

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2003** at 7.20p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor A.H. Miller (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor H.J.F. Agelink

Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett

Councillor C.R. Bright

Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough

Councillor M.W. Pratt

Councillor G.M. Suttle

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M.A. Tyrer

Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

Councillor Miller welcomed Pastor Steve Cerone, from the King's Church, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

13. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan.

14. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from the above, Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough drew attention to planning application no. 6/2003/0335 (Mowlem Bridge) and requested that Dorset County Council be reminded of the Town Council's observations when approving the application. Councillor Bright also noted his concern that the works were commissioned before the scheduled start

due to urgent health and safety reasons, and that these were now believed to be unfounded.

The comments were endorsed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and it was AGREED:-

That the Operations Manager be requested to observe the works in progress at regular intervals.

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

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(d) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(e) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed.

15. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2003 be accepted.

16. **SWANAGETOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to it being recorded in Minute No. 5, that when canvassed for their views, both the market operators

and traders alike felt that it would be beneficial to have a coach “dropping off” point in the Main Beach carpark.

17. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Mayor reported that:-

- (a) The Civic Service had been held at St. Mary’s Parish Church on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2003, and he had been delighted to welcome civic dignitaries from nine other authorities.
- (b) On behalf of the Town Council, he had presented a memorial plaque to Mrs. Pat Fincham, in recognition of the services of her late husband, Derrick, as Town Crier from 1987 to 1996. The plaque will be sited at the Tourist Information Centre on Shore Road.

18. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) “Beach Awareness” week had been very successful. Rescue equipment had been displayed by the Coastguard, together with various dangerous items that may be washed onto the shoreline, and the RNLi had staged a “Roadshow” to emphasise the importance of safety. Approximately 800 publicity packs had been distributed during the week.
- (b) A new bus service, “Coastline 53”, was now operating between Wareham and Exeter, at a cost of £5.00 per day for unlimited travel.
- (c) A Swanage leaflet advertising all of the Council’s amenities was now available, and was being distributed through the Information Centre, accommodation providers, holiday parks etc.
- (d) A change in the stock available for sale at the Tourist Information Centre had resulted in an increase in sales of approximately 53%.
- (e) Finally, although footfall figures at the TIC had been decreasing during the last few years, visits to the Council’s website for information were increasing considerably. During April/May/June figures showed an increase of approximately 2200 hits over the corresponding period in 2002.

At the conclusion of her report, the Mayor congratulated Miss Stockley on her management of the Tourist Information Centre.

19. **HOLIDAY PARK REPORT**

The Holiday Park General Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) The Holiday Park website was now operational and proving very popular.
- (b) Theme Nights i.e. Curry Nights, Rock 'n' Roll etc. had been introduced at the Vista Complex, and had resulted in a considerable increase in income from the bar and catering functions.
- (c) Finally, it had been another successful month for caravan sales.

At the conclusion of his report, the Mayor congratulated Mr Pearce on his management of the Holiday Park.

20. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE TOWN MAYOR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There were no additional matters in need of urgent attention.

21. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of May 2003 were submitted.

22. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Agelink, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Order on Treasurer Nos. 3, 3a, and 3b, amounting to £214,007.30, £55,625.26 and £74,601.25 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

23. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2003 (copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at end of these Minutes.

24. **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN – 2003/04**

The Clerk gave a brief synopsis of the Council's legal obligations and

timescale for the production of the Best Value Performance Plan. Copies of the document had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting.

During the discussion, the Mayor acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Councillors during the period of the last Council. Particular gratitude was expressed in favour of Councillors Roscoe and Suttle. The work undertaken by the Town Clerk and his staff in the production of the document was also noted.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That the Best Value Performance Plan 2003/04 be formally adopted.

Having formally adopted the Plan, the Town Clerk announced that copies would now be made available to the general public.

24. **FINAL ACCOUNTS 2002/03**

Draft copies of the Final Accounts for the year 2002/03 were submitted for consideration.

The Clerk explained changes in the format and layout of the accounts compared with previous years. Particular attention was drawn to the reduction in revenue balance sheet through recognition of the permanent repayment of £200,000 in long term loans.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Tyrer, and RESOLVED:-

That the accounts be formally approved.

25. **NORTH BEACH**

The Clerk reported on an incident that had occurred during the previous weekend, whereby a property developer had deposited spoil in the sea in the vicinity of Burlington Chine.

This had resulted in some pollution of the beach in the Council's ownership.

Discussion ensued regarding the exact extent of the Council's title to the foreshore, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the Clerk be instructed to seek legal opinion in the matter.

26. **TOILETS - BURLINGTON CHINE**

The Operations Manager updated those present on the current position regarding the toilets at Burlington Chine.

The pumps were to be inspected on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2003, and depending on the outcome of this inspection, "portalos" would be installed for the main holiday season.

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