

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY,**
22nd AUGUST 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor M.P. Bonfield

Councillor G. Green

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor G. Marsh

Councillor T. Morris

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 11 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Before opening the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed members of the public and read a short statement regarding the fire evacuation procedure, filming/audio recording etc. of the Meeting, and a summary of the procedure for Public Participation Time.

The Town Mayor welcomed Revd. John Cooper, from St. Mark's Church, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matter was raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Request to speak regarding gas drilling at California Quarry.
- Availability of Accident Book at Beach Gardens.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 7.10 p.m.

75. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Bishop, Finch, Lejeune and Suttle.

76. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interests and requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

77. **MINUTES**

- (a) Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Harris, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 25th July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

78. **GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Operations Committee held on 20th July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

10. **Memorial Benches**

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

That the Town Council approves the purchase of ten Eastgate benches to be offered to persons on the memorial seat waiting list.

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

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 4th July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

8. **Grant Application Policy**

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

That the draft Application Form and Guidance Notes for Small Grant Applications be approved and adopted.

9. **Review of Prayers prior to Council Meetings**

It had been RECOMMENDED:

That the practice of holding a short, appropriate prayer prior to the commencement of the monthly Council meeting be continued.

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

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next monthly Council meeting to be held on 26th September 2016 to allow for the views of those Councillors not in attendance to be represented together with representatives of Churches Together in Swanage & District.

80. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Green, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and
Consultation Committee held on 8th August 2016 be
approved as a correct record and signed.

81. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31st July 2016 was submitted for
information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

82. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer
Nos. 5 and 5a, amounting to £70,739.08 and £55,381.59
respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

83. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had attended various events in connection
with the Swanage Regatta and Carnival and the RNLI week, and wished to
commend both organisations for their sterling work in providing such a varied
and successful programme of events for both residents and visitors alike to enjoy.

84. **TRAFFIC PROPOSALS FROM DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL**

Further to Minute No.58 of the Council meeting held on 25th July 2016,
and a subsequent meeting held with representatives of Dorset County Council
Highways to consider the proposals for the introduction of a one-way traffic
scheme on Shore Road, County Councillor Trite reported that, in view of the
number of representations received from members of the public against the
proposals, it was unlikely that the one-way traffic scheme on Shore Road would be
progressed. It was considered that urgent priority should be given to
implementing the proposed changes in Institute Road for the safety of pedestrians,
and Members were pleased to note that works were scheduled to start on this
scheme later in the autumn. These works would include raising the pavement on
the western side of Institute Road and resurfacing works on Station Road, Institute
Road and Kings Road East. A second phase of work in Institute Road, including
relocation of the loading bay, would take place in 2017.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that these works would
necessitate road closures and the possible reversal of the traffic flow on Church
Hill, and it was agreed that information/maps relating to the improvement works
be displayed on the Town Hall notice board and the Town Council's website.

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

Consideration was given to a request received from Life Education Wessex
seeking a donation towards the work of providing health and drug prevention
education at St. Mark's school.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Harris
and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under the General Power of Competence,
the sum of £500 be donated towards the work of
providing health and drug prevention education
at St. Mark's school.

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

- (a) Councillor Morris reported that he had attended a meeting of the Purbeck Clinical Commissioning Group at which the reasoning behind the decision that the Royal Bournemouth Hospital should become the major emergency hospital in the east of the county had been explained.
- (b) The Town Mayor and Councillor Trite had attended a meeting of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils at Bloxworth Village Hall at which the proposals for future local government devolution and highway matters had been the main topics of discussion. It was noted that the next meeting of the DAPTC was scheduled to be held on 27th September 2016 at the Town Hall.

87. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

Items of Information

- (a) Public consultation regarding traffic flow proposals to be undertaken in November 2016.
- (b) Two 'Comments Slips' had been completed at the Council meeting held on 27th June 2016 as follows:-
- Consultation on future proposals for Local Government Reorganisation – To be considered at the September Council meeting.
 - Difficulty of access to Council Chamber and consideration of occasional use of alternative venues for Council meetings – Availability of the Emmanuel Baptist Church to be investigated.

Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- (a) Proposed increase in on-street parking charges by Dorset County Council.
- (b) Swanage Area Dementia Friendly Community – Request for official pledge of support from the Town Council and a donation towards the cost of providing an 'Admiral Nurse'.

Councillor Trite left the meeting at 7.50 p.m.

89. **BEACH GARDENS – INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL PLAYING SURFACES**

Further to Minute No. 74 of the Council meeting held on 25th July 2016, the Clerk updated those present on matters relating to the tender process for the installation of artificial playing surfaces at Beach Gardens.

90. **ACQUISITION OF SWANAGE YOUTH CENTRE**

Further to Minute No. 72 of the Council meeting held on 25th July 2016, the Clerk updated those present on matters relating to the transfer of the freehold of Swanage Youth Centre premises from Dorset County Council directly to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust.

It was reported that solicitors had been appointed to act on behalf of the Development Trust regarding the acquisition of the premises, and it was anticipated that a tenancy at will would be completed by 1st September 2016.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Green, 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 15 (in relation to information regarding the employment status of individual employees) and 16 (in relation to financial and contractual matters regarding the use of Peveril Boat Park during the construction of the lifeboathouse and related infrastructure).

91. **RETENTION OF SEASONAL STAFF**

Consideration was given to a detailed Briefing Note outlining the current staffing levels within the Council's Operations Department.

During the ensuing discussion, the difficulties in recruiting seasonal staff to assist in the provision of the Council's services during the summer months was highlighted, and consideration was given to the future operational staffing requirements. It was noted that, following retirements/resignations there were three full-time permanent vacancies for general operatives within the Operations Department.

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

To extend the employment status of the seasonal beach cleaner posts, OPS 17 & 18 to Beach Cleaner/ General Operative on a permanent basis and to remove the seasonal general operative posts, OPS 19 & 20.

Consideration was then given to the future provision of enforcement, and following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Green, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To amend the employment status of OPS 22 to full-time June to October (inclusive) and part-time (21 hours per week) November to May (inclusive).
To re-assign a further post to a seasonal Enforcement Officer (20 weeks).

92. **RNLI – USE OF BOAT PARK**

In the absence of written information from the RNLI regarding a financial settlement for the use of Peveril Boat Park during construction of the lifeboathouse and related infrastructure, there were no matters to report on this issue at the present time.

The meeting concluded at 8.05 p.m.
