

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the
Swanage Town Council held at the Town Hall,
Swanage on **MONDAY, 4th JULY 2011** at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor W.S. Trite (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett
Councillor M. Bonfield
Councillor I. Brown
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor G.M. Suttle
Councillor M. Whitwam
Councillor A. Wiggins

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 9 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Swanage & Purbeck Rotary Club

The Town Mayor welcomed members of Swanage & Purbeck Rotary Club, who gave an informative Presentation on the work of the Club, and explained how help is provided for the inhabitants of under-developed countries through Rotary International.

On the conclusion of the Presentation, Rotarian David Pike explained that each year the Club made an award to a local resident in recognition of outstanding services to the community. This year it had been a unanimous decision to recognise the dedicated and outstanding work undertaken by Councillor Mrs. Gloria Marsh, in many capacities, for the benefit of the town. Rotarian Mrs. Maggie Hardy was then called upon to present the award to Councillor Mrs. Marsh.

The Mayor opened the meeting for Public Participation at 7.05 p.m.

Public Participation Time

MS. JANE LOWSON referred to previous requests for foot showers to be installed on Shore Road, and enquired whether the matter had been progressed. She was informed that consideration was currently being given to the installation of two sets of showers (on Shore Road and at the Heritage Centre toilets) and that the proposals would be fully discussed at the next meeting of the General Operations Committee to be held on Wednesday, 6th July 2011.

MR. MIKE STOLLERY, of the Swanage Town Twinning Association, thanked the Town Council for hosting a welcome event at the Mowlem community room for a party of visitors from Swanage's twin town of Rudesheim am Rhein. The event marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the twinning, and the Mayor was presented with a certificate from Rudesheim am Rhein and a vine to commemorate the occasion.

MS. COLETTE DRAYSON referred to Agenda Item No. 6 – Proposals for School Transport Changes for 2011/12, and expressed her concern at the effect the proposals would have on Swanage school children attending the Purbeck School at Wareham.

MR. DUNCAN RENDELL, a school bus driver, highlighted proposals for the reduction in the school bus service, and the probable withdrawal of some evening services, which would affect pupils attending after school activities. He also expressed concern that if schoolchildren failed to produce a bus pass, they would not be allowed to travel unless they tendered the correct fare.

MR. DAVID HOLMAN endorsed the sentiments of the previous two speakers, and did not consider that the proposed school transport changes were reflective of the need for efficiency savings outlined by Dorset County Council.

The **TOWN MAYOR** acknowledged the concerns expressed by members of the public, and gave an assurance that the matter would be fully discussed under Agenda Item 6 of the following Council meeting. He then referred to an assurance given in the 1970's, that Swanage children attending the Purbeck School in Wareham, 'would not be disadvantaged', and enquired whether there was any documentation referring to this.

Revd. Alan Nelson offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

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

27. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Miss Harris.

28. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 6th June 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 20th June 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the declaration by Councillor Mrs. Marsh being deleted from Minute No.2.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy matters on 27th June 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

29. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism

Committee held on 13th June 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

30. **PLANS**

Under the Model Code of Conduct, Members declared a formal interest in the capacity of Corporate Trustee of the De Moulham Estate Trust in applications relating to the Trust.

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.

Non-Delegated Applications

Plan No.

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Poultney declared his interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of a prospective business interest, and as this interest may be prejudicial, he left the Meeting during the debate.

6/2011/0380 **D & P Lovell**
Erect 4 industrial units - Reserved Matters to outline planning permission 6/2007/0872 Plot 2 & Part Plot 3 Victoria Avenue, Prospect Business Park, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

Delegated Applications

6/2011/0346 **Greggs Central**
Install new shop front and roller shutter.
14-16 Station Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection, subject to the roller shutter being internally installed.

6/2011/0347 **Greggs Central**
Install non-illuminated shop fascia and externally illuminated projecting sign.
14-16 Station Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2011/0352 **Miss K Churchill**
Sever land and erect a pair of 3 bed semi-detached houses with associated parking; form new vehicular accesses. Reserved matters application (landscaping).
Adj.2 Holmes Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2011/0369 **Mr C Biffen**
Erect two storey rear extension. Insert dormer window to side elevation and make alterations to windows and doors.
4B- Sandpipers, Ulwell Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2011/0370 **Mr R Nonhebel**
Erect single storey side extension.
7 Shirley Close, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

Before consideration of the next item, Councillor Brown declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a colleague of the applicant and left the Meeting during the debate.
Councillor Poultney also declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of a business connection with the applicant, and left the Meeting during the debate.

6/2011/0373 **Mr P Brown**
Demolition of existing garage and erection of an extension to accommodate a garage and store with playroom over.
24 Cluny Crescent, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

Before consideration of the next item, Councillor Poultney declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a neighbour and personal friend of the applicant, and left the Meeting during the debate.

6/2011/0374 **Mr D Lucas**
Variation of condition 1 of PP 6/2010/0431 (Demolish existing building and erect retail shop on ground floor with eight flats over) to replace velux rooflights serving bathrooms at second floor level with dormer windows.
2-4 Kings Road East, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

Before consideration of the next item, Councillor Poultney declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of a business connection with the applicant, and left the Meeting during the debate.

