

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY 2011 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor W.S. Trite (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor C.R. Bright
Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox
Councillor M. Hadley
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor G.M. Suttle
Councillor M. Whitwam
Councillor A. Wiggins

Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public present at the Meeting.

Before commencing the business of the Agenda, the Town Mayor wished to record his appreciation of the sterling work undertaken by the Town Clerk, Finance Officer and their colleagues in preparing such detailed and comprehensive documents for the Meeting. His comments were endorsed by other Members.

1. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Audley.

2. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011-2014**

In accordance with Minute No. 2 (d) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee held on 13th December 2010, the Council's draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011-2014 was presented for consideration. The document largely replaces the former Estimates Report and sets out the Council's approach to income generation, treasury management, maintenance of adequate reserves and balances, capital investment and risk management. A risk analysis to show the effects of a 5% inflationary increase on expenditure (2011/12 base) was also circulated for information.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:-

To receive and adopt the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2011-2014.

3. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2011-14**

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2011-14 was submitted for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and **RESOLVED**, with **ONE ABSTENTION**:-

To receive and adopt the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2011-14.

4. **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

A Corporate Risk Register had been prepared, summarising the most significant risks faced by the Council and setting out the control procedures in place to mitigate these risks.

It was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To receive and adopt the Corporate Risk Register.

5. **POLICY ON RESERVES AND BALANCES**

A draft Policy on Reserves and Balances was submitted for consideration.

Arising therefrom, a question was raised regarding the Earmarked Reserves and whether any specific projects were incorporated within the Repairs and Renewals Fund. It was agreed that consideration be given to producing further details in respect of the Repairs and Renewals Fund in future years.

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

To receive and adopt the draft Policy on Reserves and Balances.

6. **SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2011/12**

Before consideration of the next item, it was noted that the proposed budget and scale of charges for 2011/12 was the culmination of work undertaken during the previous three months. The relevant sections of the proposed charges had been considered in detail by the Tourism, General Operations and Transport Committees (at which representatives from outside organisations had been present) and comparisons of charges made by other local authorities had also been taken into account.

Before consideration of the scale of fees and charges 2011/12, Councillor Bright declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a private beach hut owner, and as his interest was prejudicial, he left the Meeting during consideration of the charges to be levied for private beach hut sites.

Councillor Hadley declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a resident at Peveril Point, and as his interest was prejudicial, he left the Meeting during consideration of matters relating to Peveril Point (Items Nos. 2 and 6).

Councillor Wiggins declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a beach concessionaire. It was agreed that, as the following matters were subject to review in the near future, the items relating to Beach Chair Rights, Storage Hut and Pedalcraft Rights be not considered at the present time. Councillor Wiggins therefore remained in the Meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, with the exception of the items referred to above, the proposed Scale of Fees and Charges 2011/12 be approved and adopted.

Councillor Hadley left the Meeting.

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

That the proposed fees and charges relating to Peveril Point (Items Nos. 2 and 6) be approved and adopted.

Councillor Hadley returned to the Meeting and Councillor Bright left the Meeting.

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

That the proposed charges for private beach hut sites be approved and adopted.

Councillor Bright returned to the Meeting.

An impending interment of ashes was reported, and it was RESOLVED:-

That the charge for the scattering of ashes beneath turf/headstone (Item 15 (iv)) be introduced with immediate effect.

A copy of the Scale of Fees and Charges 2011/12 is attached at end of these Minutes.

7. **ESTIMATES BOOK AND PRECEPT 2011/12**

Detailed consideration was given to the Budget Report, Estimates Book and level of precept to be set for 2011/12.

Having regard to the Council's reserves and balances, and the estimated revenue surplus for the year, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED with ONE ABSTENTION:-

That the Estimates Book be approved and the level of precept to be levied for 2011/12 be £594,150 (a 0% increase upon the individual taxpayer).

8. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME PRIORITY SCHEMES 2011/12**

Further to Minute No. 2 (d) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 13th December 2010, consideration was given to the Council's Capital Programme Priority Schemes 2011/12.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Capital Programme Priority Schemes 2011/12 be agreed for the Operations Manager to work up and report further to full Council for final approval.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:-

That the staff resources available/required to undertake these projects be referred to the Personnel Committee, if deemed necessary.

9. **GRANTS AND DONATIONS 2011/12**

Further to Minute No. 2 (b) of the Finance & Performance Management Committee meeting held on 13th December 2010, it was noted that a budget of £10,000 had been agreed for grants and donations under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

During the ensuing discussion, Members felt that the full budget should not be allocated at the present time, but that some funds should be retained for future allocation if appropriate.

Consideration was then given to the following applications:-

(a) **Dorset County Council – School Crossing Patrol**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Bright, and
RESOLVED:-

That a sum not exceeding £3,600.43 be donated
Towards the costs of providing a school crossing patrol.

It was further suggested that an approach be made to Mount Scar School for
a donation towards the costs of providing this service.

(b) **S. Darrington – Blues Festival (March)**

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and
RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £250 be donated towards the costs
of the Swanage Blues Festival.

(c) **S. Darrington – Blues & Roots Festival (October)**

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and
RESOLVED:-

That the sum of £250 be donated towards the costs
of the Swanage Blues & Roots Festival.

(d) **Dorset Blind Association**

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

That the matter be deferred to enable further information
regarding the services provided by Dorset Blind Association
for Swanage residents to be obtained.

(e) **Dorset Youth Association – Young Purbeck**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Wiggins, and
RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred to enable further information
regarding the specific services provided in Swanage by
Young Purbeck to be obtained.

(f) **Durlston Country Park – Durlston/Swanage Community Bus**

Proposed by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Suttle:-

That, whilst the Town Council supports the provision of
the Durlston/Swanage Community Bus service through
the use of its car parks, it does not make a direct financial
contribution towards the costs of providing this service.

Upon being put to the Meeting, NINE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the
Proposition and there were TWO ABSTENTIONS, whereupon the
Proposition was declared CARRIED.

(g) **Girl Guiding Swanage – New HQ Appeal**

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

That the sum of £500 be donated to the Girl Guiding
Swanage – New HQ Appeal.

Before consideration of the next item, Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared a
personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a
member of the South Purbeck Task Group, and as her interest was prejudicial,
she left the Meeting during the debate.

(h) **South Purbeck Task Group – Streetwise Trips**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the sum of £300 be donated towards the costs
of providing transport for schoolchildren visiting the
Streetwise centre in Bournemouth.

10. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, 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 matter.

11. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Swanage Bay View Holiday Park**

The Town Clerk updated Members on a matter relating to the Swanage Bay
View Holiday Park, which was currently being dealt with by the Council's
legal advisers.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town
Clerk be given delegated authority to act in the
matter.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 a.m.
