



Swanage Matters

The official newsletter of Swanage Town Council

Summer 2014

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Meeting Dates

All meetings are open to the public and commence with 15 minutes of public participation time.

Agendas are available on-line.

Policy & Planning

7.00 pm, Town Hall
23 June, 21 July,
18 August

Council

7.00 pm, Town Hall
2 June, 7 July, 4 August

Finance and Performance Management

1 August

Tourism Committee

10.00 am, Town Hall
2 June

General Operations Committee

7.00 pm, Town Hall
2 July

Swanage Seafront Stabilisation Scheme Update

Swanage's seafront stabilisation works have recently been expanded to address the risk of land slippage in the central section beneath the war memorial. In order to sufficiently reduce the angle of the ground, the war memorial is being taken down and re-built further away from the top of the slope.

Ground survey reports had indicated that this section did not require stabilisation, but the unprecedented amount of rain this winter has meant that the contractors have encountered very difficult soil conditions, placing this ground at risk.

The extension to the works is likely to add up to an additional £¾ million to the cost of the works, which had initially been costed at £2.1 million.

Work commenced on the memorial on 7 April 2014 and it is being painstakingly removed stone by stone. Each section is numbered so that it can be reconstructed exactly as it is only a short distance away from its original location.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Ali Patrick, highlighted the opportunity that this brought to enhance the setting of the war memorial, commenting: "What better way to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War than to work with the Royal British Legion and local schools to consider projects such

as the creation of a garden of remembrance and improving disabled access that will ensure that the memory of the fallen is kept alive in years to come".

Councillor Patrick continued: "Had the Town Council not made the decision to get the seafront stabilisation scheme underway this winter, then it is quite possible that the landslide that had long been feared would have occurred. It is unfortunate that the Council is now faced with the need to extend the scheme, but it is far better that this work is done now, to ensure that the ground will remain stable even in the worst of conditions, rather than to do nothing and risk a future slip".

The stabilisation works, which got underway in December 2013, have been badly affected by the wet weather. Initially intended to be completed by early June, the works had already been delayed by more than a month due to the heavy rainfall and will now continue throughout the summer.

Although disappointing news, parts of the scheme remain largely on-schedule. The stabilisation work at Broad Road car park and the new seafront toilet block will be completed in July 2014. Most of the heavy groundwork will also have been completed before the main summer season and the beach, together with neighbouring businesses, will be fully operational.



Town Council sets budget to protect services

Swanage Town Council agreed its budget for the 2014/15 financial year at a special meeting held on 11 February which resulted in an increase in average (Band D) Council Tax bills of a little over £1 per month. During the debate Councillors voiced their commitment to the continued delivery of high quality public services. They also allocated funds to the Council's asset improvement programme, which includes the construction of new public toilets and changing rooms for youth football at the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field (Forres Field) during 2015/16.

In deciding to increase bills Councillors were mindful of the fact that the Council continues to face a number of financial pressures. Whilst steps have been taken in recent years to significantly reduce Council expenditure, a substantial maintenance backlog remains, particularly in respect of its ageing public toilet blocks and historic structures such as the Stone Quay. Looking to the future, Councillors are also keenly aware of the risk of cuts being made to services by Dorset County Council which is planning to save £48 million from its budgets over the next 3 years. If local residents wish to preserve those services then they may well look to the Town Council to step into the breach, as it has previously done in the case of the school crossing patrol at Swanage Primary School.

As well as being mindful of these pressures on Council budgets, Councillors were also concerned at changes to local government finance being introduced by central government. Until recently the Town Council raised all the funding that it required itself. However, following changes to the benefits system, which led to a reduction in the amount town councils could collect through the Council Tax, last year saw the introduction of a Council Tax Support Grant. This is payable by the District Council from funds distributed by Westminster, but is programmed to be phased out over the next three financial years. Central government is also considering limiting the ability of town and parish councils to increase their share of the Council Tax in future years, by making any increase above 2% subject to a referendum. Whilst on the face of it this may sound attractive, the cost of such an exercise is likely to be more than any increase in household bills.

Therefore, having carefully weighed up the demands on Town Council finances, it was agreed by a majority vote to increase average Band D bills by £12.64 to £138.67 per annum, a 10% increase. The Town Mayor, Councillor Ali Patrick, remarked: 'This was not an easy decision at this difficult financial time, but it is one which we believe will enable the Town Council to better face the challenges ahead, and will also keep the Council on a sustainable economic path'. She continued: 'At just over £2.65 per week the Council believes that its services remain excellent value for money, enhancing the quality of life for local residents and supporting local businesses by attracting visitors to the town'.

