

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY,**
25th JULY 2016 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 A. Lejeune
Councillor G. Marsh
Councillor T. Morris
Councillor G.M. Suttle
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, approximately 40 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. Chris Moreton, from the Methodist Church, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- A petition (signed by 350 residents) was presented to the Town Council objecting to the draft traffic proposals from Dorset County Council for changes to the traffic flow on Shore Road.
- Alternative suggestions put forward regarding traffic management, included the possible removal of parking meters on Shore Road, speed restrictions, widening of the pavement and introduction of a cycle lane.
- Concerns were again expressed regarding the proposed gas/oil exploration at California Quarry – climate change impact, possible effect on UNESCO heritage status, change of drilling company and future agenda, disruption to the habitat of bats (which are protected).

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 7.40 p.m.

50. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received for inability to attend the meeting.

51. **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.

Agenda Item No. 9 – Councillor Suttle declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a relation of the proprietor of Suttles Quarries.

Agenda Item No. 21 – Councillor Lejeune declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of a family member having passed an audition with the film production company.

Agenda Item No. 21 – Councillor Trite declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust.

Agenda Item No. 21 – Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust.

52. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Green, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 27th June 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

53. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 22nd June 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

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

5) **'Welcome to the Isle of Purbeck' Signage**

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Bonfield:-

That under the General Power of Competence, the Town Council provides financial support of up to £3,000 towards the cost of providing new 'Welcome to the Isle of Purbeck' signage.

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

Following further discussion, it was AGREED:-

That Swanage Town Council should have recognition on the signage. Delegated authority to progress the matter was given to Councillors Bonfield and Finch.

54. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and
Consultation Committee held on 4th July 2016 be
approved as a correct record and signed.

55. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30th June 2016 was submitted for
information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

56. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer
Nos. 4 and 4a, amounting to £169,132.24 and £69,796.63
respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

57. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- A meeting with members of the Swanage Town & Herston
Football Club.
- The Jazz Festival Parade and judging of the Ladies Umbrella
Competition.
- The 'Litter Free Purbeck' community meeting at Harmans Cross
Village Hall.
- St. Mary's Church Annual Fete.
- The last meeting of the Swanage Regatta & Carnival Committee
before the start of the carnival events.

58. **SHORE ROAD – TRAFFIC PROPOSALS FROM DORSET COUNTY
COUNCIL**

Further to Minute No. 4 a) i) of the Transport Committee held on 1st June
2016, and the public consultation held on the Purbeck District Local Plan, Partial
Review, the Mayor reported on representations received from members of the
public regarding the draft proposals for changes to the traffic flow on Shore Road.

He acknowledged the petition against the proposals which had been
presented during Public Participation Time, and reported that the Council's Traffic
Flow Working Party would be meeting with representatives from Dorset County
Council Highways to consider the proposals for the introduction of a one-way
traffic scheme on Shore Road on Wednesday, 27th July.

During the ensuing discussion, Members felt strongly that further public
consultation was of paramount importance before any progression of the proposals
for Shore Road, and considered that priority should be given to implementing
proposed changes in Institute Road for the safety of pedestrians as a matter of
urgency ahead of any changes to the Shore Road traffic flow.

It was reported that a public meeting would be held at the Emmanuel
Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue in the autumn to consider options relating to
traffic proposals on Shore Road.

Further to his declaration of interest under Minute No. 51, Councillor
Suttle left the meeting during consideration of the following item.

59. **PROPOSED GAS/OIL DRILLING AT CALIFORNIA QUARRY**

Further to discussion at the Council meeting on 4th May 2016, the Clerk reported that the following statement had been provided by Infrastrata on 15th July 2016 regarding the proposed gas/oil exploration at California Quarry.

‘Further to the acquisition of the seismic data earlier in the year it is intended for work to commence at California Quarry this winter. Whilst Infrastrata will no longer be directly involved in the project a new consortium is being assembled. The preferred operator will have to be approved by the Government.

The Town Council will of course continue to be informed as and when things develop’.

It was confirmed that ‘there will be no drilling in the autumn’.

Following a brief discussion, Members noted the update from Infrastrata and agreed to place the item on a future agenda at such time when further information was available, but not later than the October Council meeting.

