

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of the Parish of Swanage, held at the Mowlem Community Room on **MONDAY, 26th APRIL 2010** at 7 o'clock p.m.

Councillor Michael Pratt, Town Mayor, was in the Chair, and, in addition to members of the Council and officials, 11 persons were present.

Chairman – Councillor M.W. Pratt (Town Mayor)

In attendance:-

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox
Councillor M. Hadley
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M. Whitwam
Councillor A. Wiggins

Ms. K. Gallagher Swanage Town & Community Partnership

Before the commencement of the Meeting, the Clerk outlined the procedure that would be followed during the Meeting. All registered electors in attendance had been issued with blue cards, and other interested parties (not on the electoral register) were allowed to attend the Meeting at the Chairman's discretion.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Audley, Bright and Suttle.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed, subject to it being recorded that Councillor Whitwam was present at the Meeting. (Copies of the Minutes were circulated to those present at the Meeting).

3. **GENERAL ISSUES**

The Mayor then opened the Meeting for general discussion, and invited questions and comments from the audience.

PC BARRY ASHDOWN, on behalf of Insp. Weeks – Dorset Police, reported on crime figures in Purbeck during the past year. In 2009/10, 555 crimes had been recorded – an 18.9% reduction on the previous year, when 684 crimes were recorded. These figures included 71 acts of violence and 47 reported thefts from vehicles.

MR BRIAN BARKER, President of the Swanage & District Chamber of Trade, reported that many local traders were supporting the national initiative 'Heroes Welcome'.

He then referred to the splendid floral displays in the town and wished to congratulate the Council's Operations Manager and his team for the sterling work undertaken by them.

During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that, following the sad death of Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, the Swanage in Bloom Committee had disbanded. It was, however, possible that the Herston and Swanage Horticultural Committee may take on this mantle.

MR. ALAN DOMINY announced that the following day, a branch of the Coastal Credit Union was opening at the Old Stable. He explained that the Credit Union was a co-operative that helped people with financial management. It provided safe saving opportunities for investors and low cost loans for borrowers. Information packs were available and would be distributed through local organisations. It was noted that this service would be provided each Tuesday between 10.30 am and 11.30 am.

MR IAN SAUNDERS referred to the residents' parking scheme that had been introduced at Peveril Point, and expressed concern that no provision had been made in this area for local disabled drivers. The **TOWN CLERK** reminded those present that the restrictions were only in force during the period May to September, but gave an assurance that he would investigate the matter.

MR PAUL ANGEL expressed concern for the safety of children attending schools, and suggested that consideration be given to consultation with local residents and head teachers regarding the safest routes to the schools. The **TOWN CLERK** suggested that it may be possible to include an article in the next edition of 'Swanage Matters' inviting comments/observations on the matter. **MS KIM GALLAGHER** reported that the Swanage Town and Community Partnership were working with Dorset County Council regarding a traffic survey for consideration in the long-term plan for the future.

MR CHRIS MAKIN drew attention to the increasing number of camper vans that were parked on the seafront, and requested that consideration be given to extending the traffic regulations to prohibit this practice. **COUNCILLOR POULTNEY**, Chairman of the Council's Transport Committee, reported that although no final decision had yet been made, Dorset County Council were considering the introduction of 'Pay and Display' parking meters in this location.

COUNCILLOR HADLEY referred to the small number of people present at the meeting and sought suggestions as to how public interest could be stimulated. During the ensuing discussion, it was reported that notices had been placed in the Swanage & Wareham Advertiser, the Purbeck Gazette, the Daily Echo and also the Town Council's Notice Boards and website. It was suggested that, in future, additional notices could be displayed in shop windows and sent to local organisations in an attempt to reach a wider audience. The service provided by the Rotary Hub could also be utilised for this purpose.

MR IAN SAUNDERS enquired whether steps could be taken to control the number of seagulls, which were becoming a problem particularly in the vicinity of The Square where the take-away food outlets were situated. He

also suggested that special refuse bins be provided in this area to deter the gulls from picking at the waste deposits.

MS COLLETTE DRAYSON suggested that the Purbeck Environment Action Group may be able to provide some assistance in addressing the problems associated with refuse, waste food etc. in the town. It was also suggested that more frequent litter collections be undertaken in the busiest areas of the town during the main summer season.

MR. GOLDINGHAM referred to the directional signs indicating the Tithe Barn in Church Hill, and requested that these now be removed.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.
