

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of the Parish of Swanage, held at the Mowlem Community Room on **THURSDAY, 12th APRIL 2012** 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. 25 persons were present.

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

In attendance:-

Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett
Councillor Miss C. Harris
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor M. Pratt

Mrs. K. Gallagher	Swanage Town & Community Partnership
Mr. A. Power	Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association
Mr. B. Barker	Swanage Chamber of Trade
Mr. T. Ayling	Swanage Senior Forum
Mr. M. Turnbull	Coastal Change Forum
Mr. M. Jacobs	Swanage Pier Trust
Mrs. M. Hardy	Swanage Rotary Club
Mr. P. Angel	Education Swanage
Ms. B. Chadwick	Swanage Sea Rowing Club

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**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Brown and Suttle, Mr. D. Bale (Mowlem Trust), Dorset Police and PACT Panel.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 24th March 2011 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) **Local Council Elections**
Four new councillors had been elected to serve on Swanage Town Council in May 2011 – Councillors Mrs. Cherry Bartlett, Mike Bonfield, Ian Brown and Miss Cindy Harris.
- b) **Town Crier**
Mr. Andrew Fleming had been appointed to the post of Town Crier.
- c) **Town Hall**
The Town Hall was now licensed for weddings, and was proving very popular.
- d) **Beach Wardens' Cabin**
A new Beach Wardens' Cabin had been installed, thanks to a generous contribution of £2,000 from the Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association.
- e) **Signage**
New, informative signage had been installed in the Town Council's car parks.
- f) **Bus Shelter**
A dilapidated bus shelter on Ulwell Road had been replaced with a new facility.
- g) **Boat Park**
Lighting had been installed at the Boat Park to address security concerns.
- h) **Day's Park**
A new children's play area and outdoor gym equipment is currently being installed at Day's Park.
- i) **Car Parks**
'Pay-by-phone' facilities had been introduced in the Council's car parks.
- j) **Lengthsman Scheme**
The Lengthsman Scheme had been adopted by the Town Council. A £10,000 contribution from Dorset County Council enabled the Town Council's workforce to address minor maintenance issues on verges and footpaths.
- k) **Dog Fouling**
The Council's Enforcement Officers had powers to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling.
- l) **Education**
The Town Council had agreed to support 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, donations had been made to Swanage Cricket Club, Air Training Corps, Purbeck Film Academy, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Swanage Museum, Education Swanage and Swanage Sea Rowing Club.

Looking Ahead

The Mayor reported on the following forthcoming projects:-

- a) **Parking, Shore Road**
'Pay and Display' parking to be introduced on Shore Road by Dorset County Council, including measures to prevent camper van parking.
- b) **Dorset Police**
Dorset Police will be moving into the Town Hall Annexe, and it is intended to provide a joint reception facility i.e. STC and Dorset Police.
- c) **CCTV**
Additional CCTV equipment is to be installed at the junction of Institute Road/Station Road.
- d) **Town Hall**
Essential repairs to the Town Hall roof are scheduled to be carried out.
- e) **Bandstand**
The bandstand on the Recreation Ground had sustained considerable damage during the winter storms. It was hoped that refurbishment works would be completed before the main holiday season.
- f) **Peveril Point**
The wartime shelter on Peveril Point was scheduled to be demolished later in the month.
- g) **Information Boards**
The Town Council had supported Coastwatch regarding the installation of information boards at Peveril Point.
- h) **Foot Showers**
Foot showers were scheduled to be installed on the seafront.
- i) **Monkey Beach**
The Town Council had approved an application for a pontoon off Monkey Beach with a view to providing better sea accessibility during the Olympics summer.
- j) **Natural Burial Ground**
A natural burial ground had been laid out and was soon to be open as an extension to Godlingston Cemetery.

- k) **Area Action Plan/Neighbourhood Plan**
The Town Council was currently working with the Town Partnership and Purbeck District Council to develop an Area Action Plan/Neighbourhood Plan. Extensive public consultation would be undertaken to help shape the Plan, which would become a statutory document.

In concluding his report, the Town Mayor expressed his appreciation of the sterling work and dedication 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) **Coastal Change Forum**

Mr. M. Turnbull reported on the risks of coastal erosion and tidal flooding, and presented slides showing the geomorphology of the local area.

He referred to the Shoreline Management Plan, and the current policy adopted as follows:

Durlston Bay	No active intervention
Main Beach	Hold the line
North Swanage	No active intervention

b) **Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association**

Mr. A. Power outlined the main objectives of the Hospitality Association and their strategy for the period 2012 - 2017.

The aims for 2012 included:

- Olympics – Promotion of Swanage & Purbeck.
- Festivals – To extend the holiday season by staging Walking and Comedy Festivals.
- Branding work – Jurassic Coast Trust, Piddle Brewery, Oswald Bailey.
- Stakeholder support – Destination Dorset, Local Enterprise Partnership, Purbeck District Council, Swanage Town Council, Dorset & New Forest Tourism Partnership.

c) **Swanage Rotary Club**

Mrs. M. Hardy outlined the objectives of Rotary, and was pleased to report that the Swanage & Purbeck branch had been active for approximately 50 years. She explained the work of the local branch and its involvement with young people, and highlighted the need to recruit new members and volunteers for fundraising events.

d) **Swanage Chamber of Trade**

Mr. B. Barker reported on matters relating to the Chamber of Trade during the past year.

He also reported that the Chamber had donated a seat to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee which had

been installed in the grounds of the Purbeck House Hotel and would be unveiled on 7th June 2012.

e) **Education Swanage**

Mr. P. Angel updated the Meeting on matters relating to Education Swanage and their quest to provide a 'Free School' in Swanage. He provided information on the proposed timescales for the project, and the projected opening of the 'Free School' in September 2013.

f) **Swanage Pier Trust**

Mr. M. Jacobs provided background information on the Swanage Pier, and outlined the aims of the Pier Trust to preserve and restore the structure to its original Victorian state.

A General Manager had recently been appointed to progress the aims of the Trust and to increase the commercial undertakings at the Pier.

g) **Swanage Town & Community Partnership**

Mrs. K. Gallagher, Vice-Chairman, reported that the Town Partnership was working towards the development of the Swanage Local Plan, with the key priorities being housing and education.

The next meeting of the Partnership was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 26th April 2012 in the Town Hall.

h) **Swanage Sea Rowing Club**

Mrs. B. Chadwick reported on matters relating to the Sea Rowing Club. A new gig was ready to be collected from Fowey and would be officially named at a Ceremony on Saturday, 21st April 2012.

She was proud to report that three gigs would be taking part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the river Thames in June.

i) **Swanage Senior Forum**

Mr. T Ayling, Chairman, was pleased to report that since the Forum was launched in April 2008, membership had increased to approximately 500. Regular meetings of the Forum were held, and a weekly Lunch Club was proving popular.

4. **NAVITUS BAY WIND FARM**

In the absence of Dr. Andrew Langley, Mr. M. Turnbull reported that the period of public consultation on the proposals for the Navitus Bay Wind Farm closes on 17th April, and he urged those present to submit their observations to Eneco. There would then be a 'Statutory Consultation', and a further public consultation before planning is submitted in 2013.

5. **GENERAL ISSUES**

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

MRS. M. HARDY had found the Meeting very enlightening, but was disappointed at the poor attendance.

It was suggested that future Parish Meetings could be promoted by the Town Crier and additional publicity given to the event.

In conclusion, the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.
