

Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Council
held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on
MONDAY, 17th OCTOBER 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor C. Moreton – Chair

Councillor J. Bishop
Councillor M.P. Bonfield
Councillor A. Harris
Councillor N. Rogers
Councillor G.M. Suttle
Councillor W. Trite
Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, four members of the public and one member of the local press attended the Meeting.

In the absence of a member of the clergy, Councillor Moreton offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Council Meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised:-

- **Indoor Sport Provision** – a request was made for improvements to indoor sport facilities in the town. Members were invited to attend a session of the local table tennis club at the Methodist Church Hall to appreciate the limited space available for the numbers in attendance.
- **Jurassic Fibre** – a presentation was provided regarding the provision of a fast fibre internet service to the area. The Jurassic Fibre representatives provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the company's progress in the installation of fast fibre infrastructure across southwest England. A request was made for the installation of an exchange cabin on Town Council owned land. Further to a question and answer session, which included a brief discussion over potential sites, it was noted that further discussion would be held under agenda item 17.

The Jurassic Fibre representatives were thanked for their presentation and left the meeting.

The Chair opened the Council Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

88. **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Foster (Town Mayor) and Councillors Finch and Tomes. Councillor Monkhouse attended the meeting remotely.

89. **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.

90. **Minutes**
(a) Proposed by Councillor Rogers, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held
on 26th September 2022 be approved as a correct
record and signed.

Further to Minute No. 73 of the Council Meeting held on 26th September 2022, and discussions held at the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting held on 3rd October 2022, it was noted that the comments made by members of the public, whilst raising concerns regarding the proposed redevelopment of garages at 4 Hillview Road, had been made during suspension of the meeting, and therefore the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 5th September 2022 would not be changed.

91. **Planning and Consultation Committee**
Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Whitwam and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That the Minutes of the Planning and Consultation
Committee Meeting held on 3rd October 2022 be
approved as a correct record and signed.

The chair of the Planning and Consultation Committee thanked the Planning and Community Engagement Manager for her fulsome response regarding the proposed redevelopment of 23 De Moulham Road.

92. **Personnel Committee**
Proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-
That the Minutes of the Personnel Committee
Meeting held on 10th October 2022 be approved
as a correct record and signed.

93. **Statement of Cash Balance**
(a) A Statement of Cash Balance as at 30th September 2022 was submitted for
information (a copy attached at the end of these Minutes).

94. **Payment of Accounts**
In accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Council's Financial Regulations,
the following Payment Schedule was submitted for information:-
• Payment Schedule 6, amounting to £1,143,607.43

95. **Chairman's Announcements**
It was reported by Councillor Moreton that he had attended the Community Awards event held on 10th October 2022, in his role as Deputy Mayor. It was reported that the event, celebrating the tireless work of local volunteers, had been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Councillor Moreton extended thanks to officers for their time in organising the event. The Deputy Mayor also wished Councillor Foster a speedy recovery from her current illness.

96. **Swanage Town Disability Audit**
Consideration was given to a briefing paper prepared by the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager proposing the Town Council commission a Disability

Audit. It was reported that the audit would be undertaken by an organisation with specialist expertise in accessibility audits and a report would be provided to the Town Council detailing the existing positive aspects of access to the town and suggested areas for improvement.

A question was raised around whether there would be an opportunity for local residents with a disability and their carers to contribute to the report, and a query was raised around how detailed the conclusion of the report would be to inform future decisions. In response, it was stated that at this initial stage the company, who had considerable expertise in this field, would prepare the report but that ways would be found for local residents with relevant experience to contribute to proposed improvements.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield and seconded by Councillor Rogers:-

That the Town Council approve the expenditure of up to £3,500 to undertake an accessibility audit of the town and seafront.

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

97. **Sandbanks Ferry Update**

It was reported that the Sandbanks Ferry company were in the process of an application to raise the cost of ferry travel in response to the increase in inflation. It was noted that usage was down on last year and other factors relating to the operation of the ferry, such as delays when embarking/disembarking, due to congestion during busy periods, had impacted efficiency, and therefore the running costs. It was confirmed that no action was required on behalf of the Town Council, pending any formal proposal from the ferry operator.

98. **Working Party Matters**

(a) **Events – 28th September 2022**

Further to a briefing paper prepared by the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager it was reported that the #Willdoes charity had agreed to manage arrangements for the ‘Boxing Day Dip’ and was requesting permission for that event. Lewis Manning was seeking approval of a proposed ‘Candles on the Beach’ event, to be held on 10th December.

Further to discussion and assurance that the appropriate documentation would be received by the Town Council prior to commencement of the events, Members AGREED:-

That the #Willdoes ‘Boxing Day Dip’ and Lewis Manning ‘Candles on the Beach’ events be approved.

99. **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) Annual General Meeting Saturday 19th November 2022 – To agree attendance and voting arrangements**

Further to a briefing paper prepared by DAPTC in preparation for the AGM to be held in November detailing the motions for consideration, it was noted that the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor would represent the Town Council, and Councillor Monkhouse would be in attendance to put forward the Town Council’s motion for consideration (further to Minute No. 81 of the Council Meeting held on 26th September 2022). Furthermore, it was agreed that delegated authority would be provided to the Members in attendance at the DAPTC AGM to second or vote for or against other town and parish councils’ motions on behalf of the Town Council.

