

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND RESOURCES**
matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 18th AUGUST**
2003 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor H.J.F. Agelink
Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett
Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough
Councillor Mrs. H.O'Donovan
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor M.A. Tyrer
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Farrow, Suttle and Trite.

2. **BUDGET REVIEW**

(a) **Seasonal Income-General**

The Clerk submitted a statement of seasonal income to date, and the position was noted with satisfaction.

Arising from the above, Councillor Bright enquired whether details of revenue from the weekly market could be separately identified, and this request was noted and agreed.

ii) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park**

Details of income received to date at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park were also submitted for information, and in the absence of the General Manager, the Clerk gave a brief synopsis of the overall position.

It was noted that the commission on furnished caravan letting was down on the previous year, but this was attributable to the Council's decision not to partake in the "Sun Promotion" scheme.

The Clerk referred to the caravan sales, and reported that only five new plots remained available for caravans. It was anticipated that some existing owners would be looking to upgrade their caravans during the winter months in readiness for the 2004 season.

Copies of the Council's new Budget Statement had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting, and the Clerk gave a brief explanation of the information provided, which would assist with the monthly budget monitoring.

3. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

(a) **Football Pitch and Facilities – Day's Park/Journey's End**

The Clerk referred to the proposals for the creation of a football pitch at Journey's End, and the subsequent visit of an independent Environmental Consultant regarding the habitat of wildlife in the area.

No objection was raised to the creation of the pitch, provided that works were not carried out within 20 metres of the badger sett.

Discussion ensued regarding the work to be undertaken and associated costs, following which it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To accept the quotations submitted from
Kingston Contractors in the sum of £1,630.

It was **FURTHER AGREED:-**

To investigate the possibility of grant funding from the Football Foundation.

During the discussion, consideration was given to the land drainage, and it was agreed that this would be improved by open ditch drainage. It was noted that this work may require a specialist firm of contractors, for which it would be necessary to seek formal tenders. Consideration could also be given to the possibility of some of the work being undertaken by the Council's own workforce.

Reference was also made to the condition of the changing facilities at the Football Club premises, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That estimated costs of improvements be obtained and submitted to a future meeting of the Council for consideration.

(b) **Plant Replacement**

The Operations Manager reported on the condition of the Beaver T24 mower, and requested that consideration be given to the purchase of a new mower at an estimated cost of £20,000. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that repairs and annual servicing costs of the Beaver mower would be approximately £2,300, and a brief appraisal of the grass cutting requirements for the remainder of the 2003 season was considered.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett:-

That the repairs and servicing of the Beaver T24 mower be authorised.

This proposal failed to secure a seconder.

A proposal was then submitted by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon and seconded by Councillor Pratt:-

That the Council's existing equipment (i.e. Kubota tractor and accessories) be used for the remainder of the 2003 season, and that further consideration be given to the requirements for grass cutting machinery at a future date.

Upon being put to the Meeting, SIX Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and NONE AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

4. **REGIONAL TOURIST BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 21st July 2003, consideration was given to an invitation for representation on the South West Tourism Consultative Committee.

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

That the Town Mayor be nominated to represent the Town Council on the Committee.

It was further proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillor Bright be nominated to represent the Council in the absence of the Town Mayor.

5. **SWANAGE SEA ROWING CLUB**

The Clerk reported on a request received from the Swanage Sea Rowing Club for storage facilities for their boats.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred, pending further information on the proposals, and a possible presentation by representatives of the Sea Rowing Club.

6. **DOGFOULING**

The Clerk reported on a possible opportunity for Town Council staff, i.e. Enforcement Officer, beach warden etc. to be empowered to issue fixed penalty notices to people who allow their animals to foul in public areas.

During the ensuing discussion, Members welcomed any possible legislation to curb this anti-social practice, and it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To support the introduction of any necessary legislation.

7. **TITHE BARN MUSEUM AND ART CENTRE**

A letter dated 6th August 2003 was submitted from the Chairman of the Tithe Barn Museum and Art Centre outlining major repairs that are necessary to the Tithe Barn, and requesting whether display and storage facilities could be made available at the Town Hall.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED:-

That, unfortunately, no such space was available at the Town Hall, but to suggest that the possibility of storage facilities at Durlston Castle be investigated.

8. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

(a) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park**

The Town Mayor outlined the requirements for a structural survey at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, and, following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That Standing Orders be waived to enable a Structural Engineer to be appointed to carry out a full survey of the Holiday Park, with precedence given to the areas of urgency.

9. **EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 23rd September 2002, a letter dated 14th August 2003 was submitted on behalf of the Emmanuel Baptist Church outlining their proposals for the new church building and meeting rooms at Victoria Avenue, Swanage.

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

To affirm the Council's agreement in principle, subject to detailed consideration of the plans submitted.

10. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public 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.

11. **SWANAGE RAILWAY-LEASE PROPOSALS**

Further to a meeting held with representatives from Swanage Railway Company Limited on 24th July 2003, a letter dated 13th August 2003 was submitted for consideration, outlining the following proposals for a three year period:-

- Lease of the room formerly let to British Red Cross at a rental of £2,800 per annum;
- Retention of 12 car parking spaces in Victoria Avenue Car Park at the current rate of £200 per space;
- Management of public toilets at the Station for an annual charge of £5,200.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Bright, and **RESOLVED:-**

That the proposals be agreed, subject to clarification regarding the "management of the public toilet facilities".
