Minutes of the Meeting of the GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 1st April 2015 at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman: -

Councillor M Bonfield Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor Mrs C BartlettSwanage Town CouncilCouncillor I BrownSwanage Town CouncilCouncillor Mrs G MarshSwanage Town CouncilCouncillor S PoultneySwanage Town CouncilCouncillor M WhitwamSwanage Town Council

Also present: -

Dr M Ayres Town Clerk

Mr G Brookes Operations Manager

Mr A BennettProspect Allotment AssociationMr M GreenJames Smith Funeral DirectorsMr A LanderSwanage Fishermen's AssociationMrs S PowellProspect Allotment Association

Public Participation Time

There were two members of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

• Concerns were raised regarding the current District Council planning process.

1. Apologies

Apologies for his inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Pratt.

2. 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.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3. <u>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Operations</u> <u>Committee held on 19th November 2014</u>

5 a) Cemetery Matters – request to amend the current terms of the 'Out of Parish' fees – an enquiry was raised by James Smith Funeral Directors regarding the Town Council's Out of Parish Fees Policy. It was noted that this issue remained to be addressed.

4. Allotment Matters

a) Deer Nuisance

A copy of the Government guidelines regarding the management of wild deer had been circulated with the Agenda for information purposes. It was confirmed by the Operations Manager that the only solution would be to install deer netting around the allotment boundary, but as this was impractical there was no option but to monitor the ongoing situation.

b) Event – consideration of a vegetable/flower show to be held by Prospect Allotment Association in August 2015

Consideration was given to a letter received requesting permission to hold a vegetable/flower show at Prospect Allotments, for allotment holders. A discussion ensued and it was felt that if the show could be located on Rabling Green then it would encourage interest from the public. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That approval be given for the show to be held on Rabling Green for an initial one year trial.

c) Bee-keeping at the allotments – update on meeting held with local beekeeper

The Chairman gave an overview of a site meeting held at Prospect Allotments. The most suitable site for the bees would have been on Prospect Smallholding, however, the tenant had refused permission. It was therefore agreed that Prospect Allotment Association would meet to consider an alternative location/options.

d) Allotment Track

i) Condition of track

Concerns had been raised regarding the condition of the track. The Operations Manager confirmed that pot-filling would be undertaken after the Easter Holiday. There was a budget of £5,000 for this repair work. The position was noted and thanks were given to the Operations Manager and his team.

ii) Consideration of a turning area at the top of the track

Consideration was given to a request for a turning area at the top of the allotment track. Concerns were raised regarding possible obstruction of the allotment roadway. It was therefore agreed that no further action would be taken with this request at the present time.

Prospect Allotment Association confirmed that they would be putting up the previously approved signage in the lower car park confirming that the car park was provided by the Town Council for sole use of allotment holders.

5. Cemetery Matters

a) Fee for multiple interments of cremated remains

Further to a recent enquiry received regarding the purchase of a cremation plot for the interment of four sets of cremated remains, consideration was given to the possible introduction of a new charge at a reduced rate for multiple interments of cremated remains at the same time. It was reported that a neighbouring authority had been contacted and had advised that they had a policy to charge the full price plus one-third of that cost for each additional casket. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That in instances of multiple interments of cremated remains,

a reduced charge of one third of the full interment fee be made for second, third or fourth interments made at the same time, such charge to be subject to the payment of double fees if the deceased was resident out of parish at the time of their death.

b) Clarification of policy on footstones and kerbing

Further to an enquiry received from James Smith Funeral Directors requesting clarification of cemetery regulations regarding footstones and kerbing, consideration was given to the amendment of the 'Permitted Memorial' section of the cemetery regulations to make clear that footstones measuring 2'6" x 2'6" x 6" were permitted (as set out in the Town Council's scale of charges), but only within kerbed graves. It was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by the Chairman and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That the Permitted Memorial section of the cemetery regulations be amended to permit the erection of footstones measuring 2'6" x 2'6" x 6", within kerbed graves only.

c) Memorabilia on children's graves

The enforcement of the cemetery regulations in respect of wind chimes and other memorabilia on children's graves was raised. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the cemetery regulations would be left unaltered, and that their implementation in respect of memorabilia on children's graves be left to the discretion of the Operations Manager.

6. Boat Park

a) North Beach Car Park – consideration of trailer storage whilst the boat park is closed

It was confirmed that there would be a trailer storage area available at North Beach car park. The area would not be fenced off but there would be appropriate signage in place to indicate the allocated area. It was reported that repair works would be undertaken at the car park during the week commencing 16th April 2015 and hence this arrangement would not be operational until the May 2015 Half Term Holiday.

b) Proposals for removal of eastern jetty and extension of western jetty

The meeting was advised that as part of the RNLI boathouse project consideration was being given to works to the Town Council's nearby jetties. Further to a meeting with the senior project engineer a number of options had been proposed. After detailed deliberation it was considered that a variation of Option 3b was likely to provide the best facility for all users. It was noted that in all of the options the eastern jetty would be removed.

Consideration was given to a number of objections that had been raised regarding this proposal but it was noted that the retention of the solid concrete section adjoining the shore should address these concerns. It was AGREED:

That approval in principle be given to the demolition of the eastern jetty and extension to the western jetty by 15 metres as set out in Option 3b of the designs supplied by the structural engineer, and that delegated authority be given to the Chairman and Councillor Poultney to agree any amendments in order to progress the matter.

7. The Downs/Prince Albert Gardens – update regarding possible enhancements and potential for the Downs to be nominated as a local nature reserve

The Chairman advised the meeting that this item would be included on the July 2015 Agenda and a Working Party would be formed to consider the matter further.

8. Recreation Ground Phase II - update

It was reported that a tender process was underway for the construction of a new War Memorial wall and surrounds. Discussions were still ongoing regarding the pathways and bandstand.

9. Forres Playing Fields Changing Rooms/Toilets - update

A brief update was given on the current position. It was reported that the plans for a two-changing-room facility had now been drawn up and that the Planning Application should therefore be submitted by July 2015. The outline plans and elevations supplied by the architect were circulated at the meeting and Members raised no concerns regarding the design. Discussions regarding funding were still ongoing.

10. Town Council Depot – potential relocation update

It was reported that a feasibility study had now been completed which set out estimated construction costs of a new depot at the Purbeck Business Centre of £525,000. The Operations Manager also highlighted the need to budget for the fitting out of any new building.

In order for the Council to determine whether to proceed with this project it was noted that the costs of acquiring the site needed to be ascertained. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Brown and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That authorisation be given to the commissioning of a Valuation Report in respect of the Purbeck Business Centre jointly with Dorset County Council.

11. Operations Manager's Report

The Operations Manager gave a brief report on the following:-

- a) Safe Bathing Zone and Recycling Bins these had been deployed for the summer season.
- **b)** Town Square the flags had been put out in the Square.
- c) Cemeteries Operations Staff had attended a grave digging course recently.

12. <u>Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas</u>

None.

13.	Provisional	Date	of Next	Meeting
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The provisional date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 1st July 2015.

The Meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.
