

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 29th OCTOBER 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor G.M. Suttle (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor B. Audley
Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP
Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox
Councillor M. Hadley
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M. Whitwam

The Mayor welcomed Mr. John Barry, from the United Reformed Church, who offered a prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 25 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MR. J. WOOTTON referred to Minute No. 70 of the Council Meeting held on 24th September 2007, and requested that Policy and Planning meetings continue to be held in the evenings for a trial period of six months, in accordance with Minute No. 3 of the Finance & Performance Management Committee Meeting held on 11th June 2007.

MRS. JOHNSON expressed her concern at the nuisance/health hazard caused by indiscriminate dog owners who fail to clean up after their animals on the beach, and requested that a “dog free” zone be designated throughout the year. The **TOWN MAYOR** explained that Purbeck District Council was currently looking into the introduction of additional byelaws in this regard, which would be “district wide” and would apply to open park areas as well as beaches. A period of public consultation would be mandatory before the legislation could be progressed. The **TOWN CLERK** highlighted the problems of enforcement, but explained that, following discussions with the Environmental Services Manager of Purbeck District Council earlier in the day, it was intended that, as an interim measure, the District Council’s Dog Warden and officers of the Town Council would work together to enforce the existing byelaws.

MRS. C. BARTLETT reported that Dorset County Council had reserved funding for replacement lamp standards in the county. Members thanked her for this information, which had already been considered by the Council at its meeting on 15th October 2007.

MR. A. WEEKS updated the Meeting on the concerns of the “Alley Action Group”, and the attempts of the Group to brighten up the area on “Make a Difference Day” held on Saturday, 27th October 2007. His comments were endorsed by **MRS. W. WHARAM**, who reported that the problems had initially been highlighted approximately three years ago.

MR. L. VAN der ZANDE thanked the Town Council for its support for the campaign to retain the overnight minor injuries unit at Swanage Hospital.

MRS. B. PAXTON-BRUMMING, of the Seacourt Action Group, highlighted concerns relating to the development of the “Seacourt” site, and requested that a letter be sent from the Town Council to Purbeck District Council regarding enforcement of the planning conditions. **MR. M. STOLLERY** also expressed concern regarding the development of this site, and then drew attention to the felling of the trees at Newton Grange by the same site developer.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

78. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Mrs. Patrick.

79. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th September 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No. 13 i), it was noted that approval had been given to acquire three vehicles for the estimated sum of £43,500. Amended figures had now been received, amounting to £47,518.05, and it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To approve the acquisition of three vehicles for the sum of £47,518.05.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 5th October 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 15th October 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

80. **FINANCE & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & Performance Management Committee held on 15th October 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed.

81. **FINANCE & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Bright, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance &
Performance Management Committee held on 22nd
October 2007 be approved as a correct record and
signed.

82. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (a) The Mayor reported that, having been granted the Liberty of the Town in 2005, soldiers from the 11th Signal Regiment had continued to support Swanage Railway and other local causes. Their latest achievement had been to replace the floodlights on the Swanage War Memorial on the Recreation Ground. A special fundraising event was scheduled to take place at Swanage Railway Station on Saturday, 10th November 2007, when approximately 50 soldiers would be taking part in a run, cycle and static row the equivalent distance between Swanage and Rudesheim am Rhein.
- (b) The Mayor reported that the Swanage Retail Awards Ceremony 2007 was being held at the Swanage Bay View Restaurant on Thursday, 15th November 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

83. **TOURISM REPORT**

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

- (a) Footfall at the Tourist Information Centre during September and October was comparable to previous years.
- (b) Accommodation bookings had increased by 40% during August and September as a direct result of the introduction of the Destination Management System.
- (c) "Dorset Food Week" had been promoted through the Tourist Information Centre during the previous week, and samples and recipes had been provided for the visitors. The launch of the Charity Christmas Cards on Friday, 26th October 2007 had proved an added attraction for those visiting the TIC.
- (d) Swanage had achieved the Encams "Relaxed Recreation Winter Beach Award". As well as the management of the beach, other factors taken into consideration when approving this Award, included the seafront gardens and open spaces, the Pier, Durlston Country Park and the Swanage Railway.
- (e) Beach hut bookings for the 2008 summer season would commence on Thursday, 1st November 2007, and already many applications had been received.

84. **COMMUNITY AWARD/HONOURS BOARD**

The Town Mayor reported on a proposal put forward by Purbeck District Council to introduce a new local awards scheme linked to a Purbeck-wide initiative, and to recognise such awards with an "Honours Board" displayed in the Town Hall.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-

To approve the initiative in principle, and to obtain further information on the proposals.

85. **ALLEY ACTION GROUP**

Further to the Meeting of the “Alley Action Group” held on 12th September 2007, and representations made by members of the Group during the Public Participation Time earlier in the evening, consideration was given to concerns raised regarding environmental issues and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of “Mowlem Lane”.

Following discussion, it was AGREED:-

That Councillors Mrs. Marsh and Poultney be appointed to represent the Council on the “Alley Action Group”.

86. **DROPPED KERB PROVISION**

A letter dated 18th October 2007 was submitted from Dorset County Council outlining the suggested programme for the future provision of dropped kerb crossings, and inviting Councils to compile a priority list of dropped crossings within their area. It was also suggested that a person be nominated to liaise with the appropriate County Council officer on the matter.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Hadley (Chairman of the Town Council’s Transport Committee) and Mr. Steve Darrington be nominated to liaise with the appropriate officer of Dorset County Council.

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

(a) **Purbeck District Local Development Framework**

Further to Minute No. 7 of the Council Meeting held on 5th October 2007, Councillor Whitwam submitted a report detailing matters considered at the Event/Workshop held by Purbeck District Council Planning Policy Team to review the Purbeck District Local Development Framework and the proposed Core Strategy Preferred Options Document.

Members were informed that a presentation would be given by an officer of the District Council during the policy and planning meeting to be held on 2nd November 2007.

88. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

89. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of September 2007 were submitted for information.

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

- (a) Post Office Services – Period of public consultation scheduled to be held in June 2008.
- (b) Training for new Councillors.
- (c) Temporary Road Closures
- (d) Petition in support of an all-year round “dog free” zone on Swanage beach.

- (e) "Seacourt" development – Letter to be sent to Purbeck District Council expressing the Town Council's concern at the lack of supervision of the site development.
- (f) Newton Grange site development – Representations to be made directly to the developers regarding felling of the trees.

91. **SERVICE REVIEW AND OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

Further to Minute No. 2 of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 22nd October 2007, the Clerk reported that the cost of obtaining an updated valuation of the Caravan Park was estimated to be approximately £4,750.00.

Surveyor's fees for condition survey reports in respect of the Council's buildings and assets were estimated to be approximately £7,000.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That supplementary estimates of £4,750 and £7,000 be provided in accordance with the requirements to obtain the necessary valuation and condition survey reports.

The Town Clerk then updated Members on matters relating to Phase 2 of the King George's Field Playground Project, and additional works that would be required following the installation of the new equipment.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That a supplementary estimate be provided in the provisional sum of £8,946.00 for the installation of railings, gates, kerbing/footpaths and additional signage.

92. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pratt, 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 matters.

93. **LEGAL ISSUE**

(a) **Coastguard Building, North Beach Car Park**

Further to Minute No. 9 (b) of the Council Meeting held to discuss policy and planning matters on 15th October 2007, and the submission of amended plans by the MCA to Purbeck District Council's Planning Board, the Clerk reported that the matter had been deferred by the Planning Board to enable a site meeting to be held. It was noted that this was scheduled for 22nd November 2007, and agreed that the Clerk would investigate further the procedural matters relating to attendance and making representations.

(b) **VAT Claim**

Further to Minute No. 9 (e) of the Council Meeting held to discuss policy and planning matters on 15th October 2007, the Clerk updated those present on the latest position regarding the Council's VAT claim relating to off-street car parking charges.

The application had been lodged with the Tribunal, and had been deferred for six months to enable the Council's case to be prepared. It was noted that the Town Clerk and the Council's legal adviser were meeting with Counsel the following day in order to progress the matter.

(c) **Household Recycling Centre**

The Clerk reported that a site meeting was scheduled to be held on 5th November 2007 at the proposed new industrial estate with representatives of Dorset County Council to consider the future siting of the household recycling centre.

It was noted that the Town Mayor and Clerk would be in attendance at the Meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.
