

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Swanage Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND PLANNING** matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010** at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M. Pratt (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox	(until 12 noon)
Councillor M. Hadley	
Councillor Mrs G. Marsh	(until 12.05 p.m.)
Councillor Mrs A. Patrick	(until 12 noon)
Councillor S. Poultney	
Councillor W. Trite	(until 11.40 a.m.)
Councillor M. Whitwam	

### **Public Participation Time**

There were eight Members of the Public present at the Meeting.

**MRS. V. BAUME** expressed grave concern at the proposed closure of James Day Home, which was scheduled to take place at the end of March 2010. There were currently 23 residents at the home, some of whom suffered from dementia, and the closure of the Home would result in many local residents being moved away from Swanage. The disruption is likely to have a serious detrimental effect on the health of the patients, and the re-location may create difficulties for family and friends wishing to visit. It would also result in redundancy for the 45 members of staff currently employed at the Home. She requested that the Town Council supports the James Day Home Action Group in their quest to keep James Day Home open.

**MR. D. NORMAN** endorsed the above comments, and reported that the matter was scheduled to be discussed by the Dorset County Council Cabinet at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. It was hoped that an earlier meeting could be arranged, and he requested the support of the Town Council in this regard. He reported that the lack of en-suite facilities had been cited as one reason for the proposed closure, but he felt strongly that the lack of en-suite facilities was of little importance compared to the loss of close contact with family and friends if the residents were moved from Swanage.

**MR. M. NORRIS** expressed concern regarding the future provision for the care of dementia patients within the Purbeck area, and felt that Social Services were not taking adequate responsibility for “category 3 or 4” patients.

**MRS. M. ANDREWS**, on behalf of the Swanage Area Senior Forum, explained the services provided by the “Hopper Bus” and its use by local residents, many of whom had mobility issues. The “Hopper Bus” had been funded by Dorset County Council for a six month period as a “pilot” scheme commencing in October 2009, and it was not known whether funding would be available for the continuation of this service.

**COUNCILLOR MRS. G. MARSH** reported on the work of the South Purbeck Task Group (previously known as Purbeck Safety Action Group). The Group provides transport for Swanage school children to visit the “Streetwise Centre” in

Bournemouth, where they receive instruction in various home and general safety matters. She requested that the Town Council gives favourable consideration to the request for financial assistance towards the cost of providing this valuable service.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bright, Suttle and Wiggins.

2. **CLOSURE OF JAMES DAY HOME**

A letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010 was submitted from Mr. Lew Fletcher expressing concern at the proposed closure of James Day Home and requesting that the Town Council gives its immediate public backing and intervention to suspend the closure of the Home.

It was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and  
RESOLVED:-

That Standing Order No. 69 be invoked to allow members of the audience to participate in the debate.

During the ensuing discussion, questions were posed regarding occupancy levels, facilities provided, management/tenancy, and running costs for the Home. A further important issue raised was the need for clarity in respect of the interpretation of covenants placed on the property by the donor of the site, Mr. James Day.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That an urgent meeting be arranged with senior personnel from Dorset County Council to enable a full and frank exchange of concerns and views regarding the future of James Day Home.

Members felt strongly that other interested parties should be included in the discussion, and it was suggested that the following organisations be included in the consultation:-

James Day Home Action Committee  
Swanage Medical Practice  
Mrs. M. Hardy (Chairman of local NHS Commissioning Group)  
Swanage Town Council

The Meeting re-convened at 10.25 a.m.

It was then proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillors Gloyn-Cox and Mrs. Marsh be appointed to represent the Town Council at the Meeting.

It was further proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That arrangements be made with Care South for Members to visit James Day Home.

3. **PLANS**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh did not vote on, or propose, or second any of the motions on the following planning applications, by reason of being a Member of the Purbeck District Council's Planning Board.

**Plan No**

**Non-Delegated Applications**

Councillor Mrs Patrick declared a personal interest in the following application under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of a business association with the applicant, and as this was a prejudicial interest, left the Meeting during its consideration.

6/2010/0052

**Mr D Harrison**

Demolish existing retirement home and erect 14 retirement flats with associated garaging and parking. (Extend time limit to implement existing approval 6/2004/0539).

Clifftop Rest Home, 8 Burlington Road, Swanage.

**OBSERVATION:** Refuse unanimously. The bulk and scale of the proposal would dominate the street scene and is considered overdevelopment. Concern was expressed regarding the design of the proposed flats, the demolition of an alternative building, and the loss of a retirement home. The Town Council also retains grave concerns regarding land drainage and the ground stability of the site. These concerns have intensified due to recent cliff falls and the content of the forthcoming Shoreline Management Plan.

**Delegated Applications**

6/2010/0049

**Mr C Preston & Miss C Candy**

Change of use of the first floor from a residential flat (Class C3) to tourist accomodation in the form of a guest house (Class C1). (Retrospective).

Town Hall Lodge, Town Hall Lane, Swanage.

**OBSERVATION:** No objection. The Town Council supports the increase of tourist accommodation in Swanage, where it will improve the town's economic vitality.

6/2010/0050

**Mr C Preston & Miss C Candy**

Change of use of ground floor from a residential flat (Class C3) to a mixed use comprising of a tearoom and owner's accomodation. (Retrospective).

Town Hall Lodge, Swanage.

**OBSERVATION:** No objection.

6/2010/0053

**Mr R Cobb**

Replace existing window with larger window.

Flat 8, Durlston Cliff, Belle Vue Road, Swanage.

**OBSERVATION:** No objection.

6/2010/0055

**Mr D Scott**

Outline application to replace existing Girl Guide hut with 2 three bedroom dwellings and new vehicular access.  
Girl Guide Hut, 48 Prospect Crescent, Swanage.

