

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Swanage Town Council held to discuss **POLICY AND PLANNING** matters at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY 2015** at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney (Deputy Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett
Councillor M. Bonfield
Councillor I. Brown
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor M. Pratt
Councillor M. Whitwam

There were two members of the public in attendance at the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Congratulations to the Deputy Mayor on the action taken by him (as Chairman) during the Council meeting held on 2nd February 2015.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.05 p.m.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from the Town Mayor and Councillors Miss Harris, Trite and Wiggins.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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.

Agenda Item No. 8 (b) – Councillor Pratt declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being Chairman of the Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau.

3. **PLANS**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh did not vote on, or propose, or second any of the motions on the following planning applications, by reason of being a Member of the Purbeck District Council's Planning Committee.

Delegated Applications

6/2015/0048 **Mr Christopher Long**
Create hardstanding for parking at side of property.
80 Kings Road West, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

Items for Information Only

The following applications were not discussed by the Town Council as it was considered that a conflict of interest existed, given that the Council had retained the freehold of the Holiday Park.

6/2015/0043 **Mr T. Reader**
Erect decking.
Plot 251, Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, Swanage.

6/2015/0044 **Mr P. Boon**
Erect decking.
Plot 240, Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, Swanage.

6/2015/0045 **Mr Coston**
Erect decking.
Plot 307, Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, Swanage.

6/2015/0059 **Mr R. Mutlon**
Erect decking.
Plot 85, Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, Swanage.

6/2015/0060 **Mr M. Greatwood**
Erect decking.
Plot 267 Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, Swanage.

6/2015/0068 **Mr Raab**
Erect decking.
Plot 200, Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, Swanage.

6/2015/0069 **Mr M. Dyer**
Erect decking.
Plot 183, Swanage Bay View Holiday Park, Swanage.

4. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

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

5. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and
RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 11 and 11a, amounting to £176,414.88 and £39,412.74 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

6. **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – BUDGET REPORT**

Consideration was given to a detailed report setting out the principal sources of the Town Council's income and expenditure during the third quarter of 2014/15.

It was noted that car parking revenue to date was £23,610 below budget. The major factor contributing to this variance was the income from Broad Road car park, which was £34,000 under budget. The impact of the loss of revenue in the 1st quarter due to the stabilisation works was compounded by lower than estimated usage/revenue on the 2nd quarter. There were no further deficits against the estimate to report for

Broad Road car park in the 3rd quarter. It was also noted that employee costs had remained under budget by £61k. The main contributing factors for this were the non-appointment of budgeted posts in Central Services, the non-appointment of seasonal Beach Cleaners and a General Operative.

At the end of the 3rd quarter of the financial year a net operating surplus of £443,365 was realised against a budget of £388,801.

Members noted the Council's financial position at the end of the 3rd quarter.

7. **TREASURY REPORT 2014/15**

In accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice, a summary report of the treasury management activity during the third quarter of 2014/15 was submitted, for information.

It was noted that once again, a prudent approach had been taken in relation to investment activity with priority being given to security and liquidity over yield.

Arising from the above, Councillor Poultney drew attention to the high yield being realised from the Council's investment in the CCLA LAMIT Property Fund and wished to record his appreciation of the advice received from Arlingclose and action taken by the Council's officers in securing this investment.

8. **GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2015/16**

Consideration was given to the following requests received for grants and donations, principally under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(a) **Swanage Coastal Change Forum**

Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Brown, and

RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £200 be donated towards the cost of hiring rooms and venues for meetings for the Swanage Coastal Change Forum, subject to annual review at each year's Estimates Meeting.

Further to his Declaration of Interest under Minute No. 2, Councillor Pratt remained in the Meeting during consideration of the following item, but did not take part in the debate or vote on the Proposition.

(b) **Purbeck Citizens' Advice Bureau**

Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and

RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £250 be donated towards the continuation of the CAB service in Swanage.

Councillor Pratt wished to record his appreciation of the facilities afforded to the CAB in the Town Hall.

(c) **Swanage Fish Festival**

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and

RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £400 be donated towards the expenses of setting up and promoting the inaugural Swanage Fish Festival.

(d) **Swanage Regatta and Carnival Association**

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and

RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £500 be donated towards the cost of the fireworks displays in 2015, in accordance with the Council's powers under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(e) **Sisata Open Air Theatre**

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and
RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £100 be donated towards the costs of staging a production of 'As You Like It' at Prince Albert Gardens, in accordance with the Council's powers under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

9. **SWANAGE LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Councillor Mrs. Bartlett updated Members on the proposed spending for 2015/16 in respect of the Swanage Lights.

It was noted that the cost of the new LED lighting would be met by the Swanage Lights Committee, but the re-installation costs of the lighting along Shore Road would fall on the Town Council (estimated to be approx. £7,000).

