

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY,**  
**31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2016** at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor J. Bishop

Councillor M.P. Bonfield

Councillor C. Finch

Councillor G. Green

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor G. Marsh

Councillor G.M. Suttle

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 20 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.

In the absence of a clergyman, Councillor Marsh offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

**Public Participation Time**

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Expiry of planning consent in respect of proposed gas drilling at California Quarry.
- Request for Swanage Town Council members to support an objection to any new planning application that may be submitted in respect of gas drilling at California Quarry.
- Review of Risk Assessment undertaken in respect of Panorama Road.
- Concerns regarding obstruction for vehicular access to California Quarry.
- Availability of supporting Agenda papers for members of the public.
- ‘Purbeck Weekend’ sports event – Successful event, which raised approximately £6,000 for charity.
- A brief report presented by the Head Teacher of The Swanage School outlining the achievements of the school and its pupils, and expressing appreciation of the support given by the Town Council.
- An update given by representatives of the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust on the acquisition of The Centre (formerly Swanage Youth Centre premises), including re-decoration of the

premises and the funding strategy. The urgent need for volunteers to assist with the project was also highlighted.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

119. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Lejeune and Morris.

120. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any 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. 10** – Councillor Suttle declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a relation of the proprietor of Suttles Quarries.

In view of public interest in Agenda Item No. 10, the Mayor agreed that this item be re-scheduled for consideration at the start of the Meeting.

Further to his declaration of interest under Minute No. 120, Councillor Suttle left the Meeting during consideration of the following item.

121. **PROPOSED GAS DRILLING, CALIFORNIA QUARRY**

The Mayor read a statement from Infrastrata confirming that no works would be undertaken during the winter at California Quarry, and hence the existing planning permission would lapse on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016. If the licence was to be activated in the future it would have to be the subject of a new planning application, which would be discussed by the Town Council.

In view of the public interest in this item, the Mayor invoked Standing Order No. 1 p and adjourned the Meeting to allow members of the public to speak on the matter.

Concerns raised by members of the public included the following:-

- Original consultation not widely publicised.
- No predetermination – if new application submitted in the future, it should be considered separately.
- Robust policies should be in place to protect the area.

The Mayor re-convened the Meeting.

122. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Finch, seconded by Councillor Harris, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

123. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

124. **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Trite, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

125. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

126. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 7 and 7a, amounting to £287,241.21 and £120,054.32 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

127. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- The Dorset Lord Lieutenant's Awards Evening at which Samuel Jackson of Swanage had received the great honour of being appointed the Lord Lieutenant's cadet for 2016/17.
- The Annual Swanage Regatta & Carnival Presentation at which the sum of £23,000 had been distributed to local worthy causes.

128. **CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2015/16**

The Annual Return in respect of the audit for 2015/16 was submitted from BDO LLP (the Council's external auditor), together with a Report on the issues arising from the audit.

It was noted, with satisfaction, that no significant issues of concern had been raised by the auditors, and the annual reminder to the Council to implement the recommendations made by the internal auditor was noted.

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

That the Annual Return in respect of the audit for 2015/16 be approved and accepted, and that the content of the matters arising report be noted.

129. **BEACH HUT PRICES 2017/18**

A proposed Scale of Charges for beach hut hire in 2017/18 was submitted for consideration.

Discussion ensued, during which questions were raised regarding the pricing differentials between the peak season and the shoulder months, and occupancy levels of the upper and lower level huts.

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

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to enable further information to be obtained.

Having regard to the urgent timescale for the production of the beach hut booking forms and associated literature, it was **FURTHER RESOLVED:-**

That delegated authority be given to the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee to determine the Scale of Charges for beach hut hire in 2017/18.

Before consideration of the following item, Councillors Marsh and Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being the Town Council's and Purbeck District Council's representatives respectively on the Swanage Pier Trust. They remained in the Meeting during the debate, but did not vote on the matter.

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

Consideration was given to a request received from the Swanage Pier Trust seeking capital funding support from the Town Council in the sum of £50,000 towards the Swanage Pier Regeneration project.

During the ensuing discussion, Members acknowledged the importance of the Pier to Swanage and its tourist trade, and supported the Swanage Pier Trust in its bid for Heritage Lottery Funding. However, further information was requested regarding funds raised and pledged towards the project, and it was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and **RESOLVED:-**

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to enable further information to be obtained.

Having regard to the timescale for the submission of the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding by the Swanage Pier Trust, it was **FURTHER RESOLVED:-**

That delegated authority be given to the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee to determine the level of capital funding support from the Town Council towards the Swanage Pier Regeneration project.

131. **USE OF BEACH HUTS AS 'POP UP SHOPS'**

Further to Minute No. 107 of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016, and a subsequent meeting of the 'Pop Up Shops' Working Party, details of the arrangements for the use of beach huts as 'Pop Up Shops' during the winter period 2016/17 were submitted, for information.