**OBSERVATION:** No objection.

6/2010/0062

**LISTED**

**Ms E Pearson**

Internal alterations to restore fireplace.  
83 High Street, Swanage.

**OBSERVATION:** No objection.

4. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

5. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer  
Nos. 11 and 11a, amounting to £415,669.84 and £34,706.03  
respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

6. **GRANTS AND DONATIONS**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of the South Purbeck Task Group, and left the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 3 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009, consideration was given to the applications received for financial donations in 2010/11.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were reminded that a budget of £10,000 had been allocated for 2010/11, from which the following had already been agreed:-

Swanage Town & Herston Football Club	£3,750
DCC – School Crossing Patrol	£4,145

Consideration was then given to the requests received for donations, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and  
**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the following donations be made:-

S. Darrington – Blues Festival (March)	£250
South Purbeck Task Group	£250

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED:-**

That the remainder of the budget (£1,605) be distributed equally to the following applicants:-

S. Darrington – Blues & Roots Festival (October)	£321
Purbeck Film Festival	£321
Community Hopper Bus	£321

Swanage WalkFest	£321
Bandstand Marathon	£321

The Council was fully supportive of the sterling work undertaken by the Swanage Regatta and Carnival Committee, but regrettably felt unable to make a financial donation from the limited resources available during 2010/11.

In approving the above donations, it was considered that a list of criteria should be formulated in order to assess future applications.

7. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of January 2010 were unavailable at the present time.

8. **EVENTS – SUMMER 2010**

(a) **Requests for Events**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Whitwam declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of the Committee organising the Swanage Victorian Week.

A schedule of events to be held during the summer 2010 was submitted for information. This included five new events that had not previously been held. During the ensuing discussion, it was felt that officials/marshals of all events should be clearly identifiable, and it was agreed that an “office corner” be publicly displayed for each event.

It was reported that a new “User Agreement” was currently being drawn up, and it was AGREED:-

That a draft “User Agreement” be submitted for consideration at the Policy and Planning Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

Detailed consideration was then given to the events listed, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That in principle agreement be given to the events listed.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Poultney:-

That, having regard to the criteria set for the “Blue Flag” award, no barbeques be allowed on the beach under any circumstances.

Upon being put to the Meeting, FOUR Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and TWO AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

Councillor Trite left the Meeting at 11.40 a.m.

Consideration was given to a request received from the Swanage Regatta and Carnival Association for permission to site a mobile catering unit on the former shelter site to supply refreshments to the runners taking part in the Swanage Half Marathon.

It was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, having regard to the close proximity of other catering outlets, no catering facilities be permitted on the former seafront shelter site in conjunction with the Swanage Half Marathon event.

(b) **Live Music**

A letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009 was submitted from Dr and Mrs. Jenkins, residents at Peveril Point, expressing their concern at the increasing number of live music events held on the seafront during the summer season.

Following a lengthy discussion, during which it was acknowledged that the music could be intrusive for local residents, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED:-

That Purbeck District Council be requested to monitor the noise levels of the music.

Councillors Gloyn-Cox and Mrs. Patrick left the Meeting at 12 noon.

Further discussion ensued, following which, it was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Poultney:-

- i) That **all** live music events held on Swanage seafront should finish by **10 p.m.**
- ii) **All new** events held on Sandpit Field should also finish by **10 p.m.**
- iii) Events held on Sandpit Field in connection with the Swanage Regatta and Carnival should finish by **11 p.m.**

Upon being put to the Meeting, FOUR Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

9. **PROPOSED DOG CONTROL ORDER**

Further to Minute No. 11 e) of the General Operations Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and Minute No. 3 of the Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008, consideration was again given to progressing the introduction of a Dog Control Order for Swanage.

It had been suggested that a project team be set up to progress the matter, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Poultney:-

That Councillor Hadley be appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Dog Control Order project team.

Upon being put to the Meeting, THREE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

10. **RUBBISH COLLECTION IN TOWN SQUARE**

Attention was drawn to the on-going litter problem in the Town Square, particularly during the busy summer months, generated mainly from the fast food outlets in that area.

A dedicated working group had been established by the Town Council,

comprising of officers and members of the Town Council, Purbeck District Council and representatives from SITA, to address the problem.

It was suggested that, with the possibility of new environmental legislation, further action be taken in the matter. It was therefore suggested that a meeting be arranged with proprietors of fast food outlets from all areas of the town in order to highlight their responsibilities in this regard.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Poultney (supported by Councillor Wiggins) be appointed to represent the Town Council on the Waste Management project team.

## 11. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

### (a) Poole and Christchurch Bay Shoreline Management Plan

Further to Minute No. 114 of the Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010, the draft response to the Shoreline Management Plan, prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk, was approved.

### (b) Marine SACs and SPAs in English, Welsh and Offshore Waters around the UK

Further to Minute No. 8 (c) of the Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and subsequent consultation with Mr. Alan Lander, Chairman of the Swanage Fishermen's Association, the Town Council's draft response in respect of marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), prepared by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, was approved.

## 12. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS

### (a) Swanage Tennis Club

Further to Minute No. 124 (a) of the Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010, the Clerk reported that 5 quotations had been received for the refurbishment of the tennis courts.

The contractors had advised that refurbishment works should not be undertaken during particularly cold/wet weather conditions, it was therefore unlikely that the works would be completed within the preferred timescale.

It was AGREED:-

That a meeting of the Working Party, consisting of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Mrs. Patrick and Poultney, and the Swanage Tennis Club be arranged to discuss matters relating to the rent of the facilities etc.

### (b) Monitoring of Efficiency Savings

Further to Minute No. 124 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 and the Meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010, the Clerk updated Members on possible efficiency savings that were being explored.

The Meeting concluded at 12.17 p.m.