

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 29th SEPTEMBER 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.W. Pratt (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor B. Audley

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox

Councillor M. Hadley

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor G.M. Suttle (until 9.20 p.m.)

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 13 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MR. I. MACKENZIE referred to the impending determination of the Options Appraisal of the Holiday Park and enquired whether the swimming pool would remain available for public use.

MRS. M. DIGHT reported that the free bus passes issued by Purbeck District Council were not valid for use before 9.30 a.m. She highlighted the difficulties experienced by elderly patients attending hospital appointments out of town, and asked that the Town Council supports her request for Purbeck District Council to review the commencement time of the bus passes.

MR. I. MACKENZIE enquired whether there had been any progress in establishing the responsibility for repairs to the wall on Shore Road in the vicinity of the toilets at Battlegate.

MR. I. SAUNDERS enquired whether funds held in the De Moulham Estate Trust could be allocated for maintenance of the town's assets.

Dr. Mike Davis, from the Kings Church, offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

The Town Mayor was delighted to report that Swanage had achieved a “Silver Gilt” award in the South and South East in Bloom Competition – Small Coastal Resorts category. As members of the Swanage in Bloom Committee had been unable to attend the official “Awards Ceremony” in Hove, he had the honour to present the Award to Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough (Chairman of the Swanage in Bloom Committee). In accepting the award, Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough expressed her appreciation of the sterling work undertaken by the Council's Operations Manager and his workforce in achieving such high standards, and also of the overall support given to her and the Committee.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

47. **APOLOGIES**

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

48. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 18th August 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 21st August 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 5th September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(d) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 15th September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

49. **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 3rd September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising therefrom, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED:-

That the following recommendation be adopted:-

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.

It was FURTHER AGREED:-

That the recommendation contained in Minute No. 8 relating to a land dispute, be deferred for consideration later in the meeting.

50. **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by the Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 17th September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising therefrom, it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following recommendations be adopted:-

That the car parking charges for winter 2008/09 remain unchanged from 2007/08.

That Broad Road and Main Beach car parks be free of charge for resident permit holders.

That the above policies be advertised in Swanage Matters.

That Dorset County Council be requested to introduce the seasonal closure of Shore Road between the Mowlem and Victoria Avenue from 1st May to 30th September on a permanent basis.

51. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 19th September 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

52. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (a) The Town Mayor announced that he would be hosting a Charity Concert at the Mowlem Theatre on Wednesday, 15th October 2008. The entertainment would be provided by the Light Cavalry Band and Miss Emma Fidler, and proceeds from the evening would be donated to his chosen charities – the Swanage Stroke Club and the Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau.
- (b) The Mayor read a letter from Mr. Brian Barker, received earlier that evening, congratulating the Town Council and its workforce on their sterling work in achieving such high standards of maintenance and cleanliness throughout the town, particularly during the busy summer period.

53. **OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

Further to the Council Meeting held to discuss Policy and Planning matters on 15th September 2008, there were no additional matters to report from the Operations Department.

54. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Boat trip bookings, including the Waverley steamer, were considerably down on the previous year due to the persistent wet and windy weather during the summer.
- (b) The Blues and Roots Festival was being held during the weekend 3rd to 5th October 2008. This was an added boost for tourism during the autumn period, and had helped to generate an influx of enquiries for accommodation.

- (c) Dorset Food Week was being held during the half-term period 26th October to 2nd November, during which time a display promoting “Purbeck Produce in a Box” would be staged at the Information Centre.
- (d) Charity Christmas cards would be on sale at the Tourist Information Centre from October. The guest charity for 2008 would be Julia’s House, the Dorset Children’s Hospice based at Corfe Mullen. An open day was being held to promote Julia’s House, when the Town Mayor, together with a representative from the charity, would raise the “Dorset Flag”.
- (e) A campaign to “Bring back the nature table” was being promoted by Country Living Magazine. The Tourist Information Centre was supporting this campaign and had contacted local schools inviting the children to bring items to exhibit on the nature table.
- (f) An article entitled “Visit Dorset” had been published in a recent edition of the Sunday Mail. Swanage had been well publicised in the article, and as a result of this valuable free publicity, an influx of enquiries for the Guide was anticipated.

