

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND RESOURCES**
matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 15th**
MARCH 2004 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor H.J.F. Agelink

Councillor C.R. Bright

Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow

(Left at 12.25 p.m.)

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough

Councillor Mrs. H. O'Donovan

Councillor M.W. Pratt

Councillor M.A. Tyrer

Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Bartlett, Suttle, and Trite.

2. **LICENCES**

a) **The White Horse Inn**

A Notice of Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence in respect of The White Horse Inn was submitted for consideration.

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

That no objection be raised to the transfer of the Licence.

b) **Grace Gardens Guest House, 28 Victoria Road**

A Notice of Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence in respect of Grace Gardens Guest House, 28 Victoria Road, was submitted for consideration.

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

That no objection be raised to the transfer of the Licence.

c) **Amberlea, 36 Victoria Avenue**

A Notice of Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence in respect of Amberlea, 36 Victoria Avenue, was submitted for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and

RESOLVED:-

That no objection be raised to the transfer of the Licence.

d) **The Purbeck Hotel**

A Notice of Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence in respect of The Purbeck Hotel, was submitted for consideration.

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

That no objection be raised to the transfer of the Licence.

e) **Eversden Hotel, 5 Victoria Road**

A Notice of Application for the granting of a Residential and Restaurant Licence in respect of Eversden Hotel, 5 Victoria Road, was submitted for consideration.

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

That no objection be raised to the granting of a Residential and Restaurant Licence.

f) **Gaming Machine Licence – The Fish Plaice, 14 The Square**
A letter dated 4th March 2004 was submitted from the Administrative Services Manager of Purbeck District Council seeking the Council's observations on the granting of a Gaming Machine Licence in respect of The Fish Plaice, 14 The Square.
It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-
That no objection be raised to the granting of the Licence.

g) **Justices' Licence – Swanage Youth Hostel, 20 Cluny Crescent**
Further to Minute No. 7(b) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th January 2004, the Clerk reported on correspondence received from Solicitors acting on behalf of the applicant, giving notice of their proposal to request the Court to impose a condition upon any licence granted, restricting the categories of people to whom alcohol could be sold.
Following discussion, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That, subject to the adoption of the restrictive condition, the Council's objection to the granting of the licence be withdrawn.

3. **SWANAGE ROWING REGATTA**

A letter dated 24th February 2004 was submitted from Mr K Ayles requesting the use of Council-owned facilities for the Swanage Rowing Regatta on Saturday, 31st July 2004.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the event coincided with the annual Regatta Road Race, and concern was expressed at the congestion that may arise on Shore Road when the boats/trailers etc. are being moved, and the runners and spectators for both events are in the vicinity.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That permission be granted for the use of Council-owned facilities for the Swanage Rowing Regatta, subject to the provision of ladies changing facilities and adequate marshalling being provided by the organisers of the event.

Arising from the above, matters of concern were raised relating to events held on Shore Road and other busy locations, and it was RESOLVED:-

That a draft set of Rules and Regulations be compiled and presented for consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

4. **SWANAGE JAZZ FESTIVAL**

Further to Minute No. 6(a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 16th February 2004, a letter dated 8th March 2004 was submitted from Mr F Lindop of the Swanage Jazz Festival, requesting that car parking facilities be made available on Sandpit Field for between 17 and 22 cars for the musicians and organisers of the event.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which concern was expressed at the indiscriminate parking that had occurred during previous Festivals, and the potential damage that may be caused to the Field during inclement weather.

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

That a maximum of four vehicles be permitted to park in a designated area on Sandpit Field, with "access only" being granted for two utility vehicles.

5. **USE OF SHORE ROAD**

A letter dated 8th March 2004 was submitted from the Bridport Classic Motorcycle Club requesting permission to display their vehicles on Shore Road between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Sunday, 20th June 2004 during their annual Charity Run.

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

That the request be granted, subject to the provision of adequate marshalling.

6. **LOCAL NATURE RESERVES**

A letter dated 2nd March 2004 was submitted from the Environmental Services Section of Dorset County Council outlining the "Working for Wildlife in Dorset" Project on Local Nature Reserves, and offering to work with the Town Council to identify potential sites.

Following discussion, during which the Town Council's responsible approach to environmental management and nature conservation was acknowledged, it was RESOLVED:-

That no specific area of land be designated for a Local Nature Reserve.

7. **PROPOSED BYELAWS**

a) **Urinating and Defecating in Public Places**

A letter dated 5th March 2004 was submitted from the Administrative Services Manager of Purbeck District Council updating Members on the position regarding the introduction of a byelaw "No person shall urinate or defecate in a public place".

The information was noted.

b) **Alcohol Control in Public Places**

A letter dated 5th March 2004 was submitted from the Administrative Services Manager of Purbeck District Council updating Members on the position regarding "Alcohol Control in Public Places".

Consideration had previously been given to the matter (See Minute No. 2 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 23rd June 2003), and following a subsequent meeting of the Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places Working Group on 7th July 2003, at which Insp. Holland had put forward the views of the police, it had been RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, having regard to the existing powers of the police, no specific areas be designated under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 – The Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations, 2001.