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee to be held in March 2015.

10. **EVENTS – SUMMER 2015**

A Schedule of Events to be held in Swanage/Purbeck during 2015 was submitted, for information.

Detailed consideration was then given to requests for the use of Council-owned land for specific events, as follows:-

(a) **Swanage Carnival Committee**

- i) Request for permission to allow a sponsor's stand on Prince Albert Gardens, together with one or two cars for promotional purposes. Following discussion, during which concerns were raised regarding the siting of vehicles in this busy recreational area, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Brown, and RESOLVED:-

That approval be given for the sponsor's stand on Prince Albert Gardens, but the request to site vehicles in this location be not granted.

- ii) Request for permission to site a Royal Air Force Red Arrows Simulator on the former shelter site on Shore Road. Whilst not against the proposal in principle, Members felt that this area should be kept available in case it is required to site temporary accommodation should renovation works at the Tourist Information Centre be undertaken.

It was proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED:-

That permission to site a Royal Air Force Red Arrows Simulator on the former shelter site on Shore Road be not granted.

- iii) Request for permission to hold a Car Boot Sale on Shore Road.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the request to hold a Car Boot Sale on Shore Road be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Tourism Committee to be held on 2nd March 2015.

It was agreed that representatives from the Carnival Committee be invited to attend the meeting of the Tourism Committee on 2nd March 2015 so they can be fully informed of the reasons behind the Council's decisions.

(b) **The Purbeck Marathon Committee**

Request for use of Prince Albert Gardens and the Downs from which to start The Purbeck Marathon and the use of Sandpit Field as the finish area.

Agreement in principle was also sought for permission to install permanent start and finish markers on The Downs and Sandpit Field.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Brown, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Tourism Committee to be held on 2nd March 2015.

(c) **Swanage Cycle Festival**

Request to hire Main Beach and North Beach car parks during the weekend 14th/15th November 2015 for use in connection with the Swanage Cycle Festival and for permission to start and finish the event outside the Tourist Information Centre on Shore Road.

It was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Tourism Committee to be held on 2nd March 2015.

It was also reported that the following events were being arranged:-

Commonwealth Flag Raising Ceremony – Monday, 9th March 2015.

Liberty Parade – Saturday, 25th July 2015.

11. **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

(a) **Dorset Heathland Planning Framework 2015-2020**

Further to Minute No. 153 (a) of the Council meeting held on 2nd February 2015, consideration was given to the Dorset Heathland Planning Framework which identified how the impact of development in south east Dorset on protected heathland sites would be mitigated.

Following discussion, during which Members supported the approach set out in the document, it was RESOLVED:-

That an officer from Natural England be invited to make a presentation to the Town Council after the election of the new Council in May 2015.

(b) **Multi-Academy Trust**

A letter dated 2nd February 2015 was submitted from St. Mark's CE VA Primary School seeking the Council's comments on proposals to form a local primary school partnership of Corfe Castle CE VC Primary School, Wareham St Mary CE VC Primary School, St George's CE VA Primary School and St Mark's CE VA Primary School. The partnership would be a 'Multi-Academy Trust' (MAT) and each school would become an academy.

Members noted the consultation document, but did not wish to comment on the proposals.

It was AGREED:-

That members submit their individual comments/observations on the proposals to form a 'Multi-Academy Trust' (MAT).

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

Items of Information

- (a) Amalgamation of April Council meeting/Policy and Planning meeting – date to be confirmed.
- (b) May Council meeting to be held on 18th May 2015.
- (c) Planning application No. 6/2014/0711 – 2 Drummond Road - withdrawn. Amended application submitted.
- (d) No further changes proposed by the Wilts & Dorset Bus Company to the No. 40 bus service (Poole to Swanage).

Items for Forthcoming Agendas

- (a) Dog Fouling.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Brown, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matters.

13. **PARKING ARRANGEMENTS – SEAFRONT CONCESSIONS**

Further to Minute No. 17 (a) of the Council meeting held on 19th January 2015, consideration was given to a request received from the lessee of the Seafront Kiosk for the allocation of a free parking space in the Residents' Car Park.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that a Summer Season Ticket was available for use in Main Beach Car Park, and it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED:-

That the request for the allocation of a free parking space in the Residents' car park be not granted.

14. **SEAFRONT AND DOWNS STABILISATION SCHEMES – CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

There were no further contractual matters to report on the Seafront and Downs Stabilisation Schemes at the present time.

15. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Seafront Kiosk**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the proposed alterations to the Seafront Kiosk, and the position was noted.

It was AGREED:-

That the Town Clerk be authorised to continue discussions on the proposed alterations with the new tenants.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.