

Minutes of the Meeting of the **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, SWANAGE** on **FRIDAY, 8th AUGUST 2008** at 9.30 am.

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 9.50 a.m.)
Councillor M. Whitwam

Public Participation Time

There were 7 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. **CARAVAN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Further to Minute No. 2 (c) of the Finance and Performance Management Committee Meeting held on 4th August 2008, consideration was given to the appointment of Council representatives to the Caravan Park Advisory Committee.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Council's representatives be interchangeable but that the following Councillors be appointed to represent the Town Council at the Caravan Park Advisory Committee meeting to be held on Saturday 9th August 2008:-

Councillor M.W. Pratt (Town Mayor)
Councillor W.S. Trite (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor G.M. Suttle (Chairman, Caravan Park Committee)

3. **CARAVAN PARK – FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

(a) **Caravan Sales**

Further to Minute No. 3 (a) of the Finance and Performance Management Committee Meeting held on 4th August 2008, the General Manager reported on the down-turn in caravan sales and highlighted the need to review the Council's policies, having regard to the current economic climate.

It was suggested that consideration be given to the possible extension of existing licence agreements and the introduction of discounted prices to encourage the sale of new caravans and maintain the occupancy of the pitches. During the ensuing discussion, consideration was given to the Council's current policy of not allowing the transfer/sale of a caravan in situ within three years of the expiry of the 15 year licence period. Members were of the opinion that, having regard to the need to maintain the occupancy levels of the

Holiday Park in the current economic climate, the “three year rule” be temporarily suspended.

It was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Town Council temporarily suspend the enforcement of the “three year rule”.

It was FURTHER AGREED:-

That the next meeting of the Caravan Park Committee review the Licence Agreement to consider matters relating to maximising site occupancy.

Councillor Trite joined the Meeting at 9.50 a.m.

(b) **Furnished Lettings**

The General Manager reported on measures being introduced by other Holiday Parks to encourage furnished caravan lettings. These included additional advertising of vacancies and flexible pricing policies, as and when required. In order to be competitive, he requested that delegated authority be given to him to also operate a flexible pricing policy.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the Town Council acted as agents for caravan owners and any reduction in letting charges would be borne principally by the caravan owners.

Under Standing Order No. 69, the Chairman suspended the Meeting to enable the views of members of the public to be obtained.

MR. SCUDAMORE was of the opinion that delegated authority should be given to the General Manager to make commercial decisions affecting the Caravan Park.

The meeting reconvened.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That delegated authority be given to the General Manager to operate a flexible pricing policy in respect of the furnished caravan lettings only.

(c) **Caravan Insurance**

Further to Minute No. 3 (f) of the Caravan Park Committee Meeting held on 27th June 2008, the Clerk reported that, having regard to financial implications, it had been decided to continue the caravan insurance with Jardine Lloyd Thompson – the Council’s current caravan insurance provider.

4. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, under Standing Order No. 67, it is envisaged that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the

press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following item.

Under Standing Order No. 69, the Chairman suspended the Meeting to allow a member of the public to speak.

Under Standing Order No. 68, **MR. SCUDAMORE** enquired as to the reason for the exclusion of the press and public during consideration of the item “Breach of Licence Terms – People residing on the Park”. He was informed that specific instances may be referred to during the debate, and it would possibly fetter open discussion if members of the public were present when such matters were considered.

It was proposed by Councillor Suttle:-
That item No. 4 be deleted from the Agenda.

This Proposition failed to secure a seconder.

It was then proposed by Councillor Trite and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick:-

That Standing Order No. 67 be invoked.

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

5. **BREACH OF LICENCE TERMS**

Concern was expressed at some alleged breaches of the Licence terms by people residing on the Holiday Park.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were aware of sensitive circumstances, but were of the opinion that the terms of the Licence should be adhered to.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough:-

That the terms of the Licence be enforced and advice sought in respect of each specific case that is identified.

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