

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at The Centre, Chapel Lane, Swanage
on **MONDAY, 29th JANUARY 2018** at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.P. Bonfield (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor J. Bishop

Councillor C. Finch

Councillor G. Green

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor G.A. Marsh

Councillor T. Morris

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor W. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

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

Revd Andrew Corke, from All Saints Church, offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Before opening the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed members of the public and made 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.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- King George's Play Area – comments made regarding proposed expenditure on the installation of play equipment, and a question raised as to whether consideration could be given to new sporting facilities for adults, and new changing facilities in King George's Field. The Town Mayor explained that the focus for investment in such facilities was now Days Park. Attention was also drawn to the refurbishment of the public conveniences adjoining King George's Field that was currently underway.
- Defend Dorset NHS - disappointment expressed regarding the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee's decision not to refer NHS Dorset CCG's proposals to the Secretary of State for independent review, and concerns reiterated regarding the proposed changes to local healthcare, and unsafe travel times to access A&E and maternity services. An update was given on progress to date of the group's legal case for judicial review, and a request made to the Town Council for grant funding of up to £10,000 towards the legal costs of the review.
- Request made for consideration of enhancements to the existing network of cycle paths between Swanage, Corfe Castle and Wareham. As per Minute No. 186 (b) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 18th December 2017, the Town Mayor confirmed that this matter would be on the agenda of the next Transport Committee Meeting being held on 7th February 2018.
- Events 2018 - a question raised as to whether the Town Council would consider amending its current Charity Stallholders Regulations so that charities using the former shelter site in Shore Road for fundraising activities could be permitted to sell edible goods, e.g. preserves and cakes to take home. The Town Mayor

confirmed that officers would be instructed to review the current regulations and report back to a future Council Meeting.

203. **APOLOGIES**

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

204. **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.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

205. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 18th December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Bishop, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Green, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 22nd January 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed.

206. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 8th January 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed.

207. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31st December 2017 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

208. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in Payment Schedule 10, amounting to £253,165.08, be authorised.

209. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Bonfield reported that in his capacity of Mayor he had attended the following events during the past month:-

- Swanage Rotary Christmas Day Breakfast – it was reported that a most enjoyable time had been had by all attendees.

- Herston Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting - at which new Management Committee Members had been voted in, and ideas and suggestions for future uses and lettings of the hall, to ensure its long-term future, had been discussed.
- St Mark's Primary School's School Council Assembly, which had been followed by a lively 'question and answer' session with the pupils.

210. **DEFEND DORSET NHS – TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING TO MEET COSTS OF JUDICIAL REVIEW IN RESPECT OF OUTCOME OF CCG CLINICAL SERVICES REVIEW**

Further to Minute No. 178 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 18th December 2017, and a representation made during Public Participation Time, consideration was given to an email and Grant Application Form received from Defend Dorset NHS requesting grant funding of up to £10,000 towards the costs of judicial review in respect of the outcome of NHS Dorset CCG's Clinical Services Review (CSR).

During the ensuing discussion it was acknowledged that although the Town Council shared many of the concerns expressed by local residents' regarding the outcome of the CSR, it also had to be mindful of the legal advice that had informed Purbeck District Council's view that any financial contribution towards third-party litigation was unlawful. The Town Council could not act in a manner which would leave it open to an award of costs and consequently exposed to an argument that it had failed in its financial duty of care to local taxpayers.

It was noted that whatever the corporate position of the Town Council, Members were free to donate to the fund as private individuals if they so wished.

It was reported that the National Association of Local Councils provided a free legal advice service, and it was therefore proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That legal advice be sought by the Town Council from the National Association of Local Councils regarding the legal and financial implications of providing grant funding towards third-party litigation.

It was noted that once the legal advice had been received the matter would be brought back before the Town Council for further consideration.

211. **PURBECK TOWN AND PARISH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018 – NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR SUBMISSION TO PURBECK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Further to Minute No. 181 of the Council meeting held on 18th December 2017, details of the nominations received for the Volunteer of the Year Award 2018 had been circulated to Members of the Council for their consideration. It was reported that nine votes had been submitted, and the nominee with the largest number of votes was Mr Ian Brown.

A suggestion had been made that the Town Council should introduce its own scheme to recognise all nominees for this award, and Members were in agreement that this recognition should take the form of being awarded a certificate at the Annual Parish Assembly each year.

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

That Mr Ian Brown be officially nominated for the Volunteer of the Year Award 2018 in recognition of his sterling work undertaken within the community, and that all nominees for the award be recognised at the Annual Parish Assembly each year.

