

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 29th NOVEMBER 2004 at 7.20 p.m.

PRESENT: -

Councillor A.H. Miller (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor H.J.F. Agelink
Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett
Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow
Councillor Mrs. C Gainsborough
Councillor Mrs. H. O'Donovan
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor G.M. Suttle
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M.A. Tyrer
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

In the absence of a clergyman, Councillor Bright offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Before commencing the business of the Agenda, it was with sadness that the Mayor reported on the deaths of two former Councillors. Miss Gwen Rawlings had served on the Town Council for 17 years from June 1982 until May 1999, and Mr John Dight had served from 1979 until 1983, and again between 1985 and 1987. Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon paid tribute to the former Members, and those present stood in silent tribute to their memory.

95. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies to report for inability to attend the Meeting.

96. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25th October 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 27th October 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 5th November 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

- (d) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 16th November 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the Resolution in Minute No. 2 (a) being amended to read:-
“That the contents of the Report be noted, and further investigation of the matter be pursued”.

- (e) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minute of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 22nd November 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

97. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held on 25th October 2004 be accepted.

98. **SWANAGE TOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor Bright seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 28th October 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

99. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 16th November 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

100. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on the sterling work undertaken by the Swanage Lights Committee during 2004, as a result of which additional festive lighting had been installed in the town centre. He expressed his appreciation of the time and energy afforded by the volunteers, which had culminated in the switching on of the Christmas lights and other festivities on Saturday, 27th November 2004.

101. **TOURISM REPORT**

The Tourist Information Centre Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) Footfall figures at the Information Centre during November were slightly down on the corresponding period in 2003, but were overall very satisfactory.

- (b) The sale of “Cards for Good Causes” charity Christmas cards at the Information Centre had once again proved very popular, and trading for these would continue until 18th December.
- (c) Delivery of the 2005 Swanage and Purbeck Holiday Guide was expected shortly, and it was hoped that 12,500 copies would be despatched by the end of January.
- (d) Bookings for beach bungalows for the 2005 season had commenced on 1st November, and were being well received. Shore Road bungalows were already fully booked for Carnival Week, with limited availability for this period at the Spa.
- (e) The Information Centre is open to the public throughout the winter period, and although there are few visitors, staff are busy updating information sheets and preparing new leaflets in readiness for the 2005 season.
- (f) Finally, following a visit by the “mystery shopper”, the services provided by the staff at the Information Centre had been awarded “Very Good” or “Excellent” grading in all categories.

102. **HOLIDAY PARK REPORT**

In the absence of the General Manager, who was on annual leave, the Clerk reported that interviews had taken place for the position of Facility Manager at the Holiday Park. An appointment had been made, with the successful applicant due to take up his position in early January 2005.

103. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

On behalf of the Operations Manager, the Clerk updated Members on current works undertaken by the Operations Department, as follows:-

- (a) Upgrading of the Town Hall Annexe, including the creation of additional storage facilities.
- (b) The installation of new car park machines at various car parks.
- (c) Refurbishment of the Spa, now nearing completion.
- (d) Repairs and refurbishment of 17 waste bins.
- (e) Repairs and refurbishment of bench seats.
- (f) Refurbishment and repainting of Children’s Play Areas on the Recreation Ground.
- (g) Construction works in progress at Main Beach Car Park to create new walkways from Victoria Avenue to access King George’s Playing Fields.
- (h) Surface cuttings from the resurfacing of Northbrook Road used to make up road at the allotments.
- (i) General building maintenance works.
- (j) 350 sand bags issued by Town Council staff during the evening to combat storm damage.
- (k) Grounds maintenance team undertaking weeding, planting and general maintenance in parks and open spaces.
- (l) General work being carried out at Prospect Nursery in readiness for the 2005 gardening programme.

104. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE TOWN MAYOR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

There was one additional item in need of urgent attention, but as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was AGREED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration later in the Meeting when the public had been excluded.

105. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of October 2004 were submitted for information.

106. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 8, 8a and 8b, amounting to £298,559.70, £59,471.31 and £37,083.21 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

107. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 31st October 2004 (copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at end of these Minutes.

108. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items.

109. **BEACH CHAIR CONCESSION**

Further to Minute No.6 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 27th October 2004, consideration was given to the design proposals for the replacement hut, submitted by the Beach Chair concessionaire.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the proposals, as submitted, be approved, subject to the size of the hut not to exceed 7' x 12'.