

Minutes of the Meeting of the **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, SWANAGE** on **FRIDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER 2008** at 2.15 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor G.M. Suttle – Chairman
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor M.W. Pratt – Town Mayor
Councillor W.S. Trite (from 2.45 p.m.)
Councillor M. Whitwam

Public Participation Time

There were 14 members of the public present at the Meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Councillor Trite who would be arriving later in the Meeting.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Advisory Committee held on 9th August 2008 were approved, subject to the Proposition in Minute No. 2 iii) being amended to read:-

“That the mechanism for the review of the 2009/10 pitch fees be considered at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.”

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARAVAN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Detailed consideration was given to the Minutes, the Clerk providing specific information on each section of the Terms of Reference and points agreed.

Arising from Minute No.2 iii), consideration was given to a request for the Bay View Caravan Owners' Association to have representation on the Council's Tourism Committee.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick (Chairman of the Tourism Committee), seconded by the Town Mayor, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the request for the Bay View Caravan Owners' Association to have representation on the Tourism Committee be approved.

4. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The General Manager reported on the following matters:-

(a) **Caravan Sales**

As previously reported, there had been a downturn in caravan sales in 2008. During the period April to September, 15 new vans had been sold, compared with 24 in the corresponding period in 2007.

- (b) **Licence Agreements**
It was requested that the Town Council gives consideration to extending the term of its licence agreements to 20 years in respect of “New Hampshire” units, in line with the agreements operated by a neighbouring Holiday Park. Having regard to the legal and financial implications of revising the licence agreements, it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee to be held on 20th October 2008.
- (c) **Caravan Lettings**
Although a number of letting vans had not been fully occupied during the main holiday season, there had been a considerable increase in occupancy levels during recent weeks.
- (d) **Swimming Pool and Leisure Facilities**
The fitness/gym equipment had now been installed and appropriate electrical and refurbishment works undertaken. The estimated cost of the equipment/work was approximately £10,400, and it was anticipated that the facilities would be open by mid-October 2008.
- (e) **Electrical Works**
The Council’s electrical contractor would be undertaking the electrical works required for the Complex, with an expected completion date by the end of October 2008.
- (f) **People resident on Park**
Based on the criteria received from legal advisers, the number of people who could potentially be considered to be living on the Park has reduced to three.
- (g) **Site Fees**
With the exception of 32 (private lettings) and five owners who were either in dispute or had received reminder letters, all site fees had been collected in full.
- (h) **Caravan Insurance**
At the present time, 46% of owners had insured their caravans with Jardine Lloyd Thompson, the Council’s insurers, compared with 52% in 2007.
- (i) **Calor Gas**
The following charges had been agreed for the supply of calor gas:-
£60.00 for 47kg and £25.00 for 19kg.
- (j) **Launderette**
To date, one quotation had been received for the refurbishment of the Launderette and the Quarryman toilets. Other tradesmen had been contacted with a view to obtaining further estimates for the required works.
- (k) **Refuse and Recycling**
There had been an increase in the amount of recyclable waste being deposited in the litter bins around the Park. Consideration was currently being given to

the possible removal of the large recycling containers (Eurobins) from around the Park (emphasis to be put on the use of the centralised recycling area next to the sales office). The recycling containers would be replaced with small litter bins.

(1) **Bars and Restaurant**

There had been a considerable downturn in the bars and catering trade, and, as a result, the entertainment programme was currently being reviewed. Enquiries for bookings during the autumn/winter period were minimal.

5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was AGREED:-

That the next meeting of the Caravan Park Committee be held on Friday, 7th November 2008 at 2.15 p.m.