100. **Report from Dorset Councillors**

Councillors Suttle and Trite provided updates on matters, which included the following:

- Councillor Flower, Leader of Dorset Council, had visited the town where he received an enthusiastic tour from pupils and the headteacher of The Swanage School, prior to a drive along Washpond Lane, which followed the walked route by pupils residing at Herston Yards Campsite. The need for a safer alternative way for the pupils to access school had been highlighted and the suggestion of minibus provision raised with Councillor Flower. It had been clearly conveyed to Councillor Flower that there was a need for Dorset Council's housing, education and highway teams to work together to resolve the issues.
- It was reported that Dorset Council would seek the public's views to inform and shape the future of Adult and Social Care provision in Dorset over the next 5 to 10 years. A drop-in session would be held at Swanage Library on 24th October between 1.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., with senior leaders, councillors, and officers from Dorset Council in attendance.
- It was stated that Dorset Council were in need of additional social landlords and would provide assistance in the preparation of homes for rental.

101. **Reports from Council representatives on outside organisations**

(a) **South East Purbeck Parishes meeting – 5th October 2022**

Further to the notes of the SE Purbeck Parishes meeting, held on 5th October 2022, it was noted that the representatives of the neighbouring parishes had raised concerns over the management of visitor numbers to their areas.

In response, it was stated that the comments would be raised with the chairman of the Tourism and Local Economy Committee with the aim of seeking the inclusion of this item on a future agenda of that committee.

102. **Reporting of delegated matters**

- (a) Further to Minute No. 81 of the Council Meeting held on 26th September 2022, it was reported that the motion had been submitted for inclusion at the DAPTC AGM, and further to Minute No. 99 above, it would be put forward by Councillor Monkhouse at the AGM on Saturday 19th November 2022.

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

- (a) **Future of Swanage-based Ambulance Car – Update** – there was no further update to report at this time.
- (b) **A & E Local – Update** – it was reported that Councillor Flower had been made aware of the concerns regarding A&E provision in an effort to expediate action. An update would be provided to a future meeting.
- (c) **Wellbeing Swanage – Update** – further to Minute No. 85 (d) of the Council meeting held on 26th September 2022, it was reported that further information regarding the asset transfer of the Day Centre and Children's Centre, was still awaited from Dorset Council, and an update would be provided to a future meeting.
- (d) **ATM provision following bank branch closures** – further to Minute No. 85 (e) of the Council meeting held on 26th September 2022, it was reported that the Post Office envisaged the installation of an ATM at their new branch. Furthermore it was noted that a survey had been circulated to businesses in the town to gauge opinion regarding the impact of bank and ATM removal in the town and Councillor Finch had agreed to be the point of contact.

- (e) **Swanage Town Council Community Awards** – it was noted that three councillors had attended the awards evening and reported that it was a successful event.
- (f) **Purbeck Coast Radio** – it was noted that Purbeck Coast Radio were happy to host a regular 40 minute slot for councillors and/or officers to discuss relevant topics.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by Councillor Moreton, and AGREED:-

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 items 6 to 8 for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

104. **Installation of Path and Lighting at Day's Park**

Further to Minute Nos. 48(a) of the Council Meeting held on 4th July 2022 and 67(a) of the Council Meeting held on 27th July 2022, consideration was given to a briefing paper prepared by the Assets and Compliance Manager. This set out a proposal for phasing the works for the installation of lighting along the existing path across Day's Park and the installation of a new path across Journey's End.

Given that the proposal to install lighting along the existing path forms part of a wider scheme, working jointly with Dorset Council, to provide a safer route to St Mary's school through Day's Park, it was proposed that these be treated as a priority. In light of ongoing discussions with Swanage and Herston Football Club, and the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, about potential changes to the layout of football pitches on Journey's End in connection with the creation of a new Sports and Social Centre, it was suggested that the installation of the new footpath over Journey's End could form phase two of the works and be confirmed at a future date.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield and seconded by Councillor Bishop:-

That the Town Council approve the phasing of works for the installation of a path and lighting at Day's Park and Journey's End and proceed with phase one works only at this stage.

Upon being put to the Meeting, SEVEN Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition, and there was ONE ABSENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

105. **To consider proposal from Jurassic Fibre to install an Exchange Cabin at North Beach Car Park to support Full Fibre to the Premises rollout**

Further to Minute No. 87. of the Council meeting held on 26th September 2022, and a briefing paper, prepared by the Town Clerk, a discussion was held around the installation of an Exchange Cabin on Town Council owned land. It was acknowledged that the provision of a fast fibre internet service would have a positive impact on residents and businesses.

Following a discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Suttle and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council grant permission to Jurassic Fibre to install an Exchange Cabin at North Beach Car Park (or a suitable alternative location) and enter into an agreement accordingly, subject to compliance with legal and valuation advice received and acquisition of planning consent.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED:

That delegated authority be given to officers to agree
the most suitable location.

The Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.
