

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 23rd APRIL 2007 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor B. Audley
Councillor Mrs C.A. Bartlett
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

In the absence of a clergyman, Councillor Mrs. Marsh offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

201. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bright, Trite and Tyrer.

202. **MINUTES**

- (a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-
That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 26th March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.
- (b) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-
That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 5th April 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.
- (c) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-
That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 11th April 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.
- (d) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, 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 16th April 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

203. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

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

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

204. **TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism and Environmental Committee held on 26th March 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

205. **SWANAGE TOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 16th April 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

206. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that this was the last meeting of the Council prior to the Town Council election on 3rd May 2007.

As it was his last meeting as Town Mayor, he wished to record his appreciation of the support given to him by Councillor Pratt, as Deputy Mayor, during his term of Office.

He also wished to thank his fellow Councillors for their sterling work, and made particular mention of Councillors Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Farrow and Tyrer, who were not seeking re-election.

207. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Beach Awareness Week would be held from 26th May to 2nd June as part of the "Purbeck Aware Month". During the Week, the RNLI Beach Safety Roadshow would be present, and approximately 1000 activity packs would be available for distribution to the children.
- (b) Swanage had achieved a Quality Coast Award as a "Fun in the Sea" resort. An announcement regarding the "Blue Flag" Award would be made in early June, and it was hoped that Swanage would again achieve this prestigious award. A new "Relaxed Recreation" category had been introduced for the winter months, and it was hoped that Swanage could also achieve this Award.
- (c) Accommodation had been heavily booked during the Easter period, and, with the continuing good weather, many enquiries were still being received.
- (d) Upon receipt of additional information from the accommodation providers, it was hoped that the destination management system could be used to its full potential very shortly.

208. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

There were no matters to report on outside works at the present time.

209. **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION**

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th March 2007, a letter dated 23rd March 2007 was submitted from the organiser of the Swanage Blues Festival thanking the Council for their pledged support of the 2007 Festival in the sum of £200.

A new event, namely a Blues & Root Festival, was being planned for the period 5th to 7th October 2007, and a financial contribution towards the cost of setting up the Festival was sought.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a contribution of £500 be made towards the printing and publicity costs of the new Festival.

210. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

211. **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. 13, 13a and 1 and 1a, amounting to £115,163.71, £69,475.71, and £19,705.01 and £104,978.55 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

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

(a) **Complaints Procedure/Model Code of Conduct**

The Clerk reported on a recent incident whereby Council officers had been challenged regarding the pollarding of trees in Forres Field and highlighted the matter in terms of revisions to the Council's complaints procedure. Details of the new Model Code of Conduct which would be adopted at the first meeting of the new Council had also been circulated for information, and it was intended that an Induction/Training Day for Members would be held on Thursday, 10th May 2007.

(b) Other matters highlighted were:-

- i) Parking on verge at Gilbert Court.
- ii) Olympics 2012 Committee.
- iii) Seats.

213. **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.

214. **SWANAGE BAY VIEW HOLIDAY PARK**

A letter dated 12th April 2007 was submitted from a caravan owner, expressing an interest in purchasing the residential park home on site no. 164.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and RESOLVED:-

That the Town Council retains ownership of the residential park home until the future operation of the Holiday Park has been determined.

215. **STAFFING ISSUES**

Further to Minute No.15 (b) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 22nd January 2007, the Clerk reported on the competence and hard work undertaken by the two Administrative Assistants who had assumed full-time roles, pending the staffing review.

It was noted that their salaries were still being paid at the rate agreed for clerical assistants, but that their duties exceeded that demanded from their initial engagement. As a temporary interim measure in line with other reception staff, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That, pending completion of the staffing review, the posts be temporarily re-graded to Grade 2 SCP11, with effect from 21st August 2006.

216. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Newton Grange Development**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of her sister being Chairman of the Purbeck Housing Trust, but as her interest was non prejudicial, remained in the Meeting during the debate.

Amended plans for the landscaping of the Newton Grange development were submitted for consideration. Concern was expressed at the lack of pavement at the junction of Cow Lane and the High Street on the western side, and it was suggested that, as a safety measure, the footpath from the High Street be extended into Cow Lane. It was also suggested that Cow Lane be widened so as to allow for two-way traffic.

It was AGREED:-

That the Newton Grange Working Group convey these observations to the developer.

(b) **Wilts & Dorset Bus Company**

The Clerk updated Members on the current issues relating to the lease with the Wilts & Dorset Bus Company, and the position was noted.