Councillors felt it is important to remind local residents how the Council spends taxpayer's money, and in this edition of **Swanage Matters** you will find a comprehensive list of the Council's activities.

Tourism

- Tourist Information Centre
- Blue Flag and Seaside Award
- Public Toilets
- Car Parks
- Beach Wardens, including First Aid and helping with lost children
- Beach cleaning and seaweed clearance
- Laying out of safe bathing zone
- Repair and maintenance of Festive Lights

Leisure

- Provision and maintenance of sports facilities including tennis courts, bowling green and football pitches
- Wedding venue at the Town Hall
- Christmas Tree & lights
- Insurance and funding for New Years' Eve Road Closure Order

Concessions & Services for Local Residents

- Free and low-cost residents' parking
- Sites for beach huts
- Reduced rate boat launching for local residents
- Funding of Mount Scar School Crossing Patrol
- Emergency response staff in cases of flooding and severe winter weather
- CCTV system
- Enforcement of dog fouling
- Free use of space for charity stalls on the seafront

Parks, Gardens & Council-owned land

- Childrens' Play Areas
- Sites for memorial benches in public gardens
- Allotments
- Cemeteries
- Maintenance of Parks and Gardens
- Provision of red dog waste & litter bins
- Maintenance of Council owned roads (Cow Lane (part), Panorama Road, Peveril Point Road)
- Maintenance of historic features such as the Alfred column, Roman columns at Prince Albert Gardens and the War Memorial



Partner Services

- Free use of facilities for events such as Carnival, Rotary and Lions Club Fetes
- Beach huts at a reduced rate for Lions and Stroke Club
- Small grants for events and good causes including Blues Festivals, Carnival Fireworks, Red Cross and Dorset Blind Association
- Land for sports clubs including Sea Rowing Club Gig Shed and Football Club
- Free room space for Registrar's Service and Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Free use of Town Hall for Town Band practice and equipment storage
- Accommodation for Dorset Police & jointly operated public helpdesk
- Support for Swanage Railway through reduced rent of Swanage Station Buildings
- Free site for Coastguard Rescue Station
- Support Dorset Waste Partnership in street cleaning

Emergency Response in the severe winter weather

Swanage Town Council's workforce played a key role in supporting the Emergency Response led by Purbeck District and Dorset County Councils during the adverse winter weather conditions. Assistance included the distribution of sandbags to local residents, removal of damaged and fallen trees, provision and placing of sandbags in the severely flooded lower High Street and the clearing of debris, stones and sand from along Shore Road which had had to be closed because it had become impassable during the storms.

Geoff Brookes, Operations Manager, and his dedicated team are to be congratulated for their sterling efforts in returning the town to 'business as usual' during these severe weather conditions.

Swanage Railway Lease Completion

Swanage Town Council and Swanage Railway have now agreed and completed a new lease for Swanage Railway Station for a period of 99 years. The land owned by the Town Council includes the station building, goods shed and track bed as far as Northbrook Railway Bridge.

The award-winning railway is one of Britain's most popular heritage railways attracting visitors from all over the world and has recently announced that



between 1 January and 31 December 2013 its dedicated volunteers carried a total of 210,984 passengers on trains running on the rebuilt railway from Norden Park & Ride to Corfe Castle, Harman's Cross, Herston and Swanage. A regular train service between Swanage and Wareham is planned in the near future but cannot start until the existing signalling and level crossing projects have been completed.

Local residents and businesses alike are very much looking forward to seeing the re-opening of the track from Norden to Wareham during 2015. Trial services are planned for September 2015 with possibly up to 4 trains per day during an initial 50 day trial period and up to 90 days in 2016.

For further information please see the Swanage Railway website at www.swanagerailway.co.uk

Keeping Swanage Clean

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, littering and dog fouling in public areas are monitored closely by the Council's Enforcement Officers. Swanage welcomes responsible dog owners but there is still a small minority who do not pick up after their dogs, seriously affecting the appearance of the area and posing a public health hazard. Following training in 2013, Enforcement Officers have been authorised to warn people of the consequences of their actions and issue fines of £50 where appropriate. Any fines issued are enforceable through the Courts.

Disappointingly the Town Council has recently been advised on numerous occasions of repeated fouling in Northbrook Cemetery and also local parks and play areas which is of real concern to local residents and parents of children who regularly use these facilities.

Red dog waste bins are provided by the Council in all of these areas. Ordinary litter waste bins can also be used for this purpose. The Council would therefore respectfully request that all dog owners utilise these bins accordingly to help to improve this situation and assist the Council in continuing to make Swanage a pleasant place for residents and visitors alike.

