



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Swanage Town & Community Partnership
held via the Zoom video conferencing platform, on
WEDNESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2020 @ 3.30 p.m.**

Present:

Kim Gallagher, Outgoing Chair ST&CP
Councillor Mike Bonfield, Swanage Town Council and Outgoing Vice Chair ST&CP
Martin Ayres, Town Clerk, Honorary Treasurer ST&CP
Mo Andrews, Purbeck Good Neighbours
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club
Tom Clarke, National Trust
Emma Evans, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Councillor Avril Harris, Swanage Town Council
Jenny Marsapin, Headteacher, The Swanage School
Councillor Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Town Council
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre
Robert Pullman, RNLI
Councillor Mike Whitwam, Swanage Town Council

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair, Mrs Kim Gallagher, welcomed all Partners to the meeting and gave thanks to attendees for their continued support during the past year.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Caroline Finch (Swanage Town Council/Swanage Chamber of Trade), Councillor Bill Trite (Swanage Town Council), Ms Nathalie Carter (Swanage Library), Mrs Ro Clark (Wave Youth and Children's Ministry), Ms Gen Crisford (National Trust), Mr Laurence Gloyn-Cox (SCCF & Probus 2), Mrs Maggie Hardy (Swanage & Purbeck Rotary; Swanage Community Defibrillator Project), Mr Neil Hardy (RNLI) and Mrs Daphne Saville (Swanage Disabled Club).

2. **Election of Chair**

It was **AGREED:**

That Mrs Kim Gallagher be appointed Chair of the Swanage Town & Community Partnership for the ensuing year.

3. **Election of Vice Chair**

It was **AGREED:**

That Councillor Mike Bonfield be appointed Vice Chair of the Swanage Town & Community Partnership for the ensuing year.

4. **Election of Honorary Secretary**

No nominations had again been received for the position of Honorary Secretary. It was therefore agreed that the Town Council would cover secretarial duties for the ensuing year.

5. **Election of Steering Committee Members in line with Paragraph 7 of the Constitution**

It was reported that two 'Expression of Interest' forms for the position of Steering Committee Member had been received from Mr Tom Clarke and Ms Jenny Marsapin.

It was therefore AGREED:

That, in line with Paragraph 7 of the Swanage Town & Community Partnership Constitution, the Steering Committee Members for the ensuing year would be;
Dr Martin Ayres, Councillor Mike Bonfield, Mr Tom Clarke,
Mr Bob Foster, Mrs Kim Gallagher, Ms Jenny Marasapin,
Mr Mel Norris and Councillor Mike Whitwam.

6. **Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts**

It was reported by the Chair that Darkin Miller Limited, accountants, had been appointed as Auditor for the ensuing year, all were in agreement with this appointment.

7. **Chair's Annual Report**

The Chair stated that in light of the unprecedented circumstances, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the progression of projects being taken forward by the Partnership's Executive Committee, Swanage2027, had not progressed as scheduled but the group would continue to work hard to find solutions to the priorities identified in the Swanage Local Plan.

8. **Statement of Audited Accounts 2019/20**

A copy of the Certified Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2020 was provided and a brief overview given. During the course of the financial year the Partnership had agreed £5,000 towards Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust towards the establishment of the Day's Park Trust, a company which would be limited by guarantee, and to enable the Trust to apply for/obtain charitable status. The Trust would manage the proposed Day's Park Sports and Social Centre.

The Chair advised that the bank charges incurred to yearend had been £89.00 and that the total funds held now sat at £4,357 (non-allocated).

9. **Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 4th December 2020**

It was **AGREED** that these were a true record.

10. **Matters arising**

There were no matters raised.

11. **Swanage2027 Project (S2027)**

a) Review of projects and priorities

A copy of the updated list of S2027 priorities for 2020/21 was provided to Partners. It was noted that the list was an up-to-date document and partners were encouraged to ask questions should clarity be required.

The following updates were provided: Swanage Community Housing Steering Group had been meeting monthly to drive the project regarding affordable housing forward. It was noted that a public meeting would be arranged, and publicised, following a meeting on 1st October 2020 where details would be finalised.

Mr Peter Bowyer joined the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Swanage Town Council's Environmental Policy Working Party had been scheduled for 14th October 2020, and the next meeting of the Museum Working Party would be scheduled in the next few weeks. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

There were no questions raised regarding the plan.

b) Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

It was reported that there were currently 17 projects under the trust, which was financially secure. The Covid-19 pandemic had presented challenges and there had been an impact on Herston Hall and The Centre due to a lack of bookings. Explorers childcare was now operating at higher numbers again. It was stated that Herston Hall had received sufficient funding for its refurbishment and an open day would be planned for November.