It was further agreed that at such time that the consortium is announced, they will be made aware of the environmental, safety and traffic concerns that have been raised with the Town Council.

60. **PANORAMA ROAD**

Further to Minute No. 265 of the Council meeting held on 4th May 2016, the Clerk reported that the Panorama Road Working Party had met twice to give further consideration to the resolutions made at the Parish Assembly and to the recommendations made in the David A. Graham Associates risk assessment dated November 2014.

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

To authorise officers to enter into formal discussions with Dorset County Council regarding the adoption of Panorama Road, the matter to be given further consideration by the Working Party prior to a final decision being made at a future meeting of the full Council.

It was further RESOLVED:-

To authorise expenditure on preliminary items, including further bore-hole testing and the preparation of a cost estimate for improvement works.

61. **PARTIAL REVIEW OF THE PURBECK LOCAL PLAN**

(a) **Options Consultation**

Further to Minute No. 5 d) of the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting held on 4th July 2016, it was noted that the Planning Policy Manager at Purbeck District Council had been unable to make a presentation prior to the Council meeting due to the reconvening of the public examination of the Swanage Local Plan the following day. Having regard to the importance of the matter, Members were requested to provide detailed feedback to Council officers in order to inform a draft consultation response form, which would be considered further at the Planning and Consultation meeting on Monday, 8th August 2016.

(b) **Pan Purbeck Action Council**

Consideration was given to an e-mail submitted from the Pan Purbeck Action Council (PPAC) expressing grave concern at the number of proposed new houses (5,600) included within the Purbeck Local Plan, and

explaining that the PPAC had been set up in order to present a united front to Purbeck District Council in objecting to the proposals in the Partial Review. The Town Council's support for PPAC in challenging key PDC proposals in the Partial Review was sought, together with an invitation for Town Council representation on the PPAC.

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

That the matter be deferred for further consideration at the meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to be held on 8th August 2016, with delegated authority being given to the Committee to appoint a representative on the Pan Purbeck Action Council, if deemed appropriate.

62. **DORSET REGISTRATION SERVICE**

Further to Minute No. 5 c) of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 4th July 2016, consideration was again given to the proposal of Dorset County Council to close the Swanage Registration Office.

Detailed discussion ensued during which Members acknowledged the financial challenges faced by Dorset County Council, but felt that every effort should be made to retain the registration facility in Swanage for the benefit of local residents. They acknowledged that maintaining facilities and services in a relatively isolated location was one of the key challenges facing Swanage, and that this had been recognised in both the Purbeck and Swanage Local Plans, which set out a policy framework to protect the town's community services.

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

To approve the draft response prepared for submission to Dorset County Council detailing the Town Council's concerns at the proposed closure of the Swanage Registration Office, and stating that the Town Council would be keen to work with the registration service to find a solution to retain the service in Swanage.

63. **SWANAGE PIER TRUST**

Further to Minute No. 162 of the Council meeting held on 23rd November 2015, consideration was given to a letter dated 2nd July 2016 detailing a number of proposed revisions to point 3 of the report dated 20th October 2015, prepared by Steele Raymond LLP on behalf of the Swanage Pier Trust.

Following discussion, it was AGREED:-

That no objections be raised to the proposed changes to the Swanage Pier Trust – Constitution Review (Articles of Association).

64. **HERSTON READING ROOM CHARITY**

The Clerk gave a brief update on matters relating to the Herston Reading Room Charity. It was noted that the Town Council was currently represented by the Town Mayor on the Charity, and following a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Bonfield be nominated as an additional representative on the Herston Reading Room Charity.

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

Consideration was given to a request received from Carlotta Barrow seeking a donation towards the cost of producing a 'Swanage & Purbeck Sculpture Trail' leaflet.

It was proposed by Councillor Marsh, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972, the sum of £250 be donated towards the cost of producing a 'Swanage & Purbeck Sculpture Trail' leaflet.

66. **DORSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

In view of the increased availability of the 'Recycle for Dorset' kerbside service and the expensive maintenance costs of the recycling bring banks for glass, plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard, it was reported that Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) Joint Committee members had agreed to remove recycling bring banks from the remaining 21 sites in the county that currently provide this service.

