



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the  
Swanage Town & Community Partnership  
held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019 @ 2.15 p.m.**

**Present:**

Kim Gallagher, Chair ST&CP  
Mike Bonfield, Swanage Town Council; Vice Chair ST&CP  
Martin Ayres, Town Clerk; Honorary Treasurer ST&CP - until 2.25 p.m.  
Colin Brixton, CPRE Group; Photographic Society  
Nathalie Carter, Swanage Library - from 3.40 p.m.  
Niki Clark, Administration & Communications Manager  
Tom Clarke, National Trust  
Gen Crisford, National Trust  
Emma Evans, Management Support Officer  
Bob Foster, Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust  
Avril Harris, Swanage Town Council  
Alan Houghton, Friends of Swanage Bandstand  
Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Town Council  
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre  
Daphne Saville, Swanage Disabled Club  
Mike Whitwam, Swanage Town Council

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair, Mrs Kim Gallagher, welcomed all Partners to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to Mrs Daphne Saville from the Swanage Disabled Club, and also to Mrs Emma Evans, the Town Council's new Management Support Officer.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Mrs Mo Andrews, Mrs Ginny Bellard (Purbeck View School), Mr Peter Bowyer (Studland Parish Council), Mr Robin Brasher (Isle of Purbeck Model Railway Group; Swanage Walking Group), Mr Peter Clark (Swanage Cricket Club), Mrs Ro Clark (The Wave Youth & Children's Ministry), Mr Laurence Gloyn-Cox (Swanage Coastal Change Forum; Probus 2), Mrs Maggie Hardy (Swanage & Purbeck Rotary; Swanage Community Defibrillator Project), Mrs Helen Spencer (Tricuro Swanage Day Centre), and Councillor Tritte (Swanage Town Council; Dorset Council).

**2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Proposed that these were a true record by Mr Bob Foster, seconded by Mr Mel Norris, and agreed, subject to it being noted that Mr Bob Foster had not been present at the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters raised.

**4. Statement of Audited Accounts 2018/19**

A copy of the Certified Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 was provided and a

brief overview given. It was noted that the Report had not been signed off by the Council's Auditor until 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019

During the course of the financial year the Partnership did not apply for or receive any grants or contributions, and financial activity was limited to bank charges incurred of £78. Total funds held now sat at £9,446 (non-allocated).

Since the end of the financial year, and further to Minute No. 11 c) ii) of the Swanage Town & Community Partnership AGM Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019, it was noted that total funds held would be reducing by £5,000. As approved, this would be transferred to the S&PDT towards the establishment of the Day's Park Trust in due course.

It was proposed by Mr Bob Foster, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Statement of Audited Accounts 2018/19  
be received and approved.

The Honorary Treasurer left the Meeting at 2.25 p.m.

#### 5. **Presentation on the Purbeck Beaver Feasibility Project**

The Chair welcomed and introduced Miss Gen Crisford, from the National Trust, to the meeting. A presentation was then given by Miss Crisford, followed by an opportunity for Partners to undertake a "Q & A" session.

The presentation was extremely informative, and began with a brief history about beavers, which included the fact that, as a native species, it had become extinct some 400 years ago. An overview of the current aims of the project to re-introduce Eurasian beavers to the UK was provided.

Benefits of re-introduction included improvements to the eco-system with the creation of wetlands, which slowed water and therefore had a positive effect on areas prone to flooding. The dams created by beavers contained as much carbon as peat, and would be beneficial in aims for carbon neutrality to be achieved, and would work in conjunction with the Green Strategy.

It was noted that beavers were herbivores and had no negative impact on grazing stock, and did not transmit disease to other animals. Local areas that were being considered as potential beaver habitats were the Corfe River and the River Swan.

The National Trust stated that it was already in discussion with land owners who were supportive of the project providing that a management plan was adhered to. The Trust also requested local support for the project, and hoped that Swanage Town Council would provide opportunities to promote the project.