The potential lack of volunteers was noted as an issue as many volunteers were shielding, or in a higher risk category for Covid-19 symptoms, and it was suggested that recruiting younger volunteers would be advantageous.

c) Swanage Town Council – update

It was noted that the longer-term projects had been reported under agenda item 11 a) however, the following additional updates were provided:

- The Recreation Ground and Day's Park play equipment would be renewed.
- The car parks at King George's and North Beach would be resurfaced.
- Winter Market would be situated in King George's car park.
- Covid-19 had meant that no face-to-face meetings had taken place or would for the foreseeable future.
- Remembrance Sunday service had been scaled back.
- Christmas events had been scaled back, however, the Christmas lights would be switched on throughout the town but this would not be a publicised event.
- The Rotary/Carnival Committee Christmas market was planned to go ahead, however, a final decision would be made mid-November.
- The Shore Road closure survey, which had been completed earlier in the year, had shown that the public would be in favour of permanent closure of the southern section and this had been made as a recommendation to Dorset Council Highways team. In addition, it was noted that the Dorset Coast Forum would be initiating a public consultation regarding flood defence designs for the Lower High Street and the Mowlem area and these plans may encompass the permanent closure of the southern section of Shore Road.
- It was noted that the Town Council had faced a financial downturn due to the pandemic, although the busy end to the summer had brought a much-needed recovery in income.

12. Covid-19 Community Recovery

It was stated that due to the pandemic many services had altered their provisions and many projects had been postponed.

It was noted that a community hotline had been established and that a community newsletter published by The Swanage Forum and S&DPT had been available during the past few months. The impact on wellbeing, mental health and employment opportunities for local residents was discussed. It was felt that it would be advantageous to form a sub-group to the partnership to specifically address these issues. It was suggested that interested partners would email Emma Evans in the first instance and a meeting would follow in due course.

It was therefore **AGREED:**

That a sub-group to the Swanage Town and Community Partnership be established to focus on Wellbeing and Mental Health issues.

13. **Review of Plan**

An item for consideration by the partnership was suggested. This was to include 'improvement to the local travel infrastructure, including additional and linked cycling and walking routes'. It was noted that the Purbeck Transport Action Group were currently seeking town and parish council input for a draft strategy, which would form a proposal for Dorset Council to consider, and that the partnership would be willing to support this.

14. **Member Organisations - updates**

Updates were provided by Partners, including:

RNLI – 36 call outs for assistance had been made during July, August and September for yachts, motorboats and paddleboards. More call outs were expected before the end of the year.

Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre – an update was given on the refurbishment of the museum which was progressing, albeit slowly due to restrictions. It was hoped that an Edwardian/Victorian event would be planned for the re-opening and further details would be provided at a future meeting.

Swanage Railway – it was reported that although the railway had been operating at 2/3rd capacity there was a steady turnover.

The Swanage School – The headteacher reported that the school was actively working with the community to encourage engagement. Pupils had been sending pen pal letters to local older people to reduce isolation and increase communication across the generations.

The National Trust – a busy summer was reported with sales at Studland and Corfe Castle cafes' higher than in the 2019 season. The car parks at Studland had been full on occasion.

Studland Parish Council – updates were given on a number of matters affecting the parish, including recent issues with parking along the ferry road, in inconsiderate places, with the impact of the pandemic on visitor numbers identified as a cause for the problems this season.

Purbeck Good Neighbours– The current provider of the call centre could no longer deliver the service but other companies were interested in taking over. It was reported that there had been a cut to the advertising budget but that they continued to take calls for assistance.

Swanage Dementia Friendly – It was reported that the face-to-face groups had stopped running at this time, however, a telephone 'buddy' system was in place. Any partners available to assist with the telephone 'buddy' system were encouraged to contact them. It was announced that funds for an Admiral dementia nurse had been secured and this was the first in the country. A national Admiral nurse telephone line was also available.

Cricket Club – It was reported that the square and outfield had been ready to start the season, thanks to the efforts of the groundsman. Praise was given to Dorset Cricket Board for organising a mini league competition over six Saturdays from August 1st onwards. A previous arrangement with the Town Council and the Allnatt Centre led to the development of another playing area on the field behind the pavilion. It was noted that arrangements for Covid-19 had worked well, with limited access to the pavilion for toilet use, and for one person at a time to order drinks from the bar.

Swanage Town Council – It was noted that the Town Council wished to set up a Youth Council and engagement from local schools would be sought. This would be discussed early 2021 and an update provided to a future meeting.

It was reported that the Town Council had written to the Health Scrutiny Committee to ascertain the future of the Swanage Ambulance car and an update would be provided when available.

Councillor Mike Whitwam left the Meeting at 4.40 p.m.

15. **Any other business**

No other business was raised.

16. Provisional Date of Next Quarterly Meetings

Wednesday 2nd December 2020, and Wednesday 3rd March 2021, both at 3.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.
