

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 23rd JANUARY 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor W.S. Trite (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett
Councillor M. Bonfield
Councillor I. Brown
Councillor Miss C. Harris
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor G.M. Suttle
Councillor M. Whitwam

Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public present at the Meeting.

Before commencing the business of the Agenda, the Town Mayor was pleased to announce that the Town Clerk had become the proud father of a baby boy. Members were delighted to hear the good news and sent their best wishes to him and his family.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Marsh and Wiggins, and the Town Clerk.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members were invited to declare their interest as per the Parish Councils Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 Number 1159.

No declarations of interest were expressed by Members on any Agenda items.

3. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/12-2013/14**

Consideration was given to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period 2011-2014. The MTFS had been approved and adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd February 2011 in order to ensure that the Council's corporate objectives were deliverable in financial terms. The MTFS had now been updated to incorporate projections for 2014/15.

Members reviewed the revised document, which sets out the Council's approach to income generation, treasury management, maintenance of adequate reserves and balances, capital investment and risk management.

After careful consideration, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To receive and adopt the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011/12-2013/14 (incorporating projections for 2014/15).

4. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2012-15**

Further to Minute No. 2 of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 13th January 2012, the revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2012-15 was submitted for consideration.

In reviewing the TMSS, Members acknowledged the difficulties experienced in diversifying the Council's investment portfolio due to the downgrading in credit ratings of some investment counterparties. They were mindful that the Council's primary objective was the security of capital, and that the need for liquidity and yield on investments remained important, but were secondary considerations.

After careful consideration, and in accordance with advice received from Arlingclose, the Council's advisers, Members re-affirmed the decision of the Finance & Performance Management Committee to reduce the Council's minimum counterparty rating from A+ to A- with immediate effect.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To receive and adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2012-15 and the Treasury Management Policy Statement.

5. **POLICY ON RESERVES AND BALANCES**

Further to Minute No. 2 (d) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 14th December 2011, consideration was given to the amended Policy on Reserves and Balances.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To receive and adopt the amended Policy on Reserves and Balances.

6. **SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2012/13**

Further to Minute No. 2 (c) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 14th December 2011, consideration was given to the proposed Scale of Fees and Charges for 2012/13.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the relevant sections of the proposed charges had been considered in detail by the Tourism, General Operations and Transport Committees (at which representatives from outside organisations had been present) and comparison made with the charges levied by other local authorities had also been taken into account.

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

That the proposed Scale of Fees and Charges 2012/13 be approved and adopted.

A copy of the Scale of Fees and Charges 2012/13 is attached at end of these Minutes.

7. **ESTIMATES BOOK AND PRECEPT 2012/13**

Further to Minute No. 2 (a) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 14th December 2011, detailed consideration was given to the Budget Report, Estimates Book and level of precept to be set for 2012/13.

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

That the Estimates Book be approved and the level of precept to be levied for 2012/13 be £608,775 (a 2.5% increase upon the individual taxpayer).

8. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME PRIORITY SCHEMES 2012/13**

Further to Minute No. 2 (c) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 14th December 2011, consideration was given to the Council's Capital Programme Priority Schemes 2012/13.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Capital Programme Priority Schemes 2012/13 be approved for officers to work up the schemes and report to the appropriate Council or committee meeting for final approval.

9. **GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2012/13**

Further to Minute No. 2 (b) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 14th December 2011, consideration was given to requests received for grants and donations under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

During the ensuing discussion, Members felt that the full budget of £10,000 should not be allocated at the present time, but that some funds should be retained for future allocation if appropriate.

Consideration was then given to the following applications:-

Dorset County Council – School Crossing Patrol

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

That a sum not exceeding £2,336.64 be contributed towards the costs of providing the Mount Scar school crossing patrol in 2012/13.

S. Darrington – Blues Festival (March)

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the sum of £300 be donated towards the costs of the Swanage Blues Festival.

S. Darrington – Blues & Roots Festival (October)

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the sum of £300 be donated towards the costs of the Swanage Blues & Roots Festival.

Dorset Blind Association

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

That the sum of £300 be donated to the Dorset Blind Association towards the costs of providing services for the benefit of Swanage residents.

South Purbeck Task Group – Streetwise Trips

Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the sum of £325 be donated towards the costs of providing transport for schoolchildren visiting the Streetwise centre in Bournemouth.

10. **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2011**

Further to Minute No. 82 of the Council meeting held on 7th November 2011, consideration was given to nominations received for submission to Purbeck District Council for 'Volunteer of the Year' award for Swanage.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Mr. Godfrey Moles be nominated for 'Volunteer of the Year' award in recognition of his sterling work in the community over many years through the 'Swanage in Bloom' committee and other voluntary organisations.

11. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Miss Harris, and
RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 10 and 10a, amounting to £2,114,499.51 and £38,407.63 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

12. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matter.

13. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Land South of Caravan Park**

The Mayor updated Members on matters relating to the occupation of grazing land to the south of the Caravan Park.

It was reported that an out of court settlement had now been agreed, and it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To endorse the action taken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in reaching an agreement.

The meeting concluded at 7.55 p.m.
