

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**
held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER 2008** at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:- Councillor M.W. Pratt (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor G.M. Suttle (until 10.40 a.m.)
Councillor W.S. Trite

Public Participation Time

There were five members of the public present at the meeting.

MR. J. MORLEY, Chairman of Swanage Tennis Club, highlighted the deteriorating condition of the tennis courts, and reported that the Club would like to put forward proposals for the future maintenance of the courts.

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies to report for inability to attend the Meeting.

2. **BEACH GARDENS PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to a Report submitted from the Swanage Tennis Club referring to the deteriorating condition of the tennis courts, and highlighting the urgent need for remedial works to be undertaken to the courts, court equipment and surrounds. Included within the Report were proposals for the future maintenance of the facilities by the Club, at an estimated cost of approximately £9,000 per annum.

It was noted that funding may be available to the Tennis Club from the Lawn Tennis Association, and possibly the Lottery, but security of tenure with a lease of a minimum of 21 years would be required.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were fully supportive of the Tennis Club, but were mindful that the future operation of Beach Gardens was yet to be considered as part of the Council's overall "Services Review".

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

To RECOMMEND:

That a recommendation be put to the De Moulham Trust that a sum not exceeding £10,000 be made available from the Trust's funds for the refurbishment of the tennis courts.

The Chairman invoked Standing Order No. 69 to allow clarification of the refurbishment works required from members of the Tennis Club.

The meeting reconvened, and it was AGREED:-

That the Swanage Tennis Club be requested to prepare a schedule of priorities, together with appropriate costings.

It was noted that during 2007, Brett Townsend, the Tennis Club Coach, had visited local schools and had offered free coaching to approximately 500/600 children with a view to encouraging young membership of the Swanage Tennis Club. It was unlikely that this could continue in 2008 due to lack of funding.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a letter be sent to the Sports Development Officer of Purbeck District Council confirming the Town Council's full support of the coaching services provided by the Swanage Tennis Club.

3. **PRIORITY ACTION PLAN**

The Clerk presented a Priority Action Plan/Monitoring Report of urgent matters as at 29th August 2008.

Nine matters had been prioritised, and detailed consideration was given to each item.

Arising from Item No.1 – CIPFA qualified Supervision of the Accounting Function – the Clerk reported that Poole Borough Council were willing to provide ad hoc advice, but were unable to commit to providing support on a contractual basis.

Reference was made to a former employee of Messrs. Ernst Young, Accountants, who provided independent financial consultancy services for some local authorities, and it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That an informal approach be made to the gentleman concerned regarding the Town Council's requirements and an invite be extended for his attendance at the next meeting of the Committee in order to provide advice without obligation.

4. **SCRUTINY AND REVIEW OF POLICY DECISIONS**

The Clerk presented a Schedule of policy decisions determined during July/August 2008, and the position was noted.

5. **STRATA ARTS PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Following a recent meeting with officers of Purbeck District Council, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the STRATA Arts Project proposals.

Six sites had now been identified for the display boards, and it had been agreed that the Town Council would seek the consent of the respective land owners for the construction of the stone plinths, and would also co-ordinate the planning application. It was envisaged that funding support for the long-term maintenance and repairing obligations would be provided by STRATA.

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

- (a) Concern was expressed regarding the current economic climate and the possible effect on the Council's Estimates. Detailed scrutiny of budgets to be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (b) Household Recycling Centre – Proposals – Special Meeting of the Council to be convened to receive details from Mr. Steve Burdis, Dorset County Council.
- (c) Transport Committee Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 17th September 2008 at 2.15 p.m.

Councillor Suttle left the Meeting at 10.40 a.m.

The Town Mayor declared a personal interest in the following matter under the Model Code of Conduct and left the Meeting during the debate. Before leaving the Meeting he made the Proposition, which was seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Trite be appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

Councillor W.S. Trite assumed the Chair.

7. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

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 matters.

8. **LEASE – FISHERMAN’S CATCH**

Consideration was given to a request received from the lessee of the Fisherman’s Catch to grant prematurely the renewal of the lease prior to the sale of the business.

Following a brief discussion, during which the possible interruption of the lease for seafront stabilisation work was mentioned, it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Trite, and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To RECOMMEND:

That the leaseholder’s request to grant prematurely the renewal of the lease prior to the sale of the business, subject to a new clause being inserted to permit work on the stabilisation scheme if necessary, be granted.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was AGREED:-

That the next meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee be held on Monday, 20th October 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 10.56 a.m.