The arrangements were noted and approved.

132. **PADDLEBOARD EVENT**

Consideration was given to a request received to hold N1SCO Stand Up Paddleboard National Championships in Swanage Bay during the weekend 10/11<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Discussion ensued, during which some concerns were raised regarding traffic management, parking and access to the beach.

A member of the audience, who had recently arranged a sporting event, indicated that he wished to speak on the matter, and the Mayor invoked Standing Order No. 1 p and briefly adjourned the Meeting for this purpose.

Further discussion ensued, following which it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED:-

That permission be granted to hold N1SCO Stand Up Paddleboard National Championships in Swanage Bay during the weekend 10/11<sup>th</sup> June 2017, subject to compliance with the Council's standard terms and conditions and liaison with Purbeck District Council regarding a Safety Advisory Group.

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

- (a) Councillor Whitwam reported that during the past month he had attended a meeting of the Purbeck Transport Action Group.
- (b) The Mayor reported that he had attended a meeting of the DAPTC at which concerns had been raised at the number of cycling events that were being held in the area.
- (c) Councillor Marsh reported that she had attended meetings of the DAPTC at which the main subject for discussion at both meetings had been the proposals for local government re-organisation.
- (d) Councillor Green referred to an event held on Shore Road to promote the work of 'Dorset Dogs', and to advertise a 'Guided Walking' event that was being held in November.
- (e) Councillor Trite reported that he had been scheduled to attend a meeting at Dorset County Council regarding the provision of the registration service, but the meeting had been postponed.
- (f) Councillor Finch reported that she had attended the Dorset Tourism Awards Evening at Bovington Tank Museum. She was delighted to report that she had accepted a Gold Award on behalf Purbeck District Council for the Tourist Information Centre at Wareham, and that Swanage Tourist Information Centre had achieved a Bronze Award. She wished to record her appreciation of the sterling work undertaken by the staff in both locations in achieving the prestigious Awards.

134. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

**Items of Information**

- (a) Armed Forces Day 2017 – In the absence of Mr. Frank Roberts, there were no matters to report at the present time.

- (b) The Swanage School – A short Report had been presented by the Head Teacher during Public Participation Time prior to the commencement of the Meeting.
- (c) The Centre – An update had been given by representatives of the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust during Public Participation Time prior to the commencement of the Meeting.
- (d) The temporary re-location of the Tourist Information Centre to the Town Hall had been completed, and the facilities would be open to the public with effect from Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016.

**Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

There were no matters to record for forthcoming Agendas at the present time.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, 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 17 (a) and 17 (b), and 18 (a) and 18 (b) (in relation to legal and financial matters).

136. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Seabreeze Restaurant**

Further to Minute No. 67 of the Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016, and the subsequent receipt of valuation advice, consideration was again given to the request from the proprietor of Seabreeze Restaurant for the use of the gated area adjoining the restaurant for the storage of tables and chairs.

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

That the request for the use of the gated area adjoining the restaurant for the storage of tables and chairs be approved, at a rental value in accordance with the recommendation of the Council's valuer.

Consideration was then given to a further request for a small extension to the left-hand side of the building to provide an additional service point. It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield and seconded by the Town Mayor:-

That the request for a minor extension to the left-hand side of the building be approved.

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

(b) **Santa Fe Park**

A proposal was submitted from the concessionaire of the Santa Fe Park to carry out future enhancements to the Park by developing the concrete and metal fenced viewpoint at the seafront end of the Santa Fe site.

During the following discussion, it was noted that the future of the former seafront shelter site had not yet been determined and it was felt that future

development proposals for this site should be considered prior to a decision on the above request.

It was AGREED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Council to be held after a forthcoming meeting of the Seafront Working Party.

137. **PROCUREMENT**

(a) **Town Hall**

Further to Minute No. 115 (b) of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016, consideration was given to tenders submitted for the external repairs and decorations to the Town Hall, and the recommendation of Dorset Property.

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

To agree the recommendation of Dorset Property to accept the tender of Ian Williams Ltd in the sum of £38,950 for external repairs and decorations to the Town Hall.

Before consideration of the following item, Councillor Suttle declared a pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of a business association with a company that had submitted a tender for the refurbishment of the Tourist Information Centre. He left the meeting during the debate.

(b) **Tourist Information Centre**

Consideration was given to tenders received for the refurbishment of the Tourist Information Centre, and the recommendation of Dorset Property. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To agree the recommendation of Dorset Property to accept the tender of Isles Building Services Ltd in the sum of £138,678.00 for the refurbishment of the Tourist Information Centre, subject to clarification of a matter relating to electrical work.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 p.m.

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