

# SEATON TOWN COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MINUTES

**30<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

- PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs Semple (chairman)  
Cllrs P Burrows, Mrs Collins, L Garner, M Greenyer, G Jones,  
J Meakin, Miss O'Connell, R Palacio, Mrs Roebuck
- APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Knight (at EDDC), Mrs Wise (unwell)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Tracey Guiry, Project Development Manager for the Exmouth  
and Seaton Jurassic Coast Visitor Centres

**383/07 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted and approved

**384/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**385/07 INTRODUCTION OF Ms. GUIRY**

Ms Guiry was welcomed to the meeting and members introduced themselves. Having taken up her post on 3<sup>rd</sup> September she said that she had begun to meet all stakeholders of the two Centres, as well as starting to work closely with the two local Trusts established by the Exmouth and Seaton communities to progress the centres. She advised that she was currently engaged on setting out her work plan and timetable, details of which would be made available during November.

It was noted that one meeting of the IPMG funders had taken place from which the paper for discussion on the governance of the Centres and the creation of an independent company and board was now being discussed by the funding bodies. She said that the recruitment pack for expressions of interest in board membership would be available shortly and it was hoped recruitment would commence in the New Year. Once established, the IPMG would be in a position to hand over to the Board.

Ms Guiry outlined some of the work being undertaken by the Seaton Visitor Centre Trust, specifically the work of drawing up draft content design brief and further design consideration in relation to the site with the architect involved in the Locum feasibility study.

Ms Guiry said that her next focus would be market testing; she had made contact with South West Tourism and Visit Britain and would shortly meet with the Tourist Information Centre. She was also in regular contact with the Jurassic Coast team who had themselves undertaken considerable market research.

Ms Guiry then answered questions from Members. She was asked whether the size of the centre was negotiable. She replied that the size was yet to be defined but would be informed by current work on content, site and market testing. Members raised concerns about issues surrounding the outline planning application submitted for the regeneration area which were likely to impact on the Visitor Centre such as insufficient parking and lack of overnight facilities for visitors. She replied that some of members' concerns were matters for them to raise with the Planning Department; however, parking was essential and would be dealt with in the business plan for the Centre.

**386/07 TO APPROVE PROPOSED GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEATON & EXMOUTH VISITOR CENTRES**

Some members expressed concerns at the projected cost of setting up the Independent Company and at the number of members proposed for the Board. They voted, however, to support the proposals by 5 votes in favour and 4 abstentions (Cllrs Greenyer, Meakin, Palacio and Mrs Semple). Cllr Meakin stated that he was not opposed in principle to the arrangements being considered, but did have some reservations on the costs involved.

**These Minutes approved this ..... day of .....2007**

**Presiding Chairman .....**