

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor J.M. Bishop
Councillor M.P. Bonfield
Councillor Mrs. G. Green
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor T.J. Morris
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 14 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Councillor Poultney welcomed Revd. John Cooper, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Before opening the meeting for Public Participation, Councillor Poultney welcomed Mrs. Kim Gallagher and Mr. Mel Norris, and invited them to make a short presentation on behalf of the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust and the Swanage Action for Refugees.

Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

Mrs. Gallagher gave a brief summary of the aims of the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust to acquire the former St. Mark's School building on Bell Street as a community 'enterprise hub', and sought the support of the Town Council in this initiative.

Swanage Action for Refugees

Mr. Mel Norris referred to widespread concern locally on the plight of refugees in general and from Syria in particular, which had resulted in the formation of 'Swanage Action for Refugees'. He then explained the initial priorities of the group, which included identifying possible local accommodation for the refugees, and liaising with the Health Centre regarding the inevitable additional call on its services.

Public Participation Time

Prior to the commencement of Public Participation Time, the Mayor welcomed members of the public to the Meeting, and gave a brief summary of the format of Public Participation Time, which would be conducted in accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Possible retention of the No. 5 Durlston bus to provide an all-year-round 'Town Bus' service.
- Insurance cover in respect of Charity Stalls on Council-owned land.

- Appreciation expressed regarding the organisation of the ‘Purbeck Marathon’.
- Dirty condition of Commercial Lane between Commercial Road/Institute Road.
- Timescale and proposals for Pines Hotel stabilisation works.

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

105. **APOLOGIES**

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

106. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interest under the Code of Conduct as defined by regulations made under section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011, and requests for Grants of Dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Agenda Item No. 20 (b) – Councillor Trite declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust.

Agenda Item No. 20 (b) – Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of the Swanage Railway Trust.

(a) **Application for a Grant of a Dispensation – Setting of Precept for 2016/17.**

It was AGREED:-

That this item be deferred for consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on 26th October 2015.

107. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Green, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 24th August 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

108. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 7th September 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

109. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31st August 2015 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

110. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 6 and 6a, amounting to £1,104,343.05 and £83,718.29 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

111. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had no matters to report on events during the past month.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, it was agreed that Agenda Item No. 15 be brought forward for consideration whilst a representative from Raymond Brown Construction (the contractors undertaking the stabilisation works) was present at the meeting.

112. **PINES HOTEL STABILISATION WORKS**

Consideration was given to a request received from Raymond Brown Construction seeking permission for access across the main beach for vehicles/plant in connection with the Pines Hotel stabilisation works.

Details of the proposed works, together with a map showing the location of the compound, tip area and vehicle route to the site was submitted for information.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That permission be granted to Raymond Brown Construction for access across the main beach for vehicles/plant in connection with the Pines Hotel stabilisation works, subject to appropriate risk assessment and insurances, and an assurance that any damage would be repaired.

It was further **RESOLVED:-**

That negotiations be pursued regarding recompense for the grant of access.

113. **SWANAGE ACTION FOR REFUGEES**

Further to e-mails received from Churches Together in Swanage, and a presentation made by Mr. Mel Norris on behalf of 'Swanage Action for Refugees' prior to the commencement of the Council meeting, Members expressed their concerns for the Syrian refugees.

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

That the Town Council offers moral support to 'Swanage Action for Refugees' and those affected by the crisis in Syria.

114. **HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT – 14th ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LICENSING ROUND**

Further to Minute No. 4 (b) of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 7th September 2015, consideration was given to the draft response to be submitted in respect of the Habitats Regulations Assessment – 14th Onshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round, prepared by the Working Party.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Green, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and **RESOLVED:-**

That the draft response be approved for submission to the Oil and Gas Authority.

115. **NAVITUS BAY WIND FARM**

Further to Minute No. 148 of the Council meeting held on 2nd February 2015, it was reported that the Planning Inspectorate's Examination of the proposed Navitus Bay Wind Farm application had determined that development consent be refused.

In noting the decision, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a letter expressing the Town Council's appreciation of this decision be sent to the Secretary of State.

116. **FORMER ST. MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING**

Further to the presentation made by Mrs. Kim Gallagher, on behalf of the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, prior to the commencement of the Council meeting, consideration was given to the Trust's proposals to acquire the former St. Mark's Primary School building on Bell Street and develop it as an Enterprise Hub.

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

That a letter in support of the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust's proposals to acquire the former St. Mark's Primary School building on Bell Street be sent to the Salisbury Diocese.