It was noted that the bring banks at North Beach (De Moulham Road) car park would be removed from the site during the period July/August 2016.

67. **SEABREEZE RESTAURANT**

Consideration was given to a request submitted to Dorset County Council from the proprietor of Seabreeze Restaurant for a sitting out area on Shore Road. It had been suggested that this request be dealt with informally for a trial period for the 2016 season, subject to regulation by a sitting out licence in future years.

The Chairman invoked Standing Order No. 1 p) and briefly suspended the Meeting to allow the proprietor of Seabreeze Restaurant to clarify a point raised in respect of the application.

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

That no objection be raised to the granting of a 'Sitting Out' licence by Dorset County Council in respect of Seabreeze Restaurant.

Consideration was then given to a further request from the proprietor of Seabreeze Restaurant for the use of the gated area between the restaurant and the public conveniences for the storage of tables and chairs.

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

That a licence agreement in respect of the use of the gated area adjoining Seabreeze Restaurant for the storage of tables and chairs be approved, subject to the agreement of an appropriate licence fee (following the receipt of valuation advice) and the drawing up of the agreement being at the applicant's cost.

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

- (a) Councillor Lejeune reported that she had attended an informal 'meet and greet' session at Wareham Youth Centre to introduce members of the Youth Services Committee and welcome Richard Watson, the newly-appointed Senior Youth Worker – Purbeck area.

- (b) Councillor Whitwam reported that he had attended a recent meeting of 'Pub Watch' at which it was disclosed by licensees that three 'red cards' had been issued during the past month.
- (c) Councillor Morris reported that he had attended a meeting of the Purbeck Clinical Commissioning Group and was pleased to report that the future of Swanage Hospital was looking more secure.

69. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

Items of Information

- (a) The Purbeck Pledge 2016 initiative had been launched in a bid to get more people active and commit to making a healthy lifestyle change.
- (b) A meeting of the DAPTC Purbeck Branch was scheduled to be held at Bloxworth Village Hall at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 27th July 2016.

Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- (a) Bandstand, Recreation Ground.
- (b) Phase II (Planting) – Seafront Stabilisation Scheme.

Further to their declarations of interest under Minute No. 33, Councillors Lejeune, Trite and Whitwam remained in the meeting during consideration of the following item, but took no part in the debate.

71. **REQUEST FOR USE OF NORTH BEACH CAR PARK AND JOURNEY'S END FOR FILM PRODUCTION**

Further to Minute No. 49 of the Council meeting held on 27th June 2016, the Clerk updated those present on negotiations with the film company regarding the final proposals and requirements for the feature film production.

It was noted that the gross sum of £9,750 had been agreed with the film company for the use of the Council's facilities and related costs.

72. **ACQUISITION OF SWANAGE YOUTH CENTRE**

Further to Minute No. 45 of the Council meeting held on 27th June 2016, the Clerk reported on a review that had been carried out of the County Council's terms and conditions for the transfer of the freehold of Swanage Youth Centre, which had highlighted a number of highly restrictive covenants.

Concerns had been expressed by the Town Council regarding the covenants, and a subsequent meeting had been held with councillors and representatives of the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust earlier in the day.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bishop, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-

That the Town Council withdraws from the acquisition of the freehold of the premises, following confirmation that the County Council will continue with the transfer directly to the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust.

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 23 and 24 (in relation to financial and contractual matters regarding CCTV upgrade and Beach Gardens installation of artificial playing surfaces).

73. **CCTV**

Consideration was given to the CCTV system, covering 11 locations in the town centre area, which is owned and maintained by the Town Council and monitored by Dorset Police.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the current system was approximately 15 years old, and, with the advancement of technology, was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain.

Following further debate, it was proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To accept the quotation received in the sum of £17,818.30 for the upgrade of the CCTV system.

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

Further to Minute No. 262 of the Council meeting held on 4th May 2016, consideration was given to an extension to contract to provide a tender report and act as Contract Administrator in respect of the installation of artificial playing surfaces at Beach Gardens.

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

To accept the quotation received in the sum of £8,140 for the provision of a tender report and contract administration in respect of the installation of artificial playing surfaces at Beach Gardens.

The meeting concluded at 9.40 p.m.