212. **EVENTS – REQUESTS FOR USE OF TOWN COUNCIL PROPERTY IN RELATION TO FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Consideration was given to a Briefing Note prepared by the Visitor Services Manager (VSM) detailing the following requests:-

- Sandpit Field – Swanage Rotary Sponsored Walk, 5th May 2018
- Main Beach - GO TRI open water swim session, 26th May & 16th June 2018
- Prince Albert Gardens - Swanage Area Dementia Friendly Community ‘Picnic in the Park’, 19th May 2018
- Days Park - Action Challenge Ultramarathon and Walk – 21st July 2018

Further to Minute No. 180 (a) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 18th December 2017, the additional information requested had been received from the Project Manager of the ultramarathon and walk event, which had been circulated to Members with the Briefing Note. Concerns had previously been raised regarding the size of the event and anticipated number of competitors using the seafront during the town’s busy season. Members were in agreement, however, that the event management plan provided was considered to be acceptable, and that competitor numbers appeared to be manageable. It was noted that the organiser had offered a fee for the use of Days Park, and that the event would be raising funds for over 300 charities/worthy causes.

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

That the requests from event organisers, as set out in the schedule prepared by the Visitor Services Manager, be approved, subject to submission of the required documentation at the appropriate time, and that delegated authority be given to the VSM to negotiate an appropriate fee for the proposed ultramarathon and walk event on 21st July 2018.

It was noted that Swanage Rotary would be submitting an amended application to move its sponsored walk event from Sandpit Field to King George’s Playing Fields in due course.

213. **COMMEMORATION OF CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE, NOVEMBER 2018**

(a) **Appointment of Council representative(s) to Royal British Legion Centenary Committee**

Consideration was given to a letter received from Swanage Army Link regarding proposals for WW1 Centenary events to be held in the town during November 2018, and which included a grant application towards the costs of arranging and hosting the events. Details of the ‘Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute’ initiative and guide was given.

A draft event plan, detailing actions to be undertaken leading up to and during the events, was provided. A steering committee consisting of appropriate organisations/persons to develop and take forward the programme of events would be established, and a request was made for the Town Council to be represented on the committee accordingly.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Finch, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That Councillors Bishop, Bonfield, Green and Morris, together with the Town Clerk, be appointed to the Royal British Legion Centenary Committee.

(b) **Consideration of Grant request**

Consideration was then given to the submission by Swanage Army Link for a grant of £1,000 as a contribution towards the costs of arranging and holding the WW1 Centenary events, as detailed in the draft event plan. Match funding would also be sought from the Royal British Legion, and sponsorship possibilities explored.

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

That, under the General Power of Competence, the sum of £1,000 be donated to Swanage Army Link towards the costs of the World War One Centenary events.

214. **GODLINGSTON CEMETERY – CONSIDERATION OF CONSECRATION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND (CofE) INTERMENTS**

Consideration was given to a Briefing Note and map dated January 2018 prepared by the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor detailing the difficulties experienced during the winter months with extremely wet and waterlogged ground in the section of Godlingston Cemetery currently allocated for CofE burials.

A suitable alternative area of unconsecrated land within the cemetery was available, which would provide an additional 64 plots in a much drier location. However, the diocese had advised that before the land could be consecrated for CoE interments, the Council had to provide formal evidence that it had agreed for consecration to take place.

Members were aware of the wet condition of the area concerned, and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Poultney:-

That approval be given to the blessing and use of the section of unconsecrated ground, as highlighted on the map prepared by the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, as consecrated ground for Church of England interments.

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.

215. **KING GEORGE'S PLAY AREA – AUTHORISATION OF EXPENDITURE TO INSTALL REPLACEMENT PLAY EQUIPMENT**

Consideration was given to a Briefing Note dated January 2018 prepared by the Operations Manager regarding the poor condition of some of the play equipment in the King George's Play Area, some of which had had to be removed as a safety precaution. It was reported that three quotes had been obtained for new play equipment to be installed.

During the discussion Members were in agreement that the play area was well used by local children and visitors alike, particularly in view of its location adjacent to the Council's Main Beach car park, and that it was a superb place for children to meet up.

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

To approve a budget of up to £19,496 for the repair, upgrade and installation of play equipment in King George's Field Play Area, as set out in the Briefing Note dated January 2018.

216. **BEACH GARDENS – PROPOSED TREE WORKS**

Consideration was given to a Briefing Note dated January 2018 prepared by the Operations Manager detailing proposed tree works at Beach Gardens. It was reported that works to a number of the pine trees was planned with the primary aim of making them

safe. Several of the trees display signs of disease and die back, with deadwood present in close proximity to public pathways. Where trees had to be removed a more varied planting scheme was proposed.

During the discussion concerns were raised regarding the scale of works to be undertaken, and the species of non-native trees to be replanted. Members felt that, in partnership with the Operations Team, further consideration needed to be given to the proposed works and replanting scheme before such an important decision could be made. It was agreed that a working party should be formed to undertake this work.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a working party be appointed, consisting of Councillors Green, Finch, Harris, Marsh and Poultney, and the Operations Manager, to review the proposed tree works at Beach Gardens and present its findings to a future Council Meeting for further consideration.

