti attacks, and broken glass and bottles smashed in various locations during the past month.

All incidents of damage and vandalism had been reported to Dorset Police.

117. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

118. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 8, 8a and 8b, amounting to £134,280.67, £76,722.20 and £19,865.33 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

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

(a) **Resurfacing Works**

Councillor Hadley referred to the resurfacing works that had commenced in Victoria Avenue that day, and requested that Dorset County Council provide additional signs advising motorists of the works in progress.

(b) **Graffiti**

Councillor Hadley referred to graffiti that had been sprayed on private property in the town, and enquired whether the Town Council could assist with its removal.

120. **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.

121. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Lease – Wilts & Dorset**

The Mayor updated those present on the latest position regarding the lease with Wilts and Dorset Bus Company, and it was noted that the matter was now in the hands of the valuers acting for the respective parties.

- (b) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park – Bars and Catering Concession**  
Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Bartlett declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a former employee of the bars and catering concessionaire, but as her interest was non-prejudicial, remained in the Meeting during the debate. Further to Minute No. 104 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006, the Clerk updated those present on matters relating to the bars and catering concession.

Following a brief discussion, it was AGREED:-

That the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bright and the Town Clerk meet with the bars and catering concessionaire to progress the matter.

- (c) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park – Caravan Sale**  
The Town Mayor updated those present on a legal issue relating to the sale of a caravan, and the position was noted.

- (d) **Disability Discrimination Act**  
The Clerk reported on a matter raised under the Disability Discrimination Act regarding the provision of raised kerbs at the bus station to enable access to the buses for wheelchair users and other disabled people. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the Swanage Railway had a portable ramp for ease of access onto the trains, and it was suggested that the Wilts and Dorset Bus Company liaise with the Swanage Railway regarding the use of their ramp, as a temporary measure.

Following further discussion, it was AGREED:-

That a meeting be arranged with representatives from the Wilts and Dorset Bus Company to discuss proposals for compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.

- (e) **Private Beach Hut Site**  
Before consideration of this item, the Town Mayor and Councillor Mrs. Turner declared their personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of having a business connection with the person concerned, and as their interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate. Councillor Bright also declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a private beach hut site licensee, and as his interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

In the absence of the Town Mayor, Councillor Pratt assumed the Chair.

The Clerk reported on details of correspondence recently received regarding a private beach hut site, and having regard to the Town Mayor's prejudicial interest in the matter, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillor Mrs. Marsh be appointed to replace the Town Mayor in any future matters relating to this issue.