

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 28th JANUARY 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.W. Pratt (Deputy 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 S. Poultney

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 16 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MR. D. BOORN, representing approx. 50 property owners in unmade roads in Dorset, referred to the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, Section 53 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Section 67. He expressed concern at the provisions of the Acts which may affect access rights to properties in un-adopted roads in future years.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR D. HIETT was unaware of the possible implications of these Acts, and pledged to obtain further information from the Environmental Services Department of Dorset County Council.

COUNCILLOR M. HADLEY reported that the provisions of the above Acts may also impact on footpaths that have not been officially registered.

MR. P. CLARK enquired whether a full financial Report had been prepared in respect of the Bay View Holiday Park. He was informed by the Town Clerk that a detailed financial appraisal had been undertaken as part of the overall Options Appraisal of the Holiday Park. This document was available to the public.

MR. P. CLARK requested an update on the possible appointment of a CIPFA qualified accountant. He was informed by the Town Clerk that neighbouring authorities had been approached regarding the provision of accountancy services, and this option was currently being pursued.

Other items mentioned included:-

Change of use of tennis courts.

Objection to planning application in Drummond Road.

Drainage in the vicinity of the Station Master's house.

In the absence of a clergyman, Councillor Bright offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

123. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Suttle (Town Mayor) and Councillor Mrs. Patrick.

124. **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 17th December 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 4th January 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14th January 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(d) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 21st January 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

125. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 18th January 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

126. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the absence of the Town Mayor there were no specific announcements to make at the present time.

127. **TOURISM REPORT**

In the absence of the Tourist Information Centre Manager who was unwell, the Town Clerk reported on the following matters:-

(a) A recycling facility for Christmas cards had been provided at the Tourist Information Centre during January. This facility had been well received by local people and had increased awareness of the many services available at the TIC.

- (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. This information could be fully accessed through the Purbeck District Council website.
- (c) Bookings for beach bungalows for 2008 are still being received on a regular basis.
- (d) “Fair Trade Fortnight” is scheduled to commence on 25th February 2008, and as usual, various promotions will be displayed at the Tourist Information Centre.

128. **CORE STRATEGY – CONSULTATION**

Further to Minute No. 8 of the Council Meeting held on 21st January 2008, consideration was given to the draft response prepared for submission in respect of the Regional Spatial Strategy Panel Report.

The draft response emphasised the Town Council’s strong objection to the Report’s proposal to increase the level of housing provision in Purbeck over the next 20 years from 2,100 to 5,150 dwellings. Grave concern was expressed that such a high level of development would increase the suburbanisation of Swanage and Purbeck and result in a decline in the quality of life through increased congestion, loss of wildlife habitat and erosion of the green belt.

It was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bright, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the draft letter be approved, and forwarded to the Regional Strategies, Housing and Planning Directorate in response to the recent Panel Report on the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy.

Members wished to record their appreciation of the Assistant Town Clerk in composing the draft response.

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

(a) **Dorset Age Partnership**

Councillor Gloyn-Cox gave a brief verbal report on a meeting of the Dorset Age Partnership held on 16th January 2008. The main topic for discussion had been the proposed closure of the Swanage Day Centre, and he was pleased to report that since the meeting of the Dorset Age Partnership, Dorset County Council had been agreed to retain the Swanage Day Centre facility for the present time.

(b) **Purbeck Transport Act Group**

Councillor Hadley reported that funding had been secured for the provision of cycle racks in the vicinity of the Swanage Library.

(c) **Swanage Town and Community Partnership**

In response to a request received, the Clerk reported that the Chair of the Swanage Town and Community Partnership had been invited to attend a future meeting of the Council to update Members on matters relating to the Partnership.

130. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

- (a) A major water leak in Mermond Place Car Park, which had necessitated part closure of the car park, and would require the installation of a new water main.
- (b) Drainage problems at Prospect Nursery/Allotments.

The total cost of the above remedial works was estimated to be approximately £7,000.

131. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

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

- (a) Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 – Future implications relating to un-adopted roads.
- (b) Request for MP to visit Swanage regarding flats developments.

133. **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.

134. **LEGAL ISSUES**

- (a) **Audit Commission – Legal Challenge**
Further to Minute No. 7 a) 3) of the Council Meeting held on 4th January 2008, and Minute No. 12 (c) of the Council Meeting held on 21st January 2008, the Town Clerk reported that letters had been sent to the MP, Jim Knight, and the Audit Commission, but responses had not yet been received.
- (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 8.10 p.m.
