

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Swanage Town  
Council held via Zoom on **MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**  
at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.P. Bonfield – Chairman

Councillor C. Finch  
Councillor T. Foster  
Councillor A. Harris  
Councillor D. Monkhouse  
Councillor C. Moreton  
Councillor J. Page  
Councillor G.M. Suttle  
Councillor C. Tomes  
Councillor W.S. Trite  
Councillor M. Whitwam

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

Reverend Mark Hatto, Minister & Team Leader, Emmanuel Baptist Church, offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Before opening the Meeting, the Chair welcomed members of the public and read a short statement regarding the fire evacuation procedure, filming/audio recording etc. of the Meeting, and a summary of the procedure for Public Participation Time.

**Public Participation Time**

There were no matters raised.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 7.10 p.m.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR**

Proposed by Councillor Moreton, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillor Michael Peter Bonfield be appointed  
Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Bonfield completed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and was honoured to accept the appointment.

In accepting the appointment, Councillor Bonfield expressed his appreciation of the support given to him by Mrs Avril Harris as Deputy Mayor, and his fellow Councillors during his Term of Office.

Councillor Bonfield wished to record his thanks and appreciation for the support, hard work and dedication given by all Town Council officers and staff during his Term as Mayor.

In closing, Councillor Bonfield thanked his wife Audrey for her vital support and understanding, and for carrying out the role of Mayoress during the past year. He also gave thanks to his family. Audrey would continue to undertake the role of Mayoress during the forthcoming year.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Foster, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillor Avril Harris be appointed Deputy  
Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Harris completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and was  
delighted to accept the appointment. Councillor Harris' husband, Mr Michael Tucker,  
would continue to be her consort during her period of Office.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for  
Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of  
Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

4. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from  
Councillor Rogers.

5. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2020/21**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following appointments of representatives to outside bodies be  
approved:-

Citizens Advice Bureau	Councillor Moreton
Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils	Town Mayor & Deputy Mayor
Dorset Coast Forum	Councillor Page
Herston Village Hall Management Committee	Councillor Bonfield – observer
Herston Reading Room	Councillors Bonfield & Monkhouse
Purbeck Rail Partnership	Councillor Whitwam
Purbeck Transport Action Group	Councillors Monkhouse & Whitwam
SE Purbeck Parishes Liaison Group	Town Mayor & Town Clerk
Sustainable Swanage Group	Councillors Harris, Monkhouse & Rogers
Swanage Childrens' Centre	Councillor Monkhouse
Swanage Fairtrade	Councillor Harris

Swanage Museum	Councillors Page & Whitwam
Swanage Pier Trust	Councillor Whitwam
Swanage Pub Watch	Councillor Whitwam
Swanage Regatta & Carnival Committee	Town Mayor, and Councillors Finch & Tomes
Swanage Town & Community Partnership	Town Mayor
Swanage2027 Steering Committee	Councillors Harris & Whitwam
Swanage Town & Herston Football Club	Councillors Bonfield & Tomes
The Centre Management Board	Councillor Monkhouse - observer

6. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2020/21**

Proposed by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Moreton, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following appointments be made to the Committees:-

**General Operations Committee**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor), Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Finch, Monkhouse, Moreton, Page and Tomes.

**Personnel Committee**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor), Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Foster, Moreton and Trite.

**Planning and Consultation Committee**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor), Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Finch, Foster, Page and Whitwam.

**Tourism**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor) and Councillors Finch, Foster, Moreton, Page, Tomes and Whitwam.

**Transport Committee**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor), Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Monkhouse, Moreton, Rogers and Whitwam.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND POLICY, FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2020/21**

Proposed by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Tomes, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following appointment of Committee Chairpersons and Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee be approved:-

**General Operations Committee**

Chair – Councillor Moreton

**Personnel Committee**

Chair – Councillor Trite

**Planning and Consultation Committee**

Chair - Councillor Finch

**Tourism Committee**

Chair – Councillor Tomes

**Transport Committee**

Chair – Councillor Whitwam

**Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee**

(To consist of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Chair of each of the Council's Standing Committees).

Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Finch, Moreton, Tomes, Trite and Whitwam.

It was also agreed that, given his financial expertise, Councillor Suttle would also be a member of this committee.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following appointments to Advisory Committees be made:-

- (a) **Beach Management Advisory Committee**  
Councillors Bonfield, Finch and Tomes.  
(Comprising three members of the Tourism Committee)
- (b) **Community Housing Steering Group**  
Councillors Bonfield, Foster, Harris and Monkhouse.

9. **MEMBERSHIP OF WORKING PARTIES 2020/21**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Page, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following appointments to Council Working Parties be approved:-

**Affordable Housing**

Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Foster, Monkhouse, Moreton, Page, Rogers and Whitwam.

**Car Parks**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor) and Councillors Finch, Foster and Whitwam.

**Communications Strategy**

Councillors Finch, Foster, Moreton and Tomes.

**Community Awards Panel**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor) and Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor).

**Environmental Policy**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor), Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Foster, Monkhouse, Rogers, Trite and Whitwam.

**Events**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor), Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Finch and Tomes.

**Grants Panel**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor), Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Finch, Foster and Page.

**Market**

Councillors Finch, Foster and Page.

**Museum**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor) and Councillors Page and Whitwam.

**Public Conveniences**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor) and Councillors Finch and Moreton.

**Shore Road Closure**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor), Councillor Harris (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors Monkhouse, Moreton and Whitwam.

**Sport, Leisure & Wellbeing**

Councillor Bonfield (Town Mayor) and Councillors Foster, Moreton, Rogers and Tomes.

10. **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020/21**

Consideration was given to membership subscriptions paid annually. It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the following annual membership subscriptions be paid:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Renewal Date</b>	<b>Amount £ (approx.)</b>
National Association of Memorial Masons	1 <sup>st</sup> January	264
Campaign to Protect Rural England	1 <sup>st</sup> February	36
Fields in Trust	1 <sup>st</sup> February	65
Local Council Advisory Service (Zurich)	1 <sup>st</sup> February	114
National Association of British Markets	1 <sup>st</sup> March	358
Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management	1 <sup>st</sup> April	95
South West Councils	1 <sup>st</sup> April	514
Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (NALC)	1 <sup>st</sup> April	1331

British Destinations	1 <sup>st</sup> June	120
Community Land Trust Network	1 <sup>st</sup> August	44
National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners	1 <sup>st</sup> August	66
Society Of Local Council Clerks	1 <sup>st</sup> September	357

11. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Foster, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

12. **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by the Town Mayor, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

13. **SWANAGE COMMUNITY HOUSING STEERING GROUP**

Proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Foster, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Community Housing Steering Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed.

14. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

(a) A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 was submitted for information (a copy attached at the end of these Minutes).

(b) A Statement of Cash Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 was submitted for information (a copy attached at the end of these Minutes).

15. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

In accordance with Regulations 5 and 6 of the Council's Financial Regulations, the following Payment Schedules were submitted for information:-

- Payment Schedule 4, amounting to £203,634.50
- Payment Schedule 5, amounting to £200,617.15

16. **TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT**

The Town Clerk was pleased to report that no matters had been identified by the External Auditor for consideration by the Town Council, and a 'clean bill of health' had been received. Thanks were extended to officers, and to the Town Clerk and the Council's Finance Manager, Alison Spencer.

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council notes receipt of the external auditor report and certificate from PKF Littlejohn LLP for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and that no further action is required.

17. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Bonfield reported that he had not attended any civic events during the past month.