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

- (a) Councillor Whitwam reported that he had attended a special meeting of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership – updates were given on the following:
- Swanage Town Council would be represented on a newly established Steering Committee.
 - A Commercial Rail Officer was to be appointed and South Western Railways would be represented on the group.
 - Unfortunately, it was unlikely that the Swanage to Wareham trial service would continue during the forthcoming summer season.

218. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

Further to Minute No. 200 of the Special Meeting held on 22nd January 2018, the Town Clerk reported that solicitors had now been appointed to commence work on the Council's acquisition of Units 5 and 8 of the Anvil Centre, Prospect Business Park.

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

Items of Information

- (a) Offshore oil exploration/appraisal well located approximately 6km east-northeast of Studland – Application from Corallian Energy Limited for consent under Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (as amended) – a brief discussion was held during which Members wished it to be noted that they had received and reviewed the information and had no further comments to make. It was agreed that details of the application would be posted on the Council's website.
It was therefore proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Harris, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**
That the information regarding the application be noted.
- (b) Appointment of consultant to develop a grant application/project plan regarding coastal defence improvements – further to Minute No. 177 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 18th December 2018, it was reported that Mr Martin Cooke, Director of Heritage & Leisure (project development specialists) had been appointed by the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust. Work on the project

would now progress over coming months. It was noted that Mr Cooke had worked on previous projects in the town for Swanage Pier and Durlston Country Park.

- (c) Litter Free Purbeck – Update on activities in Swanage – good progress was being made, with litter picking and pavement sweeping activities taking place across the town, and the group would be holding its first winter beach clean on Main Beach on Sunday 28th January 2018.
- (d) Notification by Dorset County Council of Deposit of Highways Statements and Landowner Statements by Scott Estate – advice of receipt of the statements had been received from DCC, relating to lands within the Parish of Swanage, for information purposes only. It was explained that the deposits represented action by the landowner to prevent the accrual of additional public rights on the lands being registered. However, it did not affect any of the currently recorded public rights of way, or any existing town/village greens on said land.

Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- (e) Planning and Consultation Committee - Second Home Ownership - Notification of consultation by Cromer Town Council, Norfolk – it was reported that Cromer Town Council was looking to address concerns arising from the growth in second home ownership (locally and nationally) and its impact upon residents. The Council, would be submitting a proposal for legislative change, and had created an ‘Impact of Second Homes Survey’ which had been circulated to local councils for completion to inform its proposals.

During the ensuing discussion concerns were raised regarding the growth in second homes locally. However, it was also argued that greater consideration needed to be given to the survey questions before a response was submitted. As the deadline for completion of the survey was 7th February 2018, it was proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED:-

That delegated authority be given to the Planning and Consultation Committee to give further consideration to Cromer Town Council’s ‘Impact of Second Homes Survey’, and to complete the Town Council’s response at its next meeting on 5th February 2018.

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

It was noted that all Town Councillors were welcome to attend the Planning and Consultation Committee’s Meetings to take part in discussions if they so wished.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Poultney, 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 18 and 19 for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

220. MONKEY BEACH BOAT CONCESSION – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF EXISTING LICENCE

A letter dated 8th January 2018 was submitted from the Monkey Beach boat concessionaire requesting that consideration be given to an extension of the existing

licence to 1st April 2023. The licence had originally been granted for four years from 1st April 2016, although the concession had initially been advertised for a seven year term.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, and seconded by Councillor Morris:-

That the requested extension to the Monkey Beach boat concession licence to 1st April 2023 be granted, and that delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk to agree an appropriate licence fee for the additional term.

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.

221. **SANTA FE FUN PARK – CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FOR ROOF OF FORMER SHELTER**

Further to Minute No. 163 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 27th November 2018, consideration was again given to a proposal submitted from the leaseholder of the Santa Fe Fun Park seeking a licence to occupy the viewpoint above the former seafront shelter, and make alterations thereto.

During the discussion the previous concerns raised were reiterated. However, it was also noted that the leaseholder's primary aim was to improve the area and install enhanced lighting to encourage more visitors to the Santa Fe Park and adjoining Recreation Ground. Further comments were made that, as the Council would not be considering a long-term plan for the area in the near future, then a one year trial should be considered, with appropriate conditions included in any new licence agreement to mitigate Councillors' concerns.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, and seconded by Councillor Poultney:-

That the Town Council enters into a licence agreement with the leaseholder of the Santa Fe Fun Park for the use of the viewpoint above the former shelter site for a period of twelve months, subject to the negotiation of appropriate terms and conditions.

Upon being put to the Meeting, FOUR Members voted IN FAVOUR and SIX AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared NOT CARRIED.

It was agreed that the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Town Clerk, and Operations Manager, be asked to meet with the leaseholder to discuss possible future enhancements to the area in question and to report back to a future Council Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.
