

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016** at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor J.M. Bishop

Councillor M.P. Bonfield

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor A. Lejeune

Councillor G.A. Marsh

Councillor T.J. Morris

Councillor G.M. Suttle

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 25 members of the public attended the Meeting.

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

**Public Participation Time**

Before the commencement of Public Participation, the Town Mayor welcomed representatives from Swanage Fairtrade to the meeting. As the current Chairman of Swanage Fairtrade, Councillor Marsh was pleased to report that Swanage had been a 'Fairtrade Town' for 10 years. She presented the Mayor with a framed Certificate in recognition of this important anniversary, and introduced Frances Ward, who had been appointed as her successor to the role of Chairman of the Committee.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Matters relating to potential oil/gas drilling at California Quarry, including a request for the recommendations from the risk assessment of Panorama Road to be implemented in full, the costs to be borne by the oil/gas drilling company. Reassurance was given that Infrastrata had been informed that these matters must be addressed prior to anything taking place.
- The Council's policy regarding commenting on planning applications in respect of land/property in the Town Council's ownership.
- The very poor and deteriorating condition of roads and pavements in Swanage.

The Mayor opened the Council Meeting at 7.20 p.m.

214. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Finch and Green.

215. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interest under the Code of Conduct as defined by regulations made under section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011, and requests for Grants of Dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

**Agenda Item No. 10 (a)** – Councillor Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being the Town Council’s representative on the Purbeck Citizens’ Advice Bureau.

**Agenda Item No. 10 (c)** – Councillor Harris declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a friend of the Chairperson of the Purbeck Film Festival Committee.

**Agenda Item No. 10 (c)** – Councillor Suttle declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a representative of Purbeck District on the Purbeck Film Festival.

216. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

217. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Morris, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

218. **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

219. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

220. **POLICY, FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Consideration was given to the following recommendation contained in the Minutes:-

**Review of Corporate Risk Register**

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

That the additions and amendments (approved by the Committee) be incorporated in the Corporate Risk Register 2016/17.

221. **WORKING PARTY**

(a) **Communications Strategy Working Party**

Consideration was given to setting up a Communications Strategy Working Party.

Councillor Green had indicated her willingness to serve on the Working Party, and, following a brief discussion, it proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Mayor, and Councillors Green, Lejeune and Trite be appointed to serve on the Communications Strategy Working Party.

(b) **Sports Working Party**

In response to a request received from Councillor Green, consideration was given to the membership of the Sports Working Party.

Councillors Finch and Green had indicated their willingness to join the Sports Working Party, and following a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillors Finch and Green be appointed to serve on the Sports Working Party (currently consisting of the Town Mayor, and Councillors Bishop, Bonfield and Lejeune).

(c) **Working Parties**

The Town Clerk gave a brief update on meetings of the following Working Parties:-

- i) Seafront Working Party held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- ii) CCTV Working Party held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
- iii) Waste Management Working Party held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
- iv) Town Centre Working Party held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
- v) Sports Facilities Working Party held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

222. **SWANAGE PIER TRUST**

Further to Minute No. 162 of the Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015, the Clerk reported on matters relating to the constitution of the Swanage Pier Trust.

Previously, the Town Council had been represented on the Trust by two Members (Councillors Marsh and Whitwam), but representation had now been reduced to one Member. It was noted that Councillor Marsh had been nominated to represent Purbeck District Council on the Pier Trust, and following a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillor Whitwam be nominated to represent the Town Council on the Swanage Pier Trust.

223. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

224. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and  
RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 11 and 11a, amounting to £1,081,731.40 and £45,555.45 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

225. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that, together with Councillor Marsh, he had attended the Presentation Evening for 'Volunteer of the Year' on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at Purbeck District Council when Mrs Jean Gibbs had been presented with an award for her sterling work with the Swanage Area Dementia Community.

226. **GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2016/17**

Consideration was given to the following requests received for grants and donations under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Further to his declaration of interest under Minute No. 215, Councillor Morris remained in the Meeting during the debate, but did not vote on the Proposition.

**Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau**

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

That the sum of £250 be donated towards the continuation of the CAB service in Swanage.

**Dorset Blind Association**

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Harris, and  
RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £300 be donated towards the costs of the Dorset Blind Association.

Further to their declarations of interest under Minute No. 215, Councillors Harris and Suttle remained in the Meeting during the debate, but did not vote on the Proposition.

**Purbeck Film Festival**

Proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Trite, and  
RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £600 be donated towards the costs of the Purbeck Film Festival 2016.

227. **PROPOSED GAS/OIL DRILLING AT CALIFORNIA QUARRY AND ACCESS ALONG PANORAMA ROAD**

Further to Minute No. 98 of the Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2015, consideration was given to an Internal Audit Report in respect of the Panorama Road access, which had been prepared by Rosie Darkin-Miller, the Council's Internal Auditor. (Copies of the Report had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the Meeting and were available to members of the public).