117. **SWANAGE MUSEUM**

Further to Minute No. 82 of the Council meeting held on 1st September 2014, and a recent meeting held with representatives of Swanage Museum, the need to re-appoint a Working Party to explore potential options for relocating and expanding the Museum was acknowledged.

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

That a Museum Working Party be re-instated and that the Town Clerk and Councillors Mrs. Green and Whitwam be appointed to serve on the Working Party.

118. **SWANAGE IN BLOOM**

In the absence of Councillor Mrs. Lejeune, it was AGREED:-

That the proposal for in principal support for the revival of the Swanage in Bloom Competition be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

119. **TOWN HALL**

In response to questions raised by a number of Councillors, the Clerk reported that enquiries had been made regarding the refurbishment of the painting of the Mill Pond that is hung in the Council Chamber.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Green, and RESOLVED:-

That approval be given for the cleaning and repair of the painting of the Mill Pond at a cost of up to £900 (to be allocated from the Council's repairs and maintenance revenue budget for 2015/16).

During the discussion, the potential for displaying alternative works of art in the Council Chamber was noted.

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

- (a) Councillor Whitwam reported that he had attended the September meeting of Pub Watch, at which Dorset Police reported that there had been no serious incidents recorded during the previous two months.
- (b) Councillor Mrs. Marsh reported that she had attended a meeting of the Swanage Pier Trust on 24th September, and gave a brief update on matters relating to the Pier.
- (c) In her absence, Councillor Harris had circulated a written report on a meeting of the Swanage Youth Centre Advisory Committee at which a presentation concerning proposed budget cuts and review of DCC Youth Services had been given.

Arising from the above, and an e-mail circulated from DCC Children's Services entitled 'Forward Together for Children' Drop-in Sessions for Councillors, Councillor Trite expressed acute concern at the short notice given of a 'Drop-in Session' being held at Purbeck District Council, and other locations in Dorset.

Concerns were expressed at the possible effect that the proposed budget cuts may have on the provision of youth services in Swanage, and it was AGREED:-

That Dorset County Council be requested to arrange a 'Drop-in Session' in Swanage to enable interested parties to be fully informed of the proposals.

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

That the matter be referred for consideration at the next meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee to be held on 5th October 2015, and that the Youth Worker at the Swanage Youth Centre be invited to attend the meeting.

121. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

(a) **Items of Information**

The Town Clerk was delighted to report that the Swanage Tourist Information Centre was one of the finalists in the Tourist Information Service category of the Dorset Tourism Awards 2015. The Award winners would be announced at the Awards Ceremony on 15th October 2015.

(b) **Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

- i) Proposals for an alternative use of beach huts out of season.
- ii) Retention of No.5 bus service to Durlston throughout the year and possible extension of this service to other areas of the town. (To be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Transport Committee).

123. **TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE SERVICE**

Further to Minute No. 97 of the Council meeting held on 24th August 2015, and a subsequent meeting of the Working Party, there were no additional matters to report

on the Tourist Information Centre service 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 item 20 (in relation to legal matters regarding the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park Business Sale Agreement and Swanage Railway) and item 21 (in relation to matters of commercial confidentiality relating to the Town Centre Extension Redevelopment proposals).

124. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park – Business Sale Agreement**

Further to Minute No. 104 (a) of the Council meeting held on 24th August 2015, the Clerk updated Members on legal matters relating to the indemnity clauses contained in the business sale agreement.

It was noted that the Working Party, appointed by the Council under Minute No. 83 a) of the Council meeting held on 27th July 2015, was keeping the matter under review and would report further to a future meeting.

Further to their declaration of interest under Minute No. 106, Councillors Trite and Whitwam remained in the meeting during consideration of the following item, but took no part in the debate.

(b) **Swanage Station Enhancement Works**

Consideration was given to a request received from Swanage Railway seeking permission to carry out some minor station enhancement works, which would include the relocation of the bin store from the Swanage end of the platform to a compound to be constructed at the corner of the railway property where Rempstone Road and Gilbert Road intersect.

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

That permission be granted for the relocation of the bin store, subject to an appropriate legal agreement being drawn up for grant of access rights over Council-owned land, the cost of which to be borne by the Swanage Railway.

125. **TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

Further to a recent meeting of the Advisory Group, the Town Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the Town Centre Redevelopment proposals.

It was noted that discussions were currently underway with Dorset County Council regarding potential highway improvements which would inform the redevelopment proposals.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 p.m.