6/2011/0383 **Mr I Holloway**
Construct off road hardstanding for parking.
437 High Street, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

Items for Information Only

Non-Delegated Applications

6/2011/0348 **Synergy Housing Group & Glossbrook Builders**
Demolish existing block of nine flats and four studios. Erect new block of nine flats with new vehicular access.
Cumberland Flats, 2 Ilminster Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No comment, pending possible future discussions by the Town Council as the corporate trustee of the De Moulham Estate Trust.

Delegated Applications

- 6/2011/0349 **Highfield Developments (Swanage) Ltd**
Variation of condition 2 of PP 6/2008/0784 (Demolish nursing home and erect a four storey block of 9 two bed flats and 1 three bed flat with associated access and parking) to incorporate following minor amendments: increase floor thickness by 75mm; increase height of lift housing; install external ventilation; lower level of basement; create front entrance ramp; install security gate to rear car park.
6 Westbury House, Rempstone Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No comment, pending possible future discussions by the Town Council as the corporate trustee of the De Moulham Estate Trust.
- 6/2011/0378 **Mason & Partners Ltd**
Change of use of first floor office to residential self-contained flat.
14-16 Station Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No comment, pending possible future discussions by the Town Council as the corporate trustee of the De Moulham Estate Trust.
- 6/2011/0379 **Mason & Partners Ltd**
Erect single storey rear extension.
14-16 Station Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No comment, pending possible future discussions by the Town Council as the corporate trustee of the De Moulham Estate Trust.

31. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to a request from the author, the Mayor read a letter from Mrs. J. Coates of Oxford, congratulating the Council and its workforce on the consistently high standards of cleanliness and maintenance achieved throughout the town over many years.

The Mayor then reported that he had attended the following civic events during the past month:-

- Hosted a reception for the Town Twinning Association, which included 38 guests from Rudesheim am Rhein.
- A display by the Royal Signals White Helmets and Retreat at Blandford Camp.
- Annual County Review reception to celebrate Guiding in Dorset.
- Taken the salute at the third Swanage Liberty Parade by the Royal Signals and received a presentation by the Signals to mark the occasion.
- Joined in the Veterans Parade and afterwards the Civic Service at St. Mary's Parish Church.

32. SCHOOL TRANSPORT CHANGES FOR 2011/12

Further to Minute No. 12 (d) of the Policy and Planning Meeting held on 20th June 2011, detailed consideration was given to the proposed school transport changes for 2011/12.

During the debate, grave concern was expressed at the proposals to reduce the school bus service for pupils attending Purbeck School at Wareham, with particular concern at the withdrawal of the N13 service for September. Members felt strongly that a bus service should be provided for all schoolchildren, and although it was pointed out that pupils such as sixth formers would be able to access the 143 service

where they would be able to pay a daily rate, rather than the annual fee of £400, the service would not provide transport for children living in the surrounding villages. It was requested that a written assurance be obtained from Dorset County Council that sufficient places would be available for all local children requiring transport to the Purbeck School.

Concern was also expressed at an issue raised relating to travel for 'children and vulnerable adults', and clarification on this issue was requested.

Other concerns raised were:

- Less buses would mean more cars transporting the children, which would be detrimental to the environment.
- Lack of buses to return children to Swanage after attending after-school clubs, and the possibility that children would be stranded in Wareham.
- Lack of notification – only a fortnight for parents to respond to DCC letter of 16th June.

It was generally considered that the proposals marked a further breach of assurances given in 1973, on the closure of the Grammar School, that local children would have free access to an excellent bus service.

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

That a strong and robust letter of objection be sent to Dorset County Council expressing the above concerns.

33. **LIGHTING AT REAR OF SWANAGE HERITAGE CENTRE/PLAYLAND**

It was reported that concerns had been raised by a local resident that incidents of anti-social behaviour were occurring in the service road at the rear of the Heritage Centre/Playland, and it was suggested that the installation of security lighting may act as a deterrent to this behaviour.

During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that the matter be referred to the Crime Prevention Officer at Purbeck District Council. It was reported that the matter had already been referred to Dorset Police, through the Safer Neighbourhood Team, and the situation was currently being monitored. An update would be given to a future meeting of the Council.

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

(a) **Swanage Youth Centre**

Councillor Mrs. Patrick reported that she had recently attended the Annual General Meeting of the Swanage Youth Centre, at which Councillor Mrs. Cherry Bartlett had been re-appointed as Chairman of the Committee for a further year.

(b) **Swanage Museum**

Councillor Ian Brown reported that he had attended a meeting of the Swanage Museum, and that the Committee had expressed their appreciation that a representative had been appointed by the Town Council.

35. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

- (a) The Mowlem Institute Charity Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2010 was circulated, for information.

- (b) It was noted that, further to Minute No. 5 of the Policy and Planning meeting held on 23rd May 2011, an invitation had been sent to Eneco to make a presentation to a future Council meeting, but as yet no response had been received.

37. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason 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.

38. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Land south of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the occupation of grazing land south of the Holiday Park.

During the ensuing discussion, an issue relating to a licence issued by a third party was raised, and it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED:-

That the Council's solicitors be authorised to act in the matter, subject to clarification being sought in respect of the enforceability of the licence issued by a third party.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.