18. **REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS**

Updates were given on a number of matters including:-

- **Projections for end of financial year 2020/21** – it was reported that Dorset Council could potentially be faced with an estimated £5m overspend by the end of the financial year unless remedial action was taken. Some concern was raised over the potential impact of this on the delivery of local services.
- **Dorset Waste Partnership** – problems had recently been experienced with missed rubbish and recycling collections, which had been under review by DWP over the past quarter.
- **Government's furlough scheme** – the furlough scheme would come to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Concerns had been raised that up to 15,000 people could be at risk of losing their jobs in Dorset.
- **Estate and Assets Management** – a review of Dorset Council owned land and buildings was being undertaken.
- **Eastern Area Planning Committee** – further to Minute No. 68 of the Town Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019 it was reported that the number of councillors representing wards in the former Purbeck District Council area had reduced. Councillor Trite would be making representations to Dorset Council regarding this matter.
- **Dorset Council Discretionary Business Grant** - £5k grant monies had been awarded to Swanage Town Council to cover costs incurred during the pandemic.

19. **WORKING PARTY UPDATES**

(a) **Environmental Policy held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Further to Minute No. 218 (c) of the Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020, which included a copy of the Draft Swanage Town Council Environmental Policy dated February 2020, an update on progress to date, and details of next steps. It was reported that some key steps had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, however, matters were now moving forward quickly and a first draft Action Plan for the Environmental Policy was being developed which, once completed, would be subject to public consultation.

It was noted that the next meeting of the working party would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at which the progress of the draft Action Plan would be reviewed, and options would be explored for the Town Council to move to a 'green' energy tariff.

20. **SUSTAINABLE SWANAGE PROGRESS REPORT**

Further to Minute No. 295 (a) of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020 providing an update on actions and progress made to date by the Group, which included a possible tree planting project in the High Street, the creation of a 'tree map' of Swanage, a Swift conservation project, and a successful open meeting on sustainable transport. It was noted that a further open meeting was planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> September which would

focus on ‘greening’ projects and tree planting in the town, and the Group would welcome suggestions for new locations to be included in these proposals. October’s open meeting would focus on discussions regarding sustainable tourism.

(a) **To consider draft proposal for Rabling Green Pocket Park**

Further to Minute No. 271 (b) 3 of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020, consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020 which set out the design proposal for the Rabling Green Pocket Park, and provided details of the tree species to be planted. It was proposed that this work would be undertaken during winter 2020/21, although the park would continue to be developed over a number of years. Total estimated costs for these works were £900. It was noted that boards displaying the plans had been installed on site for members of the public to view.

The Town Council would be required to cut the grass on a regular basis, and would retain responsibility for health and safety and ultimate management of the site. However, the day to day running of the site would be undertaken by the Greening Swanage Group, which sat within the structure of Sustainable Swanage. It was therefore deemed essential that a Memorandum of Understanding should be developed between the Town Council and Sustainable Swanage to set out the responsibilities and requirements of each organisation regarding future management of the site.

During the discussion it was agreed that consultation with neighbours of the site should be undertaken, and that the proposals should be widely promoted locally and via Social Media and the Council’s website. A comment was also made that the Council currently had a waiting list for memorial benches and whether these could also be considered for the park.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Harris, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That approval be given for Sustainable Swanage to proceed with the development of the Rabling Green Pocket Park, as set out in the briefing note dated September 2020:-

- 1) That the Rabling Green Pocket Park concept and design is adopted by the Town Council.
- 2) That a Memorandum of Understanding is produced by Sustainable Swanage and the Town Council and approved at a future meeting Council Meeting.
- 3) That the Town Council approves a grant of £900 towards the funding of this project.

(b) **Designation of Downs Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – Update**

Further to Minute No. 298 of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 consideration was then given to a briefing note which detailed the progress made to date with the development of the Downs LNR. A habitat map of the site and a survey of the species present had been completed. Next steps included the creation of a formal Management Plan, which would be subject to community engagement. It was proposed to establish a ‘Friends of’ group to be involved in the development of the plan.

The update on actions undertaken by Sustainable Swanage regarding the Downs LNR was noted by the Town Council accordingly.