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

That the Town Council adopts the Internal Audit Report in respect of the Panorama Road access and accepts the recommendations contained therein.

Updates were also provided in respect of the other three action points agreed in August 2015:-

- (b) legal advice had confirmed that the agreement was binding on both parties.
- (c) legal advice had been received and would be considered by the Planning and Consultation Committee on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March.
- (d) advice had been received from the Dorset Civil Contingencies Unit, providing robust evidence of the emergency planning arrangements that are in place.

The Town Mayor then read a statement summarising the Council's position with regards to the proposed gas/oil drilling at California Quarry (a copy of which is reproduced at the end of these Minutes).

228. **RNLI LIFEGUARD COVER – 2016 SEASON**

The Clerk reported on difficulties experienced in recruiting a full complement of trained beach wardens during the 2015 season, and recent discussions held with the RNLI regarding the possible introduction of RNLI lifeguards on Swanage beach, including a presentation to the Beach Management Advisory Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Lejeune, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the introduction of RNLI lifeguards on Swanage Beach be agreed in principle, subject to negotiation of a satisfactory operating procedure for summer season 2016.

229. **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT**

Further to Minute No. 205 of the Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016, the Clerk updated those present on matters relating to the Youth and Community Centre project, and the Business Case prepared by the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust (SPDT) for a joint submission by the Town Council and SPDT to Dorset County Council by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

Financial support from the Town Council was requested from SPDT to meet the estimated annual shortfall for the provision and operation of the facility in the sum of £17,500 per annum, the contribution to be reviewed after three years.

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

That the Town Council confirms its agreement in principle to acquiring the Youth Centre premises and agrees to make the following donations to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in respect of the Youth and Community Centre Project.

Year 1	£20,000
Year 2	£17,500
Year 3	£15,000

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

- (a) Councillor Whitwam reported that during the past month he had attended meetings of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership and the Purbeck Transport Action Group.
- (b) Councillor Lejeune reported on an informal meeting held with Councillor Eric Osmond (Wareham in Bloom) at which advice had been sought on progressing the possible future reinstatement of the 'Swanage in Bloom' Committee.
- (c) Councillor Marsh reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the DAPTC Larger Town Councils Committee.

231. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that on the maturity of a bond held with Standard Chartered, the sum of £1m had been invested with Nationwide for a period of 6 months.

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

- (a) **Items of Information**  
It was reported that 'Switch on Swanage' Christmas Lights Event would be held on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 4.30 p.m.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, under Standing Order No. 1) c), in the public interest, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under agenda items 17, 18, 19 and 20 (in relation to the financial and business affairs of third parties).

233. **MAIN BEACH – EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PINES HOTEL WORKS**

Consideration was given to an e-mail received from Raymond Brown Construction Ltd outlining the complex nature of the works at the Pines Hotel and requesting an extension of time for the licence for access to the Council-owned beach and the siting of the compound.

During the ensuing discussion, Members acknowledged the difficulties experienced by the contractors in carrying out the complex works, and their dependence on favourable tides for the removal of the stone.

Concerns were expressed at the possible detrimental impression that the works may give to visitors over the Easter holiday period, and it was AGREED:-

That Raymond Brown Construction Ltd be requested to erect Information Boards at appropriate locations explaining that the ongoing works would be completed prior to the commencement of the main summer season.

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

That permission for an extension of time be agreed, and that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to pursue appropriate compensation.

234. **FORRES FIELD CHANGING FACILITIES**

Further to Minute No. 164 of the Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015, the Clerk reported on the outcome of the tender process in respect of the Forres Field changing facilities and public conveniences.

The tenders received were considerably higher than the estimated budget, and it was suggested that the overall scheme be reviewed, with the possibility of locating the new facilities on an alternative site.

It was AGREED:-

That the Report be noted, and that the matter be considered at a future meeting of the Sports Working Party.

235. **SEAWEED DISPOSAL**

Consideration was given to the current arrangements for the removal/disposal of seaweed and beach raking services.

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

That the contract for the removal/disposal of seaweed and beach raking services be renewed with the current contractor for the 2016 season.

It was noted that the contract would be put out to tender prior to the 2017 season.

236. **LEGAL ISSUES – RENT REVIEWS**

(a) **Ice Cream Concession**

A letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 was submitted from Thornes, the Council's surveyor, notifying the Council of discussions held regarding the rent review of the ice cream kiosks concession.

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

That the recommendation of the Council's surveyor, contained in his letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016, in respect of the rent review for the ice cream kiosks concession be agreed.

(b) **Sea Breeze Restaurant (formerly The Fisherman's Catch)**

A letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 was submitted from Thornes, the Council's surveyor, notifying the Council of discussions held regarding the rent review of the Sea Breeze Restaurant.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the recommendation of the Council's surveyor, contained in his letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016, in respect of the rent review of the Sea Breeze Restaurant be agreed, and that the request for an extension of the lease be considered further at a future date.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the tenants in respect of the current situation regarding rental payments under the lease.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 p.m.