

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the
Swanage Town Council held at the Town Hall,
High Street, Swanage on **MONDAY, 4th AUGUST**
2025 at 6.15 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M. Bonfield – Chairman

Councillor S. Brookes
Councillor P. Burridge
Councillor M. Coward
Councillor J. Dorrington
Councillor J. Lejeune
Councillor T. Foster
Councillor C. Moreton
Councillor C. Sutton
Councillor C. Tomes
Councillor S. Vile

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

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- **Agenda item 4)a)** – A procedural challenge was raised regarding the proposed use of Standing Orders to exclude the press and public from consideration of this item. Representations were made that deliberations about the project programme for the green seafront scheme should be made in public.
- A number of questions were asked around future actions in connection with the Green Seafront Scheme and Shore Road options. It was agreed that these would be submitted in writing and that a response would be provided accordingly.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at approximately 6.25 p.m.

68. **Apologies**

No apologies had been received prior to the meeting.

69. **Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

No declarations were made on this occasion.

70. **Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

It was reported that public engagement relating to the Neighbourhood Plan would be launched next week.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Foster:-

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 item 4 for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

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

71. **Green Seafront Scheme**

(a) Project programme update

Consideration was given to a briefing note that had been circulated prior to the meeting, which set out a revised timeline for the design, procurement and construction work required to stabilise the seafront land. A start date for construction was now scheduled for September 2027, one year later than set out in the recent public engagement exercise. It was noted that this still remained contingent on factors such as the identification of funding and the length of time taken to approve a planning application. The cost implications of the revised timescale, both positive and negative, were also noted.

During the discussion, members recognised the risk of further deterioration in ground conditions but the benefits of taking additional time to refine the proposals in light of public feedback were also highlighted.

It was proposed by Councillor Lejeune, seconded by Councillor Vile and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

To acknowledge the revised timeline for the Green Seafront stabilisation works, as set out in the briefing note circulated in connection with this item.

(b) To consider procurement of a technical note to review the engineering methodology for the stabilisation works

A proposal to procure a technical note to review the engineering methodology for the seafront stabilisation works was summarised, as set out in a briefing note that had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that it would be good practice to review this matter at this point in time, prior to the finalisation of preliminary design work over coming months. Consideration was given to two submissions that had been received from appropriately qualified consultants.

It was proposed by Councillor Dorrington, seconded by Councillor Tomes and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

To issue an order to Dorset Council in the sum of £1,060.90 to commission Heidelberg Materials Contracting to produce a technical note setting out a review of the engineering methodology for the long-term stabilisation of the Green Seafront.

The Meeting closed at approximately 6.40 p.m.