21. **WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS – COMPLIANCE PLAN**

(a) **To authorise budget for new website**

Consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020. It was reported that from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 all local council websites would have to comply with the government's accessibility requirements and achieve Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 level AA as part of meeting these requirements. At the least, councils would have to have a plan of action and an accessibility statement in place by this date, and it was explained that the Council would need to make reasonable adjustments to its website to ensure that it was accessible to people with various disabilities. These included:-

- Impaired vision
- Motor difficulties
- Cognitive impairments or learning disabilities
- Deafness or impaired hearing

Members of the Council's Communications Strategy Working Party had met on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to discuss the Council's existing website and WCAG 2.1 Compliance Plan. As part of this officers were in the process of undertaking a basic accessibility check of the website and a number of issues had been identified, which included outdated PDF documents, the beach hut booking system, and that the site was currently not user friendly on some mobiles/ handheld devices.

Working Party Members agreed that although the existing website was user friendly it was in need of some updating and refreshing and, in view of the amount of work required to make the site compliant, felt that consideration should be given to the commissioning of a new WCAG 2.1 compliant site. The maximum cost for this work had been estimated at £11,000.

During the ensuing discussion Members of the Working Party expressed an interest in being involved in any tender process for a new website.

It was proposed by Councillor Foster and seconded by Councillor Harris:-

That the Town Council approves a budget of up to a maximum of £11,000 for the design and build of a new WCAG 2.1 compliant Swanage Town Council website.

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

It was further proposed by Councillor Foster and seconded by Councillor Moreton:-

That the Communications Strategy Working Party be involved in the assessment of tenders and awarding the contract.

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

22. **VISITOR SERVICES PROPOSALS AUTUMN/WINTER 2020/21**

(a) **Winter Market**

Further to Minute No. 243 of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020 detailing discussions held at the Market Working Party Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020, and setting out the operational arrangements for the Swanage

Winter Market which would run from 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

It was proposed that a charge of £250 be made to stallholders for this period for each stall up to six metres in size. Any stall over this size would be charged at £500 for the period.

It was noted that it was likely that Main Beach car park would be temporarily closed during January and February 2021 and that the Winter Market may move to Broad Road car park for the duration of the work.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council approves the charges for the Swanage Winter Market as set out in the briefing note dated September 2020 and detailed above.

(b) **Artisans on the Beach**

Further to Minute No. 213 of the Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020 which set out proposed amendments to the operational arrangements for this year's event, which would run from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that only the lower level beach huts would be used for the event this year. Members were in agreement that the procedures needed to be amended to make it clear that it would only be every other lower level beach hut being used.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Page, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council approves the revised procedures for the Artisans on the Beach event as set out in the briefing note dated September 2020, subject to the procedures being amended to make it clear that only every other lower level beach hut is being used for the event.

(c) **Events on land operated by Swanage Town Council**

Further to Minute No. 276 of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020 and a request for the Town Council to consider whether to permit events on Council owned land again with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020, or whether to extend its stance on not permitting events for a further period.

A discussion ensued during which concerns were raised regarding the current government guidelines surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, and the 'rule of six' which had come into effect today. Members were in agreement that they would be unable to make a decision on this matter at the present time, and until at least 1st December 2020. However, it was acknowledged that there could be exceptional circumstances when an event may need to be considered.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council continues not to permit events on Town-Council owned land until 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and that determination of any exceptional requests for small-scale events be delegated to the Visitor Services Manager, in consultation with the Events Working Party, subject to adherence to government guidance for public events, and submission of the required documentation at the appropriate time.

23. **CONSIDERATION OF LICENCES FOR USE OF TOWN COUNCIL PROPERTY FOR COMMERCIAL PHYSICAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

Consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020. It was reported that over the past few years a small number of commercial 'fitness' operators had been granted permission by the Town Council to use its parks and beaches. A request had now been received from the Purbeck Heart Support Group, a non-profit making organisation (under the auspices of the British Heart Foundation), which would like to undertake exercise-based rehabilitation classes in Days Park.

