

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 8th MARCH 2010** 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 W.S. Trite

Also in attendance:-

Mr. H. Lovegrove (Internal Auditor)

Public Participation Time

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

MRS. W. CLARK, Treasurer of the Swanage Tennis Club, had no questions to raise during the Public Participation Time, but confirmed that she had sent an e-mail on behalf of the Swanage Tennis Club to the Town Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

2. **INTERIM INTERNAL REPORTS 2009/10**

Mr. Henry Lovegrove, the Council's Internal Auditor, presented internal audit reports for 2009/10, and provided background information and explanations regarding the recommendations and conclusions in respect of the following:-

- (a) Miscellaneous Income and Bank Reconciliation.
- (b) Cemeteries.
- (c) Petty Cash.
- (d) Holiday Park Disposal.

Members were pleased to note that the audit objectives had been fully met in respect of (a), (b) and (c) above, and whilst the key aspects of the Holiday Park Disposal had been dealt with satisfactorily, several peripheral issues had yet to be addressed. An update on these issues would be given at the next meeting of the Committee.

3. **ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Further to Minute No. 7 of the General Operations Committee meeting held on 25th November 2010, consideration was given to the draft Asset Management Plan.

It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Asset Management Plan be adopted.

4. **COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2010/11**

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Finance and Performance Management Committee meeting held on 5th February 2010, and subsequent advice received from the Council's valuer, consideration was given to the following matters:-

(a) **Northbrook Copse**

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

To pursue the option of disposal of Northbrook Copse to the Dorset Wildlife Trust/Woodland Trust.

(b) **Land at the junction of Northbrook Road/Victoria Avenue**

In accordance with the professional advice received (letter dated 10th February 2010 from the Council's valuer), it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

To seek offers for the disposal of the land at the junction of Northbrook Road/Victoria Avenue in accordance with the professional advice received.

(c) **Railway Land/Buildings**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Trite declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust, and left the Meeting during the debate.

Consideration was again given to the sale/disposal of the railway land/buildings to the Swanage Railway Trust.

Following detailed discussion, and in accordance with the professional advice received (letter dated 23rd February 2010 from the Council's valuer), it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

To pursue the sale/disposal of the railway land/buildings to the Swanage Railway Trust in accordance with the professional advice received, subject to a covenant that in the event of any future failure of the Swanage Railway Company, the Town Council reserves the right to re-acquire the property at cost.

It was suggested that a recommended timescale of three months for negotiations should be imposed.

(d) **Prospect Crescent/Land south of Holiday Park**

Consideration was given to the professional advice received in respect of the valuation of the above parcels of land.

During the ensuing discussion, the Council's statutory obligation to provide land for allotment sites was acknowledged, and it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the matter be deferred for future consideration after further information regarding the fertility of the soil on the land south of the Holiday Park had been obtained.

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

(a) **Priority Action Plan – Monitoring Report**

The Clerk provided an update regarding the seafront stabilisation scheme, and highlighted serious concerns regarding the stability of the land in the vicinity of Broad Road Car Park.

- (b) **Negotiations with Swanage Tennis Club**
It was agreed that the Beach Gardens Working Group meet with representatives of the Swanage Tennis Club at the conclusion of the meeting.
- (c) **Review of Policy Documents**
The Clerk reported the need to review all of the Council's policy documents. The position was noted, and it was agreed that, having regard to the limited resources available, these would be reviewed in due course and presented to a future meeting of the Council.
- (d) **Closure of James Day Home**
Following the meeting of the Dorset County Council Cabinet on Wednesday, 3rd March 2010, and a further meeting with representatives from Dorset County Council, Swanage Town Council, and the James Day Action Group on Friday, 5th March 2010, Councillor Trite updated those present on matters relating to the closure of James Day Home.
- (e) **Core Strategy and Proposals for a New Community Hospital**
It was reported that representatives of Savills and the Planning Policy Manager of Purbeck District Council would address the Town Council regarding proposals for a new community hospital at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, 6th April 2010.

The meeting concluded at 10.52 a.m.

Council Priorities 2010/11

Item No.	Issues to clarify/explore
1.	Railway Land/Buildings – sale/disposal or assignment of Head Lease to Swanage Railway Trust
2.	Review of future of Public Buildings (Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, Depot)
3.	Define remit of Seafront Stabilisation Scheme
4.	Main Beach/King George’s Field – define options for toilets/changing facilities
5.	Beach Gardens – improve facilities and resolve future management arrangements
6.	Land South of Holiday Park – possible use as self-managed allotment site/quarrying
7.	Godlingston – open Green Cemetery
8.	Northbrook Copse – Explore options for disposal (Woodland/Wildlife Trust, sale for housing land)
9.	Land at junction of Northbrook Road/Victoria Avenue – sell for parking