55. **REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY**

Further to Minute No. 3 of the Council meeting held on 5th September 2008, consideration was again given to the Secretary of State’s proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Members highlighted the proposal contained in the Report to increase the level of housing provision in Purbeck over the next 20 years from 2,100 to 5,150 dwellings and expressed grave concern at the impact that such a high level of development would have on the area. Such development would inevitably 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 the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Town Council continues to oppose the the proposed increase in the level of housing provision in Purbeck over the next 20 years from 2,100 to 5,150 dwellings.

Further discussion ensued, following which it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Town Council liaise with officers of Purbeck District Council with regard to formulating a co-ordinated response.

56. **TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Council Meeting held on 5th September 2008, consideration was again given to Town Council representation on outside organisations. The main purpose of the role has been to liaise between the organisation and the Town Council, although the constitution of some external organisations has required the Council representative to become a member of that body.

Following discussion, during which reference was made to the rejection of a Council nominated representative by an outside organisation, it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the matter be deferred to enable further information to be obtained regarding the constitution and/or rules of the organisations to which the Town Council has nominated representatives.

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

- (a) Councillor Mrs. Patrick reported on the impending departure of the current Youth Leader at the Swanage Youth Centre. The importance of this role was acknowledged, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Trite, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That, in the interests of the young people of Swanage, the post of Youth Leader at Swanage Youth Centre be retained.

- (b) Councillor Hadley reported that the new observatory at Durlston Country Park was now open.

Wardens were currently investigating the possibility of providing community transport to the Country Park, and the Purbeck Transport Action Group was looking into the practicalities of providing transport between Purbeck villages.

58. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

There were no delegated matters to report at the present ime.

59. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of August 2008 were submitted for information.

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

There were no additional matters of information to report at the present time.

61. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and **RESOLVED:-**

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.

62. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Options Appraisal**

Further to Minute No. 3 of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 21st August 2008, the Clerk reported on recent correspondence received from the Audit Commission, with particular reference to a letter post dated 30th September 2008 (copies having been circulated to all Members). It was noted that the District Auditor had formally requested under S.6 of the Audit Commission Act a copy of the Supplementary Options Appraisal Report prepared by Charles F. Jones & Son, Chartered Surveyors.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That an urgent meeting be convened with the District Auditor and members of the Options Appraisal Working Party.

(b) **Newton Grange/Cow Lane**

Further to Minute No. 46 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 18th August 2008, and subsequent correspondence received from the Council's legal advisers and

the legal advisers acting on behalf of the developers of the site, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the Newton Grange development.

Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared a personal interest in the above matter under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of the Purbeck Housing Trust Board. As her interest was non-prejudicial, she remained in the Meeting during the debate.

Councillor Suttle left the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

Discussion ensued, following which it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Newton Grange Working Party, comprising of Councillors Mrs. Patrick, Poultney, Trite and Suttle (subject to his availability) reconvene to negotiate with the developers in respect of Cow Lane.

(c) **Lease – Fisherman’s Catch**

The Town Mayor declared a personal interest in the following item under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of his acquaintance with the family and as his interest was prejudicial, left the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 7 (a) of the Policy and Planning meeting held on 5th September 2008, the Clerk updated Members on negotiations regarding the granting of a new lease for the Fisherman’s Catch.

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

To offer a new lease for the Fisherman’s Catch for a 12 year term, with break clauses on each of the 3rd anniversaries with a proposed rent of £36,000 and subject to a new clause being inserted to permit work on the seafront stabilisation scheme, if necessary.

(d) **Peveil Point – Registration of Land adjoining 1 Coastguard Cottages**

Councillor Hadley declared a personal interest in this item under the Model Code of Conduct, by reason of his family’s property ownership in the vicinity, and as his interest was prejudicial, left the meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 8 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 1st August 2008, Members had been provided with copies of correspondence relating to the claim lodged with the Land Registry by the owners of 1 Old Coastguard Cottages, Peveil Point Road.

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

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 6th October 2008.

The meeting concluded at 9.35 p.m.