The briefing note recommended approval of the request, subject to the following conditions:-

- a. That a standard Swanage Town Council User Agreement for events is signed, which includes the prohibition of single use plastic.
- b. That instructors must be accredited with either the 'Register for Exercise Professionals' (REPS), 'National Register of Personal Trainers' (NRPT) or hold at least a Level 2 Fitness Qualification.
- c. The instructor must provide a suitable reference.
- d. The Town Council reserves the right to view the activities taking place.
- e. That the use of Forres Field is excluded from this licence.
- f. No advertising is undertaken on land operated by Swanage Town Council.
- g. Other events booked and approved on land operated by Swanage Town Council will have priority.
- h. The public will have access to the parks and open spaces and play and fitness equipment at all times.
- i. That a trial is undertaken until the end of 2020-21 at which time a review will be made of the arrangements in place.
- j. A fee of £25 to be charged for the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to help cover the cost of the administration of the licence.

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council approves the request for a licence from the Purbeck Heart Support Group subject to the conditions as set out in the briefing note dated September 2020 (as listed above).

24. **BUDGET SETTING 2021/22 – TO AGREE CHARGES FOR BEACH HUT HIRE**

Consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020. It was reported that the Visitor Services Manager had undertaken a review of the beach hut charges and booking procedures and, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, some changes to the booking procedures were proposed to allow sufficient flexibility to meet social distancing requirements and any potential further restrictions that may be imposed in the future. It was noted that beach hut bookings had reopened from July 2020, although only every other beach hut was being offered for rent to ensure that these met with social distancing guidelines.

The briefing note recommended that the beach hut charges remained the same for 2021/22, except for the winter daily price for The Shore beach huts. It was explained that in view of the additional cleaning which was required, at a cost of £6 per hut, it was proposed to increase this daily charge from £5 to £8. It was further recommended that whilst the 15% deposit requirement had worked well for the Council and customers over the past two years, this did require a significant administrative resource during January and February. It was therefore proposed to take full payment up front going forward to ensure that any future demands on staffing and administrative capacity surrounding a potential resurgence of Covid-19 could be met.

During the ensuing discussion comments were made that, in view of the administration and cleaning costs, the winter daily hire charge should be retained at £5 but that a minimum booking period of two days should be introduced.

It was proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by the Town Mayor:-

That the proposed booking procedures and beach hut fees for 2021-22 are adopted, as set out in the briefing note dated September 2020 (and listed below), subject to the winter daily hire for The Shore beach huts being retained at £5 and a minimum booking requirement of two days introduced:-

- 1) Beach huts will be offered on a three phased basis as follows:
  - a) 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – for bookings of 10 weeks or more.
  - b) 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – for bookings of 4 weeks or more.
  - c) 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 – for bookings of 1 week or more.
- 2) Full payment will be required up front.
- 3) The Council will only make available every other beach hut. However, if appropriate to do so at a later date, it may be possible to make more huts available for bookings.

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.

Further to Standing Order No. 12) a) viii, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Harris, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Item 24 on the Agenda be moved to 30.

25. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

- (a) **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Purbeck Area Committee (PAC) Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020** - Councillor Harris had attended the PAC Meeting at which proposed amendments to the DAPTC's Constitution, and a proposal for a small parishes committee to be set up, had been discussed.
- (b) **Purbeck Citizens Advice (CAB)** – Councillor Moreton reported on discussions being held regarding a possible merger with East Dorset CAB.

26. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

There were no delegated matters to report at the present time.

27. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

- (a) **Festive Lights – Update on procurement** - further to Minute No. 303 of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 it was reported that 50 icicle lights had been ordered at a cost of £633.75 p.a., funded by the Chamber of Trade, and added to the original hire arrangements for 2020 and 2021 in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1.e. The lights would be installed between Swanage

Library and the Town Hall. Locations for the two proposed additional lamppost displays were still being explored.

