

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 25th FEBRUARY 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor B. Audley

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 M.W. Pratt

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 18 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Rev. Sylvia Garrett offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MR. P. CLARK enquired whether it was intended to relocate the Tourist Information Centre, and, if so, to which location. He was informed by the **TOWN MAYOR** that this was a suggestion put forward at the annual Estimates meeting as a cost saving exercise, but the proposal had yet to be fully evaluated. Any decision reached would not be implemented before the commencement of the 2008 summer season. **MISS WILLIAMS** was of the opinion that the current location was ideal for the Tourist Information Centre as it was in a prominent position and was a well-used facility. The **TOWN MAYOR** responded stating that whether or not any option was pursued, a beach office would be required.

MR. M. STOLLERY, of the Purbeck Society, expressed his concern regarding the proposal contained in the Regional Spatial Strategy to increase the number of new dwellings in Purbeck by the year 2026 from 2,100 to 5,150. He enquired as to the Town Council's reaction to this proposal, and was informed that the Town Council had registered its objection to the proposal in the strongest possible terms.

MR. P. CLARK referred to the Council's "funding gap", and enquired whether steps had been taken to address this shortfall. In answer, the **TOWN CLERK** referred to the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to consider Estimates on 1st February 2008, at which revenue shortfalls had been identified and the need for some radical changes highlighted.

MR. N. GOLDING enquired whether any progress had been made in support of the "Strata Arts Project", and it was agreed that this matter would be referred to a future meeting of the Council for further consideration. It was noted that concern had previously been expressed regarding the proposed locations, and it was suggested that the Planning Officer from Purbeck District Council be invited to attend the Meeting when the matter is reviewed.

Other items mention included:-

Temporary closure of toilets on Shore Road.
Amendments to Traffic Regulation Order (as considered by the Transport Committee at its meeting held on 6th February 2008).

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

142. **APOLOGIES**

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

143. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 28th January 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss Estimates on 1st February 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 8th February 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(d) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 18th February 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

144. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 30th January 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to Councillor Bright's apologies for inability to attend the Meeting being recorded.

145. **GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Operations Committee held on 6th February 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising therefrom, the following recommendations were adopted:-

- 3) Cemetery Matters.
 - i) Review of conditions for reduced fees for non-residents.
That the Town Council reverts to its policy prior to the 21st May 2007 whereby non-residents are charged double fees, cases of exceptional circumstances to be determined by those with delegated authority.
- 5) Operations Manager's Report.
That the resurfacing and repair work to footpaths at Beach Gardens, Prince Albert Gardens and Northbrook Cemetery be placed on the Town Council's "Approved List" of capital works.

146. **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 6th February 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising therefrom, the following recommendations were adopted:-

- 8) Scale of Charges – Setting of Taxi Rank Fees.
That the annual taxi rank fees be increased by 3 per cent rounded to the nearest £5 i.e. £545.00.

147. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor had no specific announcements to make at the present time.

148. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Footfall at the Tourist Information Centre during February to date is up on the corresponding period in 2007.
- (b) Data relating to events and restaurants/catering establishments had been input into the Destination Management System (DMS) during the winter period, and it was intended that information relating to local businesses, clubs and associations should also be included on the system as soon as practicable. As well as being available for local use, this information feeds into the Visit Britain website.
- (c) "Fair Trade Fortnight" is currently being promoted at the Tourist Information Centre, and free recipe cards and children's games are being distributed.
- (d) Enquiries are being received for the Swanage Blues Festival, which is being held during the weekend 7th to 9th March 2008. Free programmes are available at the Tourist Information Centre.
- (e) As reported at the December 2007 Council Meeting, 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. Details of this initiative are now on display at the TIC and forms are available for members of the public to complete. The information received will then be collated and forwarded for inclusion in the national database.

149. **RIGHTS OF WAY**

In response to enquiries raised at the Council meeting held on 28th January 2008, further information on the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 had been obtained. The potential impact of this legislation on public access along unregistered paths and roadways was highlighted.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council notes the current situation and writes to Dorset County Council to support its call for action from central government in respect of the CROW Act. Support could also be made available to residents requiring assistance in registering rights of way (e.g. supplying photocopies of historic documents).

It was further proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and RESOLVED:-

That copies of the relevant sections of the Acts be forwarded to the Council's legal advisers to assess the impact on roads owned by the Town Council.

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

(a) **South Purbeck Task Group**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh reported that the South Purbeck Task Group was changing its name to Partners and Communities Together. The first meeting of the PACT panel was scheduled to be held at the Town Hall on Thursday, 24th April 2008 at 7 p.m.

(b) **Crime and Disorder Partnership**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh reported that she had attended a meeting of the Crime and Disorder Partnership at the Springfield Hotel earlier in the day, and she would prepare a Report for presentation to a future meeting of the Council.

151. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

The Town Clerk reported on the following matters that had required urgent attention:-

(a) A quotation for the replacement of the gates at Godlingston Cemetery had been received in the sum of £4,980.00.

(b) The cost of signage to be erected on the beach between the Mowlem and Victoria Avenue had now been obtained in the sum of £5,304.00.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-

That approval be given for the purchase of the signs in the sum of £5,304.00.

152. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of January 2008 were submitted for information.

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

- (a) Updating of Council's website.

154. **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.

155. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Audit Commission – Legal Challenge**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the legal challenge by the Audit Commission, and reported that a consultative meeting had been arranged with the Council's legal advisers on Wednesday, 27th February 2008.

(b) **Newton Grange Development**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the Newton Grange site development. The position was noted.

The meeting concluded at 8.05 p.m.
