

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2007** at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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 M.W. Pratt  
Councillor G.M. Suttle  
Councillor Mrs. A. Turner  
Councillor W.S. Trite  
Councillor M. Whitwam

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

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 26 members of the public attended the Meeting.

**Public Participation Time**

The following matters were raised by members of the public:-

- i) Election results not displayed on Town Hall Notice Board. It was noted that official notification of the results had not been received from Purbeck District Council due to the count being held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007.
- ii) Review of existing Committee arrangements i.e. constitution, timing of meetings etc. It was explained that although this matter was to be considered under Agenda Items 6, 7, and 8 of the following Council Meeting, it was probable that the matter would be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 to allow for a thorough and detailed debate of the proposals. Consideration would also be given to the timing and consideration of planning matters at that meeting.  
The objectives of the proposed structure were outlined as being:-
  - Improve transparency – Members of the public being able to attend Committees.
  - Improve efficiency – Reduction in the number of meetings requiring servicing.
  - Flexibility – To adapt to changes in the planning consultation process.
- iii) A question was raised regarding Members' attendance at Council meetings, and it was agreed that this information would be published in future editions of "Swanage Matters".

1. **APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR**

Proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bright, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillor Gary Maurice Suttle be  
appointed Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Suttle completed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of  
Office, and thanked his fellow Councillors for their unanimous support. He was  
particularly appreciative of the help and support given to him by Councillor Pratt,  
Deputy Town Mayor, during his previous term of Office.

2. **DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough and seconded by Councillor  
Mrs. Marsh:-

That Councillor Michael William Pratt be  
appointed Deputy Town Mayor for the  
ensuing year.

Upon being put to the Meeting, TEN Members voted IN FAVOUR of the  
Proposition and there were TWO ABSTENTIONS, whereupon the Proposition  
was declared CARRIED.

Councillor Pratt then completed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of  
Office and was pleased to accept the appointment.

3. **APOLOGIES**

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

4. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the  
Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 be approved as  
a correct record and signed.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

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

That the Notes on the Public Participation Time  
held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 be accepted.

6. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was RESOLVED:-

That the appointment of representatives to outside  
bodies be deferred for consideration at the Special  
Meeting of the Council to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND  
WORKING GROUPS**

It was RESOLVED:-

That the appointment of Committees, Sub-Committees  
and Working Groups be deferred for consideration at  
the Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 21<sup>st</sup>  
May 2007.

8. **INTRODUCTION OF EVENING MEETINGS**

It was RESOLVED:-

That the introduction of evening policy meetings be deferred for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Council to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS – SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

A letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 was submitted from the Head of Development and Building Control at Purbeck District Council outlining proposals for changes to the Scheme of Delegation in relation to the determination of planning applications, and seeking the Town Council's observations on the proposals.

Following detailed consideration, during which Members confirmed that they wished to continue to be sent details of, and comment on, all planning applications, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, in order to assess applications more quickly, delegated applications received in the first part of the month, be submitted for consideration to the policy meeting held on the middle/penultimate Monday of the month.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That the Town Council does not support any change to the current system regarding the granting of greater powers of delegation to the Head of Development and Building Control.

Members also requested that the actual plans be still submitted in paper format, because of the limitations of viewing fine details on an A4 or A3 page, but considered that supporting documentation i.e design/access statements could be viewed on-line.

10. **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Clerk referred to the new Model Code of Conduct, and reported on the recommendation of the Monitoring Officer of Purbeck District Council, that appropriate training should be given to all Members.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the adoption of the new Model Code of Conduct be deferred, and that appropriate training be given to all Members in this regard.

11. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on a request received from the BBC for permission to film at Peveril Point. The film would be incorporated within a documentary programme narrated by David Attenborough.

12. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Preparations were in hand for the forthcoming "Beach Awareness Week", which was scheduled to commence on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

During the week, the RNLI would be staging a beach safety roadshow, and the 2CR FM “Black Thunders” would be visiting the town. A treasure hunt, highlighting beach safety, would be held, together with other promotional displays and general information.

- (b) Following a nationwide approach to promoting accredited accommodation and also accredited visitor attractions, Visit Britain had put together an official partner programme for Tourist Information Provision. The “T” symbol and English Rose would only be permitted to be displayed when the official partner status had been achieved.
- (c) The Destination Management System would shortly be operational at the Tourist Information Centre. Staff were visiting the accommodation providers and training them on how to update their availability.
- (d) The beach bungalows on Shore Road were fully booked for the half-term week at the end of May, but there was still limited availability at the Spa.
- (e) National Express bookings were still buoyant, and a promotional competition and editorial for the Condor Ferries was scheduled to appear in the local “Advertiser”.

13. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

In the absence of the Operations Manager, who was unwell, there were no specific matters to report on outside works at the present time, other than to say that general maintenance works were continuing, together with preparations for the forthcoming holiday season.

The Town Clerk was pleased to report that the installation of the “Jurassic Coast” signs had now completed, following the erection of a second sign on the Ulwell approach to the town.

14. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

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

Councillor Mrs. Turner reported on proposals to set up a “Youth Council” and a request for the use of the Council Chamber for Meetings.

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