- (b) **Removal of Ambulance Car from Swanage – Update** - further to Minute No. 302 (a) of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 it was reported that a brief response had been received from the Dorset NHS CCG that this matter had been discussed and that the present position remained unchanged. A request was made for officers to seek clarity from the CCG regarding plans for consultation on this matter.
- (c) **A & E Local – Update** - further to Minute No. 302 (b) of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 it was reported that the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee had not yet had the opportunity to consider the proposals for A & E Local. However, the matter would be included on the agenda of the Committee Meeting being held in November 2020. It was suggested that a representative of the Town Council should attend the meeting in November and that a working party should be formed to consider how best to represent the Town Council’s concerns in the months ahead. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to Councillor Monkhouse for the continued work/research undertaken regarding this matter.
- (d) **Coastal Change** – it was reported that Dorset Council would be commencing maintenance works to The Parade area, including the Stone Quay, during October 2020. The temporary concrete sea defences would also be installed in October for the second winter.
- (e) **‘Changes to the existing planning system’ and ‘Planning for the future’ White Paper public consultations** – a reminder was given that a workshop would be held to consider the Town Council’s response to these important consultations. All Councillors would be invited to take part in these discussions. The date of the meeting and copies of the consultation documents would be circulated in due course. The National Association of Local Councils would also be holding an online training event for Councillors and officers regarding the consultations on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and places were still available.

28. **PROJECT DELIVERY – COMMITMENT TO SPENDING**

- (a) **Spa/Shore Road Stabilisation Part 2 - to award contract for additional ground surveys**

Consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020 which reported that a seafront geo-environmental and geo-technical assessment had been undertaken in 2014 for the Spa area (Spa, Sandpit Field, and Weather Station Field) which had recommended further work to be carried out to understand fully the controlling strength parameters and groundwater conditions of the area. The estimated cost of this work was between £30k-£40k. The tender for these further works had therefore been published on the GOV.UK Contracts Finder, and the closing date for receipt of tenders was 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

It was noted that these works were necessary to establish the feasibility of proposals for the redevelopment of the seafront area, and a sum of £1m had been allocated for this work in the capital programme for the 2021/22 financial year.

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Page, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Town Council approves a budget of up to £40,000 for the ground reports as set out in the briefing note dated September 2020 and, in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.7, delegated authority be granted to officers to award the contract and commit to spending within that budget.

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Harris 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 29 to 34 for reasons of legal and commercial confidentiality.

### 29. **PROJECT DELIVERY – TO CONSIDER AWARD OF CONTRACTS**

#### (a) **Boat Park – safety improvements**

Consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020 which reported that additional impact protection had been recommended in respect of the diesel store at the boat park as it was located close to the steeply sloping public slipway, and could therefore be vulnerable to accidental impact. Dorset Council Assets and Property had specified appropriate protection in the form of marine grade steel bollards and had sought competitive quotes. A contractor had been appointed to complete these works in October 2020 at a cost of £2,904.

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council provides approval for these works to proceed and authorises a budget of £2,904.

#### (b) **Bandstand – additional drainage works**

Further to Minute No. 6 a) of the Capital Projects Sub-Committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 consideration was given to a briefing note dated September 2020. It was reported that a useful site meeting had been held on 11<sup>th</sup> September between representatives of the Town Council and the Friends of Swanage Bandstand, at which questions had been raised around the necessity for some elements of the proposed drainage works and how they were to be funded. A request had therefore been made to defer a decision on any further works to the bandstand surrounds, pending receipt of further technical advice from Dorset Council's Surveyor. It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tomes, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That any decision to proceed with these works be deferred until further technical advice has been received from Dorset Council.

#### (c) **Heritage Toilets – commissioning of plans for re-design**

Further to Minute No. 242 of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, and Minute No. 6 d) of the Capital Projects Sub-Committee Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020, consideration was given to a briefing note prepared by the Operations Manager.

It was reported that a measured building survey of the Museum and Heritage Centre building had been undertaken in July 2020 by Dorset Council Assets and Property (DCAP).

At the Capital Projects Sub-Committee Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August Members had agreed that a study should now be commissioned to ascertain the feasibility of

expanding the Museum whilst still retaining adequate space for modern WC provision, and DCAP had provided a fee estimate for completion of the study of up to £980.