Discussion ensued, and having regard to further information recently received from Dorset Police, whereby enforcement of any proposed byelaw relating to the consumption of alcohol in public places would be discretionary, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon and seconded by Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan:-

That a request for the proposed designation of streets under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 – The Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations, 2001, as originally submitted to Purbeck District Council, be reinstated, subject to the support of Insp. Downer of Dorset Police.

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

8. **ANY OTHER MATTER THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

Having regard to the recent bombing disaster in Madrid, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the Meeting be adjourned at 11 a.m. to enable "Three Minutes Silence" to be observed as a mark of respect for those who had lost their lives in the disaster.

The Meeting reconvened at 11.05 a.m.

9. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was 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 matters.

10. **BUDGET REVIEW**

a) **Seasonal Income-General**

The Clerk submitted a statement of seasonal income to date, and consideration was given to the information provided. The overall position was noted with satisfaction.

b) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park**

Details of seasonal income received to date at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park were also submitted for information, and the position was noted.

During the ensuing discussion, additional information relating to the bar and catering functions was requested, with particular mention of the provision and cost of the entertainment provided.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Bright, and AGREED:-

That the matter be referred to the Caravan Park Best Value Working Group for detailed consideration.

It was FURTHER AGREED:-

That information relating to the Swimming Pool should also be included on the Seasonal Income statement, for reference.

c) **Cash Flow**

The Clerk submitted a Cashflow Forecast, together with details of caravan sales and purchases as at 29th February 2004, for information.

11. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

a) **The Spa**

Further to Minute No. 3(b) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 16th February 2004, the Clerk reported on estimates received for the supply of fencing to be installed at The Spa, in order to comply with health and safety requirements.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That an additional sum of £3,078 be allocated for the purchase of galvanised Standard Bow Top Hurdle railings. (£25,000 already approved).

b) **Mower**

Consideration was given to the requirement for an additional mower, the need having already been identified, and budget approval, in principle, agreed for 2004/05.

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

That the purchase of a "Beaver" mower for the sum of £22,615 be authorised.

c) **CCTV Equipment**

In accordance with provisions made in the Capital Programme for 2004/05, the Clerk reported on information and quotations received for upgrading the Council's CCTV equipment.

Having regard to a £5,000 contribution from the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To proceed with the purchase of the following CCTV Equipment:-

The Clerk reminded those present that a contribution of £1,500 had been offered by the Fishermen's Association towards the CCTV equipment for the Boat Park, and it was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To purchase a new camera costing £4,590 and to write a formal letter of thanks to the Fishermen's Association.

d) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park**

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Caravan Park Best Value Working Group held on 1st March 2004, and budget approval already granted, in principle, for the purchase of a replacement accommodation unit for a core member of the Holiday Park staff, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

To accept the recommendation of the Caravan Park Best Value Working Group for the purchase of an accommodation unit up to a maximum price of £21,200.

e) **Crazy Golf – Beach Gardens**

Further to Minute No. 2(e) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 16th February 2004, and as subsequent site visit by a specialist contractor, consideration was given to a quotation received for the installation of a "Crazy Golf" course on the proposed site at Beach Gardens at an estimated cost of £60,000.

During the ensuing discussion, Members felt that the proposed scheme was too elaborate and costly for what they had envisaged, and it was AGREED:-

That no action be taken in the matter.

The Clerk reported that a quotation had been received that morning from an alternative company, but due to the timing of the meeting, it had not been possible to undertake an appraisal of the proposals and associated costs.

In view of the additional information received, it was AGREED:-

That the matter be deferred, to enable further consideration to be given to the proposals.

f) **Car Parks - Signage**

Further to Minute No. 4(c) of the Car Parks Best Value Working Group held on 16th February 2004, consideration was given to the size and information required on the car park signs.

It was AGREED:-

That approval be given, in principle, for the purchase of appropriate signs up to a cost of £7,000. Requirements of numbers, size and information to be displayed on the signs to be agreed by the Town Mayor and Councillor Bright, in conjunction with the Operations Manager and Town Clerk.

12. **LEASES**

(a) **Lookout – Peveril Point**

A letter dated 10th March 2004 was submitted from the National Coastwatch Institution notifying the Council of their intention to apply for planning permission for the conversion of the existing open shelter under the Peveril Point lookout to form a store and training room, and seeking the Town Council's approval, as owners of the land.

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

That no objection be raised to the proposed conversion.

(b)

HM Coastguard – Buildings

A letter dated 5th February 2004 was submitted on behalf of HM Coastguard informing the Council that the building at Peveril Point, held under a lease dated 4th December 1981 between the Town Council and The Secretary of State for the Environment, no longer meets Coastguard operational requirements, and enquiring whether any alternative buildings could be released from the Council and converted into a Coastguard Auxiliary Station. Following discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That in principle agreement be given to a possible site in North Beach Car Park/Journeys End for the construction of a suitable building for use as a Coastguard Auxiliary Station, subject to any necessary planning consent being obtained.

13. **STAFFING ISSUES**

The Clerk reported on a recent meeting of the Staff Working Group at which a review of the Operations Department had been carried out.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and **RESOLVED:-**
To accept the recommendations of the Staff Working Group.
