

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 21st DECEMBER 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor J.M. Bishop
Councillor M.P. Bonfield
Councillor C. Finch
Councillor G. Green
Councillor A. Harris
Councillor G.A. Marsh
Councillor T.J. Morris
Councillor G. Suttle
Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 32 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Councillor Poultney welcomed Revd. Simon Franklin, who offered a prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

Prior to the commencement of Public Participation Time, the Mayor welcomed members of the public to the Meeting.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Future of youth services in Swanage. (A short Presentation had been given by representatives from Swanage Youth Centre prior to the commencement of the Meeting).
- Concerns expressed regarding proposals for the introduction of a Water Park in Swanage Bay.
- Proposals for future gas drilling at California Quarry, and the sale of assets by Infrastrata to another company.

The Mayor opened the Council Meeting at 7.15 p.m.

172. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Lejeune and Trite.

173. **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.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

174. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the
Council held on 23rd November 2015 be approved as
a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of
the Council held on 7th December 2015 be approved
as a correct record and signed.

175. **GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the General
Operations Committee held on 23rd November
2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

176. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning
and Consultation Committee held on 7th December
2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy,
Finance and Performance Management Committee
held on 9th December 2015 be approved as a
correct record and signed.

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

Terms of Reference

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

That the draft Terms of Reference for the Policy,
Finance and Performance Management Committee
be approved and adopted.

178. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30th November 2015 was submitted for
information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

179. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Green, and
RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer

Nos. 9 and 9a, amounting to £181,901.10 and £65,153.11 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

180. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- A celebration of 100 years of guiding in Swanage.
- The Town's Carol Service held at St. Mary's Parish Church on Sunday, 20th December 2015.
- The Christmas Breakfast held at the United Reformed Church on Christmas morning.

181. **SWANAGE WATER PARK**

Further to Minute No. 169 of the Council meeting held on 23rd November 2015, detailed consideration was again given to proposals submitted for the introduction of a Water Park in Swanage Bay, which would require access over the Council-owned beach. Permission was also sought for siting of the Park within the designated bathing zone, and the provision of changing room facilities.

A detailed and lengthy discussion ensued, during which reference was made to consultations currently being undertaken by the Marine Management Organisation, Purbeck District Council, and representations made by members of the public, both directly to the Town Council and on facebook. Particular weight was given to concerns raised by the District Engineer and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team.

It was proposed by Councillor Suttle and seconded by Councillor Whitwam:-

That permission for the proposals for the introduction of a Water Park in Swanage Bay, as detailed above, be not granted.

Upon being put to the Meeting, SEVEN Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition, ONE Member voted AGAINST, and there were TWO ABSTENTIONS whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

182. **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2016**

Further to Minute No. 159 of the Council meeting held on 23rd November 2015, consideration was given to nominations received for Volunteer of the Year Award 2016.

In view of the number of nominations received, it was AGREED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council to be held on 25th January 2016.

183. **YOUTH SERVICES ACTION GROUP**

Further to Minute No. 6 (b) of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 7th December 2015, and a subsequent meeting of the Youth Services Action Group held at the Swanage Youth Centre, consideration was again given to the future provision of youth services in Swanage.

During the ensuing discussion, Members re-affirmed their opinion that this was a vital service for young people in the town, and felt that every effort should be made to retain this facility.

It was proposed by Councillor Bishop, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, subject to the decision to be made by Dorset

County Council on 13th January 2016, an approach be made to Dorset County Council regarding the possible acquisition of the Youth Centre premises in Chapel Lane by Swanage Town Council with a view to the Swanage Town Partnership Development Trust developing a business plan for the future provision and operation of this facility.

Members also agreed in principle to consider all options for acquiring these premises, including the possible purchase of the freehold of the premises, if appropriate.

184. **NORTHBROOK ROAD**

A letter dated 14th November 2015 was submitted from Mr M. Barnes of Swanage, expressing concern for the safety of school children attending St. Mary's Primary School in Northbrook Road and requesting that a 20 mph speed limit be introduced in the vicinity of the school.

Following a brief discussion, during which reference was made to the proposals for a 20 mph speed limit to be introduced on the High Street in the vicinity of St. Mark's Primary School/The Swanage School, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a letter strongly supporting the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit on Northbrook Road in the vicinity of St. Mary's Primary School be sent to Dorset County Council.

185. **RECREATION GROUND**

(a) **Bandstand**

The need to consider future options for the Bandstand was highlighted, and it was **AGREED:-**

That a meeting of the Seafront Working Party (consisting of Councillors Finch, Lejeune, Marsh, Morris and Trite) be convened to determine the next steps to progress the matter.

It was **FURTHER AGREED:-**

That Councillor Green be added to the members of the Working Party.

(b) **War Memorial**

Further to Minute No. 165 of the Council meeting held on 23rd November 2015, and a subsequent meeting with the Royal British Legion Committee to consider the possible installation of a low cast iron chain link fence around the base of the memorial instead of a wall, Members again considered options and costings.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the preferred option of the Royal British Legion Committee was still for the reinstatement of the wall. However, it was felt that the proposed cast iron fence was not only in keeping with the original 1920s design, but would also enhance the memorial in its new location. The significant cost difference between the two options was also noted.

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

That in line with the revised plans, a low cast iron chain link fence be installed around the base of the memorial instead of a wall.

Upon being put to the Meeting, NINE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

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

- (a) Councillor Morris reported that he had attended a meeting of the Purbeck Health Wellbeing and Social Care on 2nd December 2015, which had been attended by interested local residents. The ‘Purbeck Pledge’ for 2016 was to increase exercise.
He had also attended a meeting of the Purbeck CAB in Wareham on 9th December 2015, and reported that the CAB office in Mill Lane would be closed for refurbishment from 21st December 2015. The service would be temporarily re-located to the Wareham Conservative Club.

187. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

(a) **Items of Information**

- i) EDP Drug and Alcohol Service would be holding an Open Day at their premises in Commercial Road on Wednesday, 23rd December 2015.
ii) Canon John Wood would be holding his final service before his retirement at St. Mary’s Parish Church on Sunday, 10th January 2016. Members wished to convey to him their grateful thanks for his services to the town and sent their best wishes to him for a long and happy retirement.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.