The Council would remind residents that a "dog exclusion zone" is in place on Swanage beach between 1 May and 30 September each year.



Armed Forces Day & Mayor's Civic Service 29 June 2014

On Sunday 29 June 2014 the annual Parade and Civic Service will take place at St Mary's Parish Church at 3.00 p.m. The parade will form at Prince Albert Gardens and proceed to the church at 2.30 p.m. The 11th Signal Regiment, Blandford will be represented having been granted the Liberty of the Town in 2004 and the Wessex Military Band will lead the procession. Everybody welcome.



Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances the 2014 Armed Forces Day Event planned for Saturday 28th June 2014, which was to have included the Royal Signals 30th Anniversary working and supporting the Swanage Railway liberty parade, has had to be cancelled. The Swanage Army Link is a dynamic association that has evolved over nearly 30 years between the Swanage Railway, the British Army, the People of Swanage and the Royal British Legion, and the Town Council very much looks forward to welcoming the Regiment once again in 2015.

Swanage Bay Speed Regulations

Swanage Bay provides attractive sailing grounds and a place for a wide range of water sports, including bathing which is popular throughout the local area. 5 knot speed limits apply off bathing beaches at Swanage, Studland, Poole and Bournemouth. Speed limit areas are clearly marked during the bathing season from May to September, in Swanage these are marked out from Easter onwards. Please watch out for and respect the bathing only zones which are marked by yellow buoys off the main bathing beaches and are separate from the speed limit zones.

Poole Harbour Commissioners work closely with local authorities, Police, Coastguard and recreational groups, through the Dorset Coast Forum, to promote safe and environmentally friendly activities and to keep the coast safe, beautiful and attractive for the future.

For further information and advice please visit www.dorsetforyou.com or Poole Harbour Commissioners website at www.phc.co.uk and www.phc.co.uk/downloads/general/Bay.pdf



New Pay by Phone Parking Provider

Earlier this year, Swanage Town Council introduced a new pay by phone parking provider, BemroseBooth Mobile, to the town's car parks and parking zones. BemroseBooth Mobile 'Phone and Pay' is a quick and easy mobile phone service, which makes it easier for you to pay for your parking by credit or debit card via phone, text messaging or Smartphone application. Paying with coins is still an option, but 'Phone and Pay' offers an excellent alternative for those who prefer otherwise.

To use the service, simply park as usual and look for the 'Phone and Pay' signs nearby or on the parking meter. These provide the standard rate telephone number, 01305 233070, you need to call. If you haven't used 'Phone and Pay' before, you will be asked for details of your vehicle, your four digit location code (from the sign) and your payment card. Alternatively, you can save time by pre-registering for the service at www.phoneandpay.co.uk Once registered, the service recognises your mobile phone number each time you call. The 'Phone and Pay' service is available across most of Dorset, including Weymouth, Bournemouth and Poole, which means that once you have registered you can use the service wherever you go, all you need to remember to do is to change the four digit car park location code (from the sign). A convenience charge of 8p is made for using 'Phone and Pay', on top of the car parking tariff, however, the Council is currently covering this cost and it is not passed on to those using the service.

The Council originally introduced pay by phone parking services to make visiting the town more convenient and it anticipates that enabling visitors and residents to extend their parking time whenever they want without having to return to their car or the parking meter will also assist local businesses.

If you require any further information, please visit the Council's website (Car Parks and Residents' Permits) at www.swanage.gov.uk or the 'Phone and Pay' website at www.phoneandpay.co.uk



Peveril Boat Park Temporary Closure

This year the Town Council is only able to accept bookings for the boat park for the period 1 May to 31 October 2014. This is because the Council has been advised by the RNLI that they will be rebuilding their boathouse adjacent to Peveril Boat Park from mid-November 2014. Space will be required at the boat park for a compound for the contractors and also to house the Inshore Lifeboat whilst the works are taking place.

This action will pose a significant risk of disruption to boat park users, including potential health and safety problems. Unfortunately, the decision has therefore been made to close the boat park at the end of the summer season 2014.

It is anticipated that the boat park will remain closed for approximately 18 months and will re-open in Spring 2016. We apologise for any inconvenience this closure may cause and if you have any concerns about this matter please do not hesitate to get in touch.



