

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage  
on **WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023** at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor T. Foster – Chairman

Councillor J. Bishop

Councillor M. Bonfield

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor C. Moreton

Councillor C. Tomes

Councillor W. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, one member of the local press attended the Meeting.

**Public Participation Time**

A request was made for information to be made publicly available following the discussion about the beach ice cream kiosks under agenda item 5 (a). It was noted that this would be discussed during the debate on that item.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 1.30 p.m.

35. **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Finch, Rogers and Suttle. Councillor Monkhouse attended the meeting remotely.

36. **Declarations of Interest**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct. No declarations of interest were made.

37. **To consider revised seafront staffing requirements for summer 2023 and application for summer demand funding from Dorset Council**

Consideration was given to a proposal to recruit two additional seafront advisors, as set out in a briefing note prepared by the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager. It was noted that during May half term the Town experienced a huge increase in visitors, similar in numbers to a busy carnival week. This had posed a number of problems along the seafront, primarily around supporting Dorset Waste Services in managing the volume of waste that was generated. Consequently, it had been agreed that it would be prudent to develop a plan to manage visitor volumes similar to those seen in recent post-Covid years, including the recruitment of an additional two seafront advisors to support the team during July and August.

It was noted that this measure would be at an approximate cost of £8,000. The briefing note had set out potential funding options, but it was reported that in recent days the Town Council had been informed that it had been awarded a grant of £8,350 from Dorset Council's Summer Demand Fund, which would cover the additional cost. Therefore, it was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Harris and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the proposal to recruit two additional seafront advisors, as set out in the briefing note, be approved.

38. **Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**  
No items of information or matters for forthcoming agendas were raised.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Moreton and  
AGREED:-

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 5.

39. **Property Related Legal Matters**

(a) **Beach Ice Cream Kiosks – To consider arrangements for summer 2023 following determination of County Court Claim**

Further to Minute No. 34 (a) of the Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023, consideration was given to a briefing note, prepared by the Town Clerk, which outlined subsequent developments, including a meeting with the tenant and legal advice received. Following consideration of the Council's options, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Moreton and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Standing Order 9.a. be suspended and that the wording 'for the forthcoming summer season' be deleted from the resolution made under Minute No. 173 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

It was further proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Harris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk to conclude an agreement with the existing tenant for trading from the beach ice cream kiosks over the 2023 summer season.

The request made during public participation time for information about this matter to be made publicly available was considered at length. Members noted their preference for transparency wherever that was compatible with the best interests of the Town Council, and hence local ratepayers. However, given the ongoing negotiations in respect of this matter, and the expectation of confidentiality within the landlord/tenant relationship, it was reluctantly concluded that it would not be in the public interest for a statement to be issued in the foreseeable future. It was noted that all decisions on this matter were recorded in Council Minutes and that all financial papers were made available each year during the period for the exercise of public rights as part of the audit process.

The Meeting closed at 2.10 p.m.