

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 17th DECEMBER 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP
Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox
Councillor M. Hadley
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M. Whitwam

Mr. Peter Burtwell offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 12 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MRS. M. DIGHT referred to a recent article that had been published in the local press reporting on proposals to upgrade the facilities at the Purbeck Sports Centre at an estimated cost of £700,000. She noted that the project was to be joint funded by Purbeck District Council and Dorset County Council and enquired whether joint funding could be obtained to improve the swimming pool/changing facilities at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park.

In reply, Councillor Trite gave a brief explanation of the financial constraints imposed upon the County, District and Town Councils, and the reasons why a similar funding arrangement could not be entered into in respect of the Town Council's swimming pool.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

111. **APOLOGIES**

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

112. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Mrs.Marsh, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Montly Meeting of the Council
held on 26th November 2007 be approved as a correct
record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor
Hadley, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 30th November 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

- (c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**
That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 10th December 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to it being recorded that Councillor Gloyn-Cox proposed, and Councillor Whitwam seconded the Resolution in Minute No. 6.

Arising from Minute No. 7 – Conservation Area Review, Councillor Bright drew attention to the fact that the integrity of the proposed conservation areas would be greater if their boundaries did not divide properties on opposite sides of any given road.

113. **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Bright, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 3rd December 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

114. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had no specific announcements to make this month, other than to wish everyone a very "Happy Christmas".

115. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Footfall at the Tourist Information Centre during November and December was higher than in previous years.
- (b) Although National Express business continued to increase, many members of the public were unaware that this service was available through the Tourist Information Centre. It was intended to promote the availability of this service through increased advertising in the New Year.
- (c) The 2008 Holiday Guides had now been delivered to the Information Centre and were ready for despatch in response to the Christmas advertising campaign.
- (d) A new initiative for the "Blue Flag" award for 2008 is for the Tourist Information Centre to become involved in the collection of information on the first signs of spring for the BBC "Spring Watch" survey. Members of the public will be encouraged to report any relevant matters, and appropriate displays will be held in the office.

116. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

(a) **Streetwise Safety Centre**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh reported that a new “police station” had been incorporated at the “Streetwise” Safety Centre and the existing “railway station” had been upgraded.

(b) **Swanage Pier Trust**

Councillor Hadley reported that at a recent meeting of the Swanage Pier Trust concern had been expressed at the appearance of some of the buildings in the vicinity of the Pier and the possibility of remedial works was being investigated.

Volunteers were also being sought to run the shop.

117. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

There were no delegated matters to report at the present time.

118. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

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

(a) Review of Parking Restrictions – January 2008.

(b) Rotary Club of Swanage & Purbeck – Dedication Service for Eddie Corben memorial to be held on 9th January 2008 at 11 a.m.

(c) Temporary closure of Northbrook Road between Walrond Road and Beach Gardens commencing on 7th January 2008.

(d) 2012 Olympics – Suggestion of presentation to Swanage Town Council.

120. **OPTIONS APPRAISAL – SWANAGE BAY VIEW HOLIDAY PARK**

Further to Minute No. 2 (a) of the Finance and Performance Management Committee Meeting held on 3rd December 2007, consideration was given to the Options Appraisal for the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park (copies of the Report having been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting).

Following discussion, during which appreciation was expressed of the work undertaken by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk in preparing the document, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the matter be deferred until the earliest opportunity when a meaningful discussion can take place.

Arising from the above, it was AGREED:-

That recruitment issues should not be deferred.

121. **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.

122. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Ice Cream Kiosk Concession**

Further to Minute No. 17 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10th December 2007, Members considered a Briefing Note regarding negotiations over the lease of two ice cream kiosks on Main Beach. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the condition to allow the sale of hot drinks from Kiosk A (positioned nearest the Mowlem) be relaxed.

Consideration was then given to a request received from the lessee for the grant of exclusive right to sell ice creams and cold drinks on the beach from a form of mobile unit i.e. a person selling directly from a cold tray/box. It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and **RESOLVED:-**

That the matter be deferred to a future meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters.

A further proposal was moved by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the rent be agreed in accordance with the recommendations of the Council's valuer (item 3) of e-mail sent on 5th December 2007).

(b) **Audit Commission**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the legal challenge by the Audit Commission.

In compliance with the notice served upon the Town Clerk as the proper officer under Section 6 of the Audit Commission Act 1998, it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Bright, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Town Clerk request from the Council's solicitors, Jacobs and Reeves, disclosure of their instruction to Counsel.

The meeting concluded at 8 p.m.
