

Minutes of the MONTHLY MEETING of the Swanage  
Town Council, held at the Town Hall, Swanage, on  
MONDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2003 at 7.10 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor A.H. Miller (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett

Councillor G.A. Baume

Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor Mrs. H.O'Donovan

Councillor J. Roscoe

Councillor G.M. Suttle

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

Councillor M.R. Woolley

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

Before consideration of the Agenda items, the Town Mayor reported that three Members of the Council would not be seeking re-election at the forthcoming elections, and paid tribute to the sterling work and support given to him by Councillors Mrs. Gloria Marsh, Jim Roscoe and Mark Woolley. His comments were endorsed by other Members, who felt that their knowledge and experience would be very sadly missed.

175. APOLOGIES

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

176. MINUTES

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, 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 4<sup>th</sup> April 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the words "Lighthouse Point"

being amended to "Lighthouse Road" in Planning Application No. 6/2003/0234.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed.

177. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was RESOLVED:-

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 be accepted.

178. **TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism and Environmental Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed.

179. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the following matters:-

(a) The Town Council had again achieved the Tidy Britain Award for beach management etc. and would proudly fly the flag, hopefully, alongside the "European Blue Flag" during the 2003 summer season.

(b) The "Merry Christmas" sign in Station Road had now been replaced with a new "Welcome to Swanage" sign. This had been achieved through the sterling work of the volunteer "Swanage Lights Committee", and he thanked those responsible for undertaking the work, and also those who had organised the "Race Night" on Easter Sunday, at which £434 had been raised.

(c) He had attended the Annual Classic Car and Charity Day at the Main Beach Car Park the previous day. The event had once again proved very popular, and he passed on the thanks of Mrs. Jenny Lazenbury, the organiser of the event, for the facilities afforded to her by the Council.

(d) Finally, the Mayor reported that the first Swanage Market would be held on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2003, which, hopefully, would be an added attraction for visitors and residents alike.

180. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Therecent spell of good weather had encouraged many visitors to the town, and the Easter holiday period had been extremely busy. Accommodation and footfall figures were considerably higher than the corresponding period in 2002.
- (b) A new section for the Isle of Purbeck had been included in the Tourist Handbook (the leather binder provided for visitors in holiday properties and hotels), and information on Swanage had been provided for the publication by the staff at the Information Centre.
- (c) An editorial had also been written for inclusion in the Resort 2003 publication, together with an advertisement for the Holiday Park, which had provided an opportunity to promote the Council's facilities.
- (d) Copies of the Resort 2003 publication, a "Swanage Leaflet" promoting the town's facilities, and the new "Jurassic Coast" newsletter were circulated for information.
- (e) Finally, the Information Centre Manager highlighted the "S.O.S 5p Plug In" bottles that had been distributed to shops and businesses in the town, and informed those present that bottles were available at the Information Centre, for anyone interested in supporting the initiative. The Town Mayor wished to record his appreciation of Godlingston Water, for providing the bottles, and the Information Centre staff for their work in promoting the Appeal.

181. **HOLIDAY PARK REPORT**

The Holiday Park Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) The refurbishment of the upstairs and lower bars was nearing completion and very favourable comments were being received.
- (b) Easter had been a very busy and successful period at the Holiday Park, with bar and catering takings in particular, considerably higher than the corresponding period in 2002.
- (c) It had also been an extremely busy period for caravan sales, with 37% of the 2003 target figures already having been achieved.
- (d) Finally, the Caravan Park Manager expressed his appreciation of the earlier decisions reached by the Council which had enabled him to carry out improvements at the Park.

Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough declared her interest in the following matter under

the Model Code of Conduct, by reason of being related to the Chair of the Swanage Community Sports Partnership, but as her interest was non-prejudicial, remained in the Meeting during the discussion.

Councillor Mrs. Bartlett also declared her interest in the following matter under the Model Code of Conduct, by reason of being a member of the Committee, but as her interest was non-prejudicial, also remained in the Meeting during the discussion.

182. **SWANAGE COMMUNITY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

In order to progress the application to the Sports Lottery for funding for the new sports hall, consideration was given to a request received from the Swanage Community Sports Partnership for the granting of a 21 year lease for land at Day's Park.

During discussion, it was noted that the eventual community and sports centre would be managed by a separately constituted Trust Company.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:-

That a 21 year lease be granted for a site for the Community Sports Centre on land adjoining the existing football pitch at Day's Park, subject to detailed terms being settled with the Partnership.

183. **WAITING RESTRICTION REVIEW**

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 14 April 2003, Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon reported on requests received from local residents for de-regulation of the section of the High Street between Nos. 193 to 205. Waiting restrictions had previously been introduced to assist local traders, but following the closure of several shops, it was no longer considered necessary to impose restrictions in this area.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:-

To recommend to the Dorset County Council that the section of the High Street between Nos. 193 to 205 be de-regulated.

184. **SWANAGE AIR TRAINING CORPS**

A letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> April 2003 was submitted from the Commanding Officer of the Swanage Air Training Corps seeking a contribution towards their proposed purchase of the disused Scout Hut in Court Road.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Baume, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:-

That the sum of £200 be donated towards the project, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act.

184. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were no additional matters in need of urgent attention.

185. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of March 2003 were submitted.

186. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Order on Treasurer Nos. 13, 14a, 1 and 1a, amounting to £330,902.87, £93,288.35, £132,784.24 and £52,876.68 respectively be paid and that cheques be drawn therefor .

187. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 (copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at end of these Minutes.

188. **PURBECK TOURISM OFFICER**

Further to Minute No. 5(c) 1 of the Tourism and Environmental Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2003, detailed consideration was given to the recommendation of the Committee.

Having regard to the importance of tourism to the area, and the recently acquired World Heritage status, it was considered that the post of Purbeck Tourism Officers should be a full-time position.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon expressed the view that if the post of Purbeck Tourism Officer was joint funded by the Town and District Councils, the Town Council should have input into the job description. Her comments were endorsed by other Members, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council's contribution towards the advertising and marketing of the Swanage & Purbeck Holiday Guide be increased by £4,500 to incorporate a contribution towards the funding of a full-time Tourism Officer post.

189. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Roscoe, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

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.

190. **TENDERS**

(a)

**Insurance Renewal**

The Clerk reported on the increased premiums required by the Council's insurer to provide cover for the ensuing year, and the responses received from other insurance companies that had been invited to submit tenders. Two other companies had responded to the invitation, and they both required to undertake a full and detailed assessment of the Council's assets and activities before submitting a quote.

Having regard to the timescale involved, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Baume, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To accept the quotations submitted by Zurich Municipal (the Council's existing insurers) in the sum of approximately £47,500 for the year 2003/04.

(b)

**Mobile Catering Concession**

Consideration was given to a tender received for the mobile catering concession in Main Beach car park.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Baume, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the tender be not accepted, as it was deemed to be insufficient.

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