

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on  
**WEDNESDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024** at 5.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor T. Foster – Chairman

Councillor M. Bonfield

Councillor S. Brookes

Councillor M. Coward

Councillor J. Dorrington

Councillor J. Lejeune

Councillor D. Monkhouse

Councillor C. Moreton

Councillor C. Sutton

Councillor C. Tomes

Councillor W. Trite

Councillor S. Vile

**Public Participation Time**

There were no Members of the public present at the meeting.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 5.30 p.m.

135. **Apologies**

There were no apologies to record on this occasion.

136. **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.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

137. **Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

There were no items raised on this occasion.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Moreton 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 item 4 for reasons of legal and commercial confidentiality.

138. **Green Seafront Scheme and Shore Road Traffic Management Proposals**

(a) **To consider preferred option(s) to be brought forward for public consultation in spring 2025, together with budget estimates**

Further to Minute No. 215 (a) of the Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024, and discussions at recent meetings of the Seafront Masterplan working party, Members considered the contents of a briefing paper which detailed the work carried out to date in terms of the exploration of options for the stabilisation and enhancement of the seafront land between Victoria Avenue

and Cliff Cottage. Following receipt of a report containing the outcome of the early contractor involvement (ECI) process in respect of the two stabilisation schemes that were consulted upon in 2023, it had been agreed that a draft third option should be prepared. That work had now been completed, together with an outline budget proposal. The design was broadly welcomed, and it was noted that it met the following criteria:

- Filling in Walrond Road to create a larger event space
- Improving accessibility to Sandpit Field and beach huts
- Providing accessible toilets and shower facility
- Providing a range of new beach huts to maximise future income
- Increasing the extent and type of planting to improve biodiversity
- Creating an additional smaller event space.

In order to take the project forward, Members acknowledged the importance of community engagement regarding the revised design and funding options. Therefore, it was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Brookes and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

Subject to the further exploration of funding routes, to approve the third option for the stabilisation and enhancement of the Green Seafront, together with budget options, being brought forward for public consultation in spring 2025.

Consideration was also given to the Shore Road Feasibility Study prepared by Dorset Highways further to Minute No. 180 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Members noted that the inclusion of four options, with budget estimates, as part of the wider public consultation in spring 2025, would provide valuable feedback from local residents on potential alterations to the highway and improvements to the public realm. It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Moreton and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To approve four highway options for the northern section of Shore Road (Victoria Avenue to Ulwell Road), together with budget estimates, being brought forward for public consultation in spring 2025, as follows:

- Retain as existing with no change
- Remove the car parking and retain two-way traffic
- One way traffic with cycle provision
- Full closure.

Following brief consideration of potential funding options for the Green Seafront Scheme, Members debated the Town Council's position in respect of asset disposals as a means of potentially releasing funds. It was noted that Council had agreed exploratory steps being taken in respect of potential asset disposals at the Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 (Minute No. 87 refers). In view of a new council having been elected in May 2024, it was proposed by Councillor Brookes, seconded by Councillor Vile and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

To reaffirm the Town Council's agreement to take exploratory steps in respect of potential asset disposals to fund essential Town Council and community projects, including the engagement of appropriate professional advice.

Members noted the contents of the briefing note, including the immediate next steps which would now be actioned further to the decisions above.

(b) **To consider proposal to commission preparation of plans for public consultation in spring 2025**

Members acknowledged that to ensure effective engagement and consultation on the third option and the range of highways proposals for Shore Road, additional sketch plans and drawings would need to be produced, consistent with those produced in respect of the two options put out to consultation in 2023.

It was noted that Financial Regulation 11.1.b. permits the Council to award a contract for specialist services, such as those provided by surveyors and planning consultants, without seeking three quotes. Given the proven track record of WSP, their professional skills, knowledge of the site and understanding of context, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Sutton and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To appoint WSP to undertake general arrangement and masterplan drawings of the third option and highways proposals and undertake a site visit and walkover in order to provide suitable plans for public consultation in spring 2025 for the sum of £8,663.

(c) **To consider proposal to engage Dorset Coast Forum to undertake public consultation in spring 2025**

Members noted that in order that the public consultation and engagement regarding the Green Seafront third option and Shore Road highways options can be effectively undertaken in Spring 2025, Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) had been approached to provide a costed proposal to carry out this work. It was noted that DCF had carried out the previous round of consultation in autumn 2023 in a highly professional manner, engaging a large number of residents and other stakeholders.

It was, therefore, proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Sutton and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To waive Financial Regulation 11 so far as is required to directly appoint Dorset Coast Forum, due to the high quality of their previous work, their relevant knowledge and the impartial relationships they have formed with key local stakeholders, for the sum of £14,835 to undertake public engagement and consultation on a third design option for Swanage Green Seafront and four highways options for Shore Road.

The Meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

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