The Chair thanked Miss Crisford for the for the presentation, and for taking the time to answer Partners' questions.

#### 6. **Swanage2027 Project (S2027)**

##### **a) Update on identified projects and priorities**

A copy of the updated list of S2027 priorities for 2019/20 was provided to Partners. A review of the list of priorities had been undertaken, and updates were provided on each project (highlighted in red on the list).

The Chair reported on the progression of projects being taken forward by S2027, which had continued to work hard to find solutions to priorities identified in the Swanage Local Plan. Thanks were given to Partners for their invaluable support and assistance during the year.

The following matters were also reported:

- **Community Land Trust** – Fiona Astin, Housing Advisor, had been completing excellent work including developing a draft brief for architects to assess various options. A date would be organised in the New Year for the Affordable Housing Working Party to meet to discuss next steps.
- **Sea Defence Strategy** – the three strands to the strategy were noted:

1. Temporary: this measure was in place with concrete sea defences.
  2. Interim: repairs to the sea defences before start of 2020 season. Sea wall by The Square/ Museum/Stone Quay and Parade Railings.
  3. Long Term: Partnership led by Dorset Coast Forum.
- **Institute Road** – the plan of traffic flow during the roadworks had been released, and Partners were in agreement that the short term disruption would have long term benefits.
  - **Shore Road** – a working party had been formed, and in the next edition of the Town Council’s newsletter ‘Swanage Matters’ a short survey would be included to gain public opinion on the possible permanent closure of the south end of Shore Road.
  - **Wellbeing Swanage** – as a result of a recent draft transformation plan presented to Dorset Council’s Cabinet in November 2019, it had been decided to relook at the business case previously submitted by the Town Council and S&PDT, and consideration would be given to the presentation of a Chapel Lane ‘transformation’ plan.
  - **Museum and Heritage Centre** – the Town Council was now the owner of the Museum building following the asset transfer completion. Some improvements were required to the building. A working party would be formed in the New Year to consider expansion proposals for the Museum.
  - **Multi-Function Centre** – there had been 200+ attendees at the public exhibitions in October 2019, and 133 feedback forms and post it notes had been received from members of the public, the majority of which had contained positive comments. The financial viability and business plan report was currently being prepared.
  - **Community bus/transport** – partners were continuing to work on proposals and were currently awaiting information regarding costings and a potential change to the route to include a stop at the hospital.
  - **Local Listing Project** – it was noted that this would be a useful tool in adding weight to planning committee representations and that the Town Council would like to look at the draft document before it was published, and prior to adoption.
  - **Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy** – Sustainable Swanage had taken the lead and had coordinated the formation of a new group called ‘Greening Swanage’. It was likely that the group would take on a lot of the community greening projects identified in the SGIS and also deliver more in the future. The group was looking at tree planting initially.
  - **Youth Leisure** – it was noted that the Wave team leader had stepped down. A draft proposal for the provision of youth services would be prepared. A discussion was held surrounding signposting to youth services and access to health services. A suggestion was made that volunteer organisations could have a representative based at the surgery to signpost health centre users to the groups available. A suggestion was also made for a ‘welcome handbook’ to be delivered to new residents, which could include the services available in the local area. An invitation to a future partnership meeting would be extended to the Health Centre Manager.

#### **b) Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust**

It was reported that the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust AGM had taken place on 14th November 2019. An updated business plan had been delivered to attendees.

It was noted that fifteen organisations had become members of the Trust, including the Friends of Swanage Library and the MS Society of Wareham & Purbeck. It was reported that the organisations were being encouraged to work together.

#### **c) Swanage Town Council – update**

It was reported that interviews for the position of Operations Manager had taken place and that an appointment would be made within the next few days.

It was stated that the bandstand seating arrangement was in the final stages and it was hoped that it would be completed in the near future.

The Council's Capital Projects Sub-committee intended to visit Bournemouth seafront, and view its