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Page, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Town Council provides approval for this work to proceed and authorises a budget of up to £980.

(d) **Stone Quay – to award contract for repairs as part of Dorset Council contract for maintenance of sea defences**

It was reported that Dorset Council would be undertaking ground improvement works to The Parade in early October 2020 as part of their maintenance/improvement programme for sea defences. This included using precision injection grouting to fill areas of internal voiding.

Initially the Stone Quay had not been included within this programme of works, however, following a request from the Town Council the quay area had been surveyed which had indicated potential voiding along the western side of the quay, and recommended the same solution as that for The Parade, which would ensure stability of the structure. Dorset Council's contractor had quoted a figure of £17,895 to add these works to those scheduled for The Parade.

However, it was noted that these works did not represent the entirety of repair that was required to the Stone Quay, following professional advice received in 2016, and repairs to the slipway and external wall structure of the quay would require completion in the future.

Proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Page, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1.c, the Town Council provides approval for this work to proceed and authorises a budget of £17,895.

30. **SEABREEZE RESTAURANT, SHORE ROAD**

Consideration was given to an email received from the tenants of the restaurant dated 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 seeking the Town Council's formal permission for a second extraction system to be fitted, which would exit the building on the south side.

Attention was drawn to other matters in relation to compliance with the terms of the lease and it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Finch, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That delegated authority be given to officers, to enter into negotiations with the tenants in respect of these matters and to report back to a future Council Meeting.

Further to Standing Order 1. q. the Town Mayor agreed that the Meeting should be extended beyond the 2-hour time limit in order to complete the business set out in the Agenda.

31. **FISHERMEN'S JETTY IMPROVEMENT WORKS – UPDATE IN RESPECT OF MATTERS ARISING FROM END OF DEFECTS PERIOD MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**

Further to Minute No. 306 of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 consideration was given to emailed correspondence between the Town Council and the structural engineers, Smith Foster, regarding the additional expenditure incurred to rectify the defects in the Fishermen's Jetty. Attention was also drawn to other professional advice received.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Harris, and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council accepts the solution set out  
in the e-mail from Smith Foster dated  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

32. **SANDBANKS FERRY – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSE TO  
LETTER FROM BOURNEMOUTH-SWANAGE MOTOR ROAD AND FERRY  
COMPANY DATED 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020**

Further to Minute No. 307 of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 it was reported that Dorset Council and BCP Council had been in discussion regarding a joint approach to the ferry company's proposed toll increase. Legal advice had been sought and would be reported to a forthcoming Council meeting. Discussions were also ongoing with neighbouring parish councils, and a representative of Dorset Council was currently seeking to arrange a meeting between all interested parties.

The Town Council had been informed that a Public Inquiry would be held online from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and it would therefore need to give further consideration to this matter at its next meeting.

33. **POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF LAND ADJACENT TO PURBECK  
BUSINESS CENTRE – UPDATE**

Further to Minute No. 282 of the Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 it was reported that there had been no further feedback from Dorset Council (DC) regarding the potential acquisition of land adjoining Purbeck Business Centre. However, it was likely that DC's Asset Management Strategy would be considered at its next Cabinet Meeting in October 2020 and that this would inform its approach to this issue. It was therefore agreed that the Town Council's surveyor would be requested to make contact with Dorset Council to progress discussions at the earliest possible opportunity.

34. **PERSONNEL MATTER – TO NOTE OUTCOME OF EMPLOYMENT  
TRIBUNAL**

Further to Minute No. 308 of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 the Town Clerk reported on the outcome of an employment tribunal (case no. 1403038/2019) which had been successfully defended by the Town Council. The costs incurred by the Council during the course of the tribunal were reported. Thanks were extended to the Town Clerk for his actions on behalf of the Council in this matter.

Before closing the meeting, the Town Mayor thanked the members of public present for attending meetings of the Town Council, and for their interest in its work.

The meeting concluded at 9.40 p.m.

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