

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2015** at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor J.M. Bishop

Councillor M.P. Bonfield

Councillor Mrs. C. Finch

Councillor Mrs. G. Green

Councillor Mrs. A. Harris

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor T.J. Morris

Councillor G.M. Suttle

(until 8.10 p.m.)

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 14 members of the public attended the Meeting.

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

**Public Participation Time**

Prior to the commencement of Public Participation Time, the Mayor welcomed members of the public to the Meeting, and issued a short statement in which he gave an apology to anyone he had unintentionally offended at the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015. He then summarised the format of Public Participation Time, which would be conducted in accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- The frequency that issues relating to the proposals for future gas drilling at California Quarry, and matters relating to Panorama Road, had been raised by members of the public in recent months, and concerns expressed at the Town Council resources taken up in dealing with these matters.
- Proposals for future gas drilling at California Quarry, the requirement for an emergency evacuation plan, and safety concerns regarding access to the site.
- Installation of signage at Panorama Road.
- Audio system in Council Chamber.
- Recording of meetings.
- Public Consultation – Proposed extension to Swanworth Quarry.
- Poor condition of roads in Swanage, with particular concern expressed regarding potholes in the High Street, Shore Road and Seymer Road.

The Mayor opened the Council Meeting at 7.15 p.m.

87. **APOLOGIES**

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

88. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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, and requests for Grants of Dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

89. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Green, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

90. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Morris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

91. **POLICY, FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

There were no recommendations brought forward from the Committee.

92. **BUDGET MONITORING**

(a) **Statement of Cash Balance**

A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 was submitted for information (a copy attached at end of these Minutes).

93. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Finch, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 5 and 5a, amounting to £222,697.74 and £45,365.39 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

94. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following events during the past month:-

- The annual RNLI Lifeboat Service held at the Stone Quay on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015.
- Prospect Allotment Association's First Vegetable and Flower Show on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2015.

95. **SWANAGE LOCAL PLAN – APPROVAL OF PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Further to Minute No. 13 of the Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015, a Presentation on the Swanage Local Plan was given by Purbeck District Council's Planning Policy Officers. Approval of the Pre-Submission Draft prior to it being submitted for public consultation was requested.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Morris, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Swanage Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft be approved for Public Consultation.

96. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Further to Minute No. 60 of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and the adoption of the revised Schedule of Meetings, the Clerk reported on a request received for consideration to be given to an amended time for the Planning and Consultation Committee.

It was **AGREED:-**

That the next meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee scheduled for Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be held at the amended time of 6.30 p.m.

It was **FURTHER AGREED:-**

That delegated authority be given to the Committee to review future dates and times of the Planning and Consultation Committee meetings.

97. **TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**

Further to previous discussions relating to the requirement for significant refurbishment works to be undertaken to the current Tourist Information Centre, further deterioration of the building was reported and the need to vacate the building as soon as possible was acknowledged.

Following discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Green, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk and Operations Manager, together with the Public Buildings Working Party (consisting of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor) to agree a suitable alternative location for the operation of the Tourist Information Service over the winter period and incur related expenditure, the matter to be reported as a delegated item to the next available Council meeting.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED:-**

That a Working Party be appointed from members of the Tourism Committee, consisting of Councillor Suttle (Chairman) and Councillors Bonfield, Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Marsh, Poultney and Whitwam, with the following Terms of Reference:

- To review the Town Council's current Tourist Information

Service and other duties operated from the Tourist Information Centre on Shore Road.

- To determine the scope of the Town Council's future Tourist Information Service.
- To identify the best location for the future delivery of that service.

98. **PANORAMA ROAD AND CALIFORNIA QUARRY – PROPOSED GAS DRILLING**

Further to Minute No. 63 of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015, and a subsequent briefing session held with Councillors, consideration was given to suggestions put forward on how to progress matters relating to Panorama Road and the proposed oil/gas drilling at California Quarry.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bishop, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Green, and RESOLVED:-

That the following steps be taken to progress matters relating to Panorama Road and the proposed oil/gas drilling at California Quarry:

- a) To commission an independent review of the context of the decision to enter into an agreement for access over Panorama Road that led to the 2007 deed of release and grant of mutual rights.
- b) To explore the Council's ability to review the content of the 2007 grant of rights.
- c) To instruct the Planning and Consultation Committee to review the Council's policy to not comment on planning applications in which the Town Council has an interest as a landowner.
- d) To liaise with the Health and Safety Executive and other relevant parties to seek assurance regarding the robustness of emergency planning arrangements in respect of the proposed gas drilling.

Councillor Suttle left the Meeting at 8.10 p.m.

99. **WAR MEMORIAL**

Further to Minute No. 14 of the Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015, consideration was given to revised plans for the construction of a low stone wall and pathway at the war memorial.

Following discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and RESOLVED:-

That representatives from the Royal British Legion be consulted on the revised plans prior to a detailed specification (with costings) being obtained for the construction of a low stone wall and pathway at the war memorial.

100. **TOILETS, SHORE ROAD**

Further to Minute No. 8 of the General Operations Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015, and representations made to some Councillors by members of the public, consideration was given to the installation of hand drying facilities in the baby changing units in the newly constructed public conveniences on Shore Road.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the installation of hand driers be authorised  
as an extension to the construction and stabilisation  
contract and a budget provision of £3,000 be approved.

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

- (a) Councillor Whitwam reported that he had attended a meeting of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015, at which the proposals for the commencement of the main line rail service to Wareham in June 2016 (for a trial period) had been reported.
- (b) Councillor Mrs. Marsh reported that she had attended a meeting of the DAPTC – Town & Larger Parish Councils Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at which Presentations had been given on the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Mineral Sites Plan and the Draft Waste Plan.  
Councillor Mrs. Marsh also conveyed the thanks of the Swanage Fair Trade Committee for the support of the Town Council during the past two years. Members unanimously agreed that the Town Council would continue to support Swanage as a ‘Fair Trade’ town.

102. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

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

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

- (a) **Items of Information**  
There were no items of information to report this month.
- (b) **Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**  
Proposals for an alternative use of beach huts out of season.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

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 items 17)a (in relation to legal matters regarding the indemnity clauses contained within the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park Business Sale Agreement) and 17)b (in relation to legal and contractual matters in instructing legal advisors).

104. **LEGAL ISSUES**

- (a) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park – Business Sale Agreement**  
Further to Minute No. 86 of the Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015, and a further meeting of the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park Working Party, consideration was given to advice received from the Council’s legal advisers in respect of the indemnity clauses.

Discussion ensued, and in light of recent correspondence between legal advisers for both parties, consideration was again given to a request for an extension to the limitation period in respect of the indemnity clauses. It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To seek further legal and valuation advice.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That, under Standing Order No. 27) a, Standing Order 9 be suspended and that the first resolution recorded under Minute No. 86 be rescinded to enable the Town Clerk, together with the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park Working Party, to agree an extension to the limitation period in respect of the indemnity clauses, if deemed necessary.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Standing Order No. 1) q be suspended to allow the meeting to continue beyond the 2 hour period.

- (b) **Appointment of Legal Advisers in respect of Lease/Licence Agreements**  
The Clerk updated Members on correspondence with Norfolk County Council regarding the appointment of legal advisers in respect of lease/licence agreements.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that ‘nplaw’, the legal department of Norfolk County Council, were experts in dealing with public sector legal matters, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That ‘nplaw’ instructed in respect of a number of outstanding lease/licence agreements in accordance with the terms set out in an e-mail dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.

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