

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of the Parish of Swanage, held at The Bandstand, Recreation Ground, Swanage on **MONDAY 24th MAY 2021** at 5.00 p.m.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Mike Bonfield, assumed the Chair, and in addition to members of the Council and officials, approximately 52 persons were present.

Chairman – Councillor Mike Bonfield (Town Mayor)

In attendance:-

Councillor John Bishop
Councillor Caroline Finch
Councillor Tina Foster
Councillor Avril Harris
Councillor Debby Monkhouse
Councillor Moreton
Councillor Bill Trite
Councillor Mike Whitwam

Before commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed all attendees and was pleased to announce that the Swanage Town Council Community Awards Ceremony would be undertaken at the Meeting, which would be a celebration of the town's wonderful volunteers and community.

It was explained that unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the unprecedented situation we had all found ourselves in during the past year, it had not been possible to hold the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 20th April 2020, or present the Community Awards for 2020. The Town Council was delighted therefore that the Awards Ceremony was now finally able to go ahead, and in the beautiful outdoor setting of the Swanage Bandstand.

The Town Clerk then outlined the procedure that would be followed during the Meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Rogers, Suttle and Tomes.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 11th March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed. (Copies of the Minutes were circulated to those present at the Meeting).

3. **SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2020**

Further to Minute No. 3 of the Parish Meeting held on 11th March 2019 the Chairman reported that the Community Awards Panel (consisting of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the Team Rector, Swanage & Studland Team Ministry, the President of Swanage and Purbeck Rotary, and the Council's Administration and Communications Manager), had this year received a total of 76 nomination forms.

Before presenting the awards to this year's deserving winners, the Chairman commented that many of the town's volunteers worked quietly away in the background

and the Town Council had been in agreement that it would be important to continue to recognise local individuals and groups who undertook vital voluntary services in the town and contributed to the quality of community life.

Swanage Town Council Community Award winners 2020

GREEN CHAMPION – BRIDGET MAYES - for her support and dedication to Beach Buddies, Litter Free Purbeck, as a recycling champion and for her work organising regular beach cleans.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT – SAM WHALEY - for his achievements as a professional sailor with the British Sailing Team.

CREATIVE ARTS ACHIEVEMENT – STEVE DARRINGTON - for his organisation of and tireless dedication to the Blues Festival for over 20 years.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE – AMANDA MASON - for her customer service and willingness to help, through her work at a local chemist's and undertaking prescription delivery services to local residents

SERVICE WITH A SMILE – VICKY MCKENDRICK - Swanage News, for her excellent customer service and being 'open for business' and carrying on throughout the national lockdowns.

YOUNG CITIZENS 2020 - ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - for the sterling work that the school undertakes through its 'Green Team' and its environmental projects e.g. litter picking, beach cleans and walking bus to school, leading by example.

GROUP/ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR - SWANAGE BREASTFEEDING GROUP - set up by volunteers in 2016 following funding cuts to local services, providing advice and breastfeeding support to young mums in a caring environment, and also helping out with young siblings.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2020 – BRIDGET COFFIN - for setting up and her tireless commitment to the 'All things Bright and Beautiful' Group to help those living with dementia, their carers and those with other health problems.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – DOREEN BRAGG - for her work, loyalty and commitment to the Mowlem Theatre since the mid-1960's, and over 50 years' service.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – DAVE TERRETT - loyal Carnival Committee member, and for his commitment and support as a fundraiser for over 42 years.

AWARD PANEL'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD - SWANAGE FOOD BANK SUPPORT GROUP - run by volunteers, undertaking fundraising activities for the food bank, and providing crucial support for those in need in our community.

SPECIAL AWARD – NHS SERVICES SWANAGE - for all the hard work and dedication to the local community, particularly during the very difficult and unprecedented times experienced during 2020/21.

Congratulations were extended to all winners on their well-deserved awards. Details of the awards would be posted on the Council's website and Facebook page, and in the local press.

On behalf of the Town Council, the Chairman then gave thanks to all of the town's volunteers for their dedication, energy and enthusiasm. Volunteers were at the heart of our communities and, with ever decreasing government funding for local councils, were crucial to our local towns and villages, and truly made a positive difference from which the whole community benefitted.

The Chairman then reported that a donation of £2,700.00 would be made to The Trevor Chadwick Memorial Trust from the Mayor's Fund towards the costs of commissioning a bronze statue to commemorate and raise awareness of a local resident whose outstanding bravery ahead of WWII helped save the lives of 669 refugee children from Prague in 1939, who had been destined for concentration camps.

The donation was gratefully received with thanks from the Chair of the Trust, Mr John Corben. Mr Corben explained that the Trust had been established to bring long overdue recognition to the inspirational work of unsung local hero Mr Trevor Chadwick, and gave thanks to the Town Council for its support in this project. Once completed, it was proposed that the Memorial would be erected in the Recreation Ground.

Mr Corben commented that he was aware that this was Councillor Bonfield's final engagement as Town Mayor, after a term of four consecutive years, and wanted to thank Councillor Bonfield for being an outstanding Mayor, and a tremendous leader of the local community during his time as a Councillor with the Town Council.

4. **MATTERS RAISED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS**

There were no matters raised.

5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was provisionally agreed that the next Parish Meeting would be held on 11th April 2022.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, passed on thanks and appreciation to the town's volunteers for all that they did for the town and the local community, and closed the meeting at 5.35 p.m.
