

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of the  
Parish of Swanage, held at the Mowlem Community Room  
on **THURSDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2011** at 7 o'clock p.m.

Councillor Bill Trite, Town Mayor, was in the Chair, and, in addition to members of the Council and officials, approx. 50 persons were present.

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

In attendance:-

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. Pratt

Ms. K. Gallagher	Swanage Town & Community Partnership
Mr. J. Maughan	Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association
Mr. B. Barker	Swanage Chamber of Trade
Mrs. A. Sturch	Swanage Chamber of Trade
Mr. K. Sansom	Swanage Chamber of Trade
Mrs. M. Andrews	Swanage Senior Forum
Cllr. L. Gloyn-Cox	Coastal Change Pathfinder
PC. B. Ashdown	Dorset Police
PCSO C. Rosenburg	Dorset Police
Mr. I. Brown	HM Coastguard
Mr. P. Angel	Education Swanage
Cllr. Mrs. A. Patrick	Olympic Legacy

Before the commencement of the Meeting, the Mayor explained that, with a view to attracting a wider audience, local organisations had been invited to make a short presentation on local issues and/or matters relating to their organisation, and he introduced the representatives that were present.

The Town Clerk then 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**

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

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed. (Copies of the Minutes were circulated to those present at the Meeting).

3. **SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL**

Before inviting the presentations, the Mayor gave a brief summary of matters affecting the Town Council during the past year.

a) **Public Services**

He reported that the Town Council generally maintained a policy to protect public services in the town (even if STC was not directly responsible for providing them) and these included:

- i) Contribution towards the cost of the school crossing patrol at Mount Scar School.
- ii) Future re-location of police services in the Town Hall Annexe.
- iii) Working with Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council, Primary Care Trust and the James Day Action Group with a view to re-opening James Day Home.

b) **Treasury Management**

Professional advisers had been appointed regarding the investment of the monies received from the sale of the Caravan Park.

c) **Accounts**

The Town Council's accounts were up to date and had been signed off by the District Auditor.

d) **Beach Gardens**

Refurbishment works had been undertaken to the tennis courts at Beach Gardens, and the Town Council had supported both the Tennis and Bowls Clubs in attracting new members.

e) **Core Strategy**

The Town Council had made representations to Purbeck District Council on the Core Strategy. The Council had objected to large scale settlement extensions, but was in favour of small scale development, where appropriate.

f) **Tourist Information Centre**

Swanage had retained the Blue Flag and Quality Coast Awards, and the Tourist Information Centre had been awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the national Mystery Shopper, and had reached the finals in the South West Tourism Excellence competition.

g) **Local Events**

The Town Council had worked closely with local organisations to ensure the smooth planning and running of the many excellent events held each year.

h) **Seafront Proposals/Stabilisation**

The Town Council, together with Purbeck District Council and the Swanage Town and Community Partnership, had undertaken a public consultation exercise to canvas the view of local residents on future proposals for the seafront/stabilisation.

i) **Support of Local Issues**

The Town Council had supported the following issues:

- i) Introduction of superfast broadband.
  - ii) Drawn attention to the risks of coastal erosion and tidal flooding.
  - iii) Supported Education Swanage in their quest to set up a ‘Free School’ in Swanage.
- j) **De Moulham Trust**  
As corporate trustee of the De Moulham Trust, grants totalling £10,000 had been provided to local organisations.
- k) **Staff**  
Finally, the Town Mayor reported on the appointment of Dr. Martin Ayres to the position of Town Clerk, and expressed his appreciation of the sterling work and dedication of all members of the Town Council’s staff.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

The Mayor welcomed the representatives from the various organisations, and invited presentations which were given on behalf of the following groups:-

- a) **Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association**  
Mr. J. Maughan (Vice-Chairman) reported that the Association currently had approximately 100 members. He gave a brief summary of the aims of the Association regarding the tourism industry and extension of the summer holiday season. He then reported on the recent Comedy Festival and the forthcoming Swanage & Purbeck Walking Festival.
- b) **Swanage Senior Forum**  
Mrs. M. Andrews was pleased to report that since the Forum was launched in April 2008, membership had increased to 454.
- c) **Swanage Chamber of Trade**  
Mr. B. Barker reported on matters relating to the Chamber of Trade, and its increased membership, during the past year.
- d) **Coastal Change Pathfinder**  
Councillor Gloyn-Cox reported on the risks of coastal erosion and tidal flooding, and referred to recent public exhibitions that had been staged by the Environment Agency about the Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.
- e) **Dorset Police**  
Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were given from Insp. Baker and PC Cox.  
PC Ashdown reported on crime incidents during the past year, and made comparisons to reported incidents in 2009/10 and 2010/11.  
He then drew attention to a Community Safety Event that was being held at the Mowlem on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon.

- f) **HM Coastguard**  
Mr. I. Brown, Station Officer, referred to the duties of HM Coastguard in Swanage and the surrounding district, and reported on the number of incidents that the team had attended during the past year.
- g) **Education Swanage**  
Mr. P. Angel updated the Meeting on matters relating to Education Swanage and their quest to provide a 'Free School' in Swanage.
- h) **Olympic Legacy**  
Councillor Mrs. Patrick reported on the Olympic Legacy and any affect this may have on Swanage. It was noted that a meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April to co-ordinate ideas and suggestions.
- i) **Swanage Town & Community Partnership**  
Mrs. K. Gallagher, Vice Chairman, reported that the AGM of the Partnership was scheduled to be held on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10 a.m. in the Town Hall.

5. **GENERAL ISSUES**

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

**MR. J. JAMES** referred to the forthcoming elections, and expressed his appreciation of the work undertaken during their term of office by the councillors who were not seeking re-election to the Town Council. He then enquired whether there had been any progress regarding the future provision of a sports hall in the town.

**MR. P. ANGEL**, replied that it was intended to incorporate a sports hall within the plans for a 'Free School' in Swanage.

**MR. P. CLARK** enquired whether any progress had been made regarding the control/prohibition of camper vans on Shore Road. He was informed that the situation was being monitored.

**MS. C. DRAYSON** expressed concern regarding the future viability of the Mowlem, and enquired whether a meeting could be arranged with the Trustees to discuss the future of the building.

**MR. I. MACKENZIE** enquired whether, since the beach recharge, an annual assessment of the groynes was undertaken by Purbeck District Council. It was suggested that he contact the District Engineer at Purbeck District Council in this regard.

**MR. B. BARKER** enquired whether there were any proposals to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee in Swanage. It was noted that some proposals had been put forward, but had not yet been considered.

**COUNCILLOR HADLEY** was pleased to note that the Parish Meeting had attracted a larger audience than in recent years, and felt that this could be as a result of wider publicity through advertising media and the website. He then reported that the Swanage Residents' Association was in danger of collapse through lack of support, and enquired whether any local residents would be prepared to undertake the duties of officers for the Association.

A suggestion from a member of the audience that tea and cakes be provided was noted.

The meeting concluded at 9.00 p.m.

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