New/improved Dropped Kerbs

After consultation between the Town Council and Dorset County Council new/improved dropped kerbs have now been installed in the town and the Council is pleased to advise that these are situated at:

- Court Road – repositioned at junction with Kings Road West
- Fire Station forecourt – kerbs removed and new concrete and tarmac put in place
- Taunton Road – access to High Street, planed off and junction resurfaced to give good access
- Stafford Road – access to High Street, planed off and junction resurfaced to give good access
- Town Hall Lane – access to High Street, planed off and junction resurfaced to give good access
- Prospect Crescent - 3 new dropped kerbs to allow safe access across Prospect Crescent and Rabbling Road

Please contact Dorset County Council if you have any comments regarding dropped kerbs or require any further information on 01305 221000 or via Email Contact Form through the website www.dorsetforyou.com Please also send a copy of any enquiry made to Swanage Town Council at admin@swanage.gov.uk Thank you.

NAVITUS BAY WIND FARM - LAST CHANCE

NBDL, the developer of the wind farm off Swanage, has filed its application with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). If the application is accepted, the year-long examination will lead to a final decision in late 2015.

Individuals, businesses and organisations have one last chance to influence the decision, by registering as an "Interested Party". This is the only way left for you to give your feedback on the final version of the proposal (which has changed since last year), and to participate in the examination if you wish. Even if you have written to NBDL before, you should register your opinions directly with PINS.

You will be able to register to become an interested party on this application until **Monday 23 June 2014**. Challenge Navitus will also publish details online. Registration must be via an official form which can be requested from PINS, by calling 0303 444 5000, or by completing online at www.tinyurl.com/nbayportal during the registration period.

There is more information on www.navitusbaywindpark.co.uk and www.challengenavitus.org.uk

Swanage Market

The Town Council are pleased to announce that at the Council Meeting held on Monday 28th April 2014 the licence was awarded to a new market operator, Markets JC Ltd.

Markets JC Ltd have had a long association with the town and a proven track record in managing local markets in Dorset since 1981. They successfully ran the Wednesday market at the Red Lion in Swanage for 19 years during the 1980's and 1990's and also a Friday market at Swanage Town & Herston FC. Mr John Perry of Markets JC has advised that they are very much looking forward to reviving and raising the profile of Swanage Market once again.

The market is now held weekly on a Friday at the Main Beach Car Park (Victoria Avenue) site from 8.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. Local residents will continue to enjoy 2 hours free parking from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. on market days. For further information please see Markets JC Ltd website at: www.marketsjc.com

Forthcoming items and consultations:

- Swanage Bandstand consultation
- New changing facilities at Forres Field
- Swanage Local Plan Update

Dates for your Diary

ASK Dorset Roadshow www.dorsetforyou.com/have-your-say

Co-op Supermarket, 4.30 pm – 7.00 pm	17 June 2014
Mayor's Civic Service	29 June 2014
Purbeck Plod	29 June 2014
Swanage Jazz Festival	11 - 13 July 2014
Swanage Regatta & Carnival	26 July - 2 August 2014
Swanage Rotary Craft Fair, Sandpit Field	7 August 2014
Swanage Lifeboat Week	8 - 16 August 2014
Swanage Triathlon	10 August 2014
Swanage Lions Family Day, Sandpit Field	21 August 2014

Contact your Councillors

You may contact any of your Town Councillors to raise any issue of concern to the local community.

North Ward

Cllr Miss Cindy Harris
The Sidings, East Burton Road, Wool,
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Tel: 01929 405491
cidders12@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Gloria Marsh (D)
35 Mariners Drive, Swanage BH19 2SJ
Tel: 01929 422015
Cllr.Marsh@purbeck-dc.gov.uk

Cllr Gary Suttle (D)
C/o Suttle & Co, Unit 1, Plot 2, Victoria Avenue Industrial
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Cllr Bill Trite (CC) (D)
134 Kings Road West, Swanage BH19 1HT
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Cllr Mike Whitwam
21 Swanbrook Mews, 68 Kings Road West,
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(D) = District Councillor
(CC) = County Councillor

South Ward

Cllr Mrs Ali Patrick (Town Mayor) (D)
54 Steer Road, Swanage BH19 2RX
Tel: 01929 426534
ali@patrickswanage.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Cherry Bartlett
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Cllr Mike Bonfield
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Cllr Ian Brown
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Cllr Steve Poultney (Deputy Mayor)
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Cllr Mike Pratt (D)
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Cllr Angelo Wiggins
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The Town Council is keen to hear your views on any issue featured in this newsletter. You can email comments to admin@swanage.gov.uk. Alternatively, send a letter, or complete your details below and return this slip to Swanage Town Council, Town Hall, High Street, Swanage, BH19 2NZ.

Name and contact details:.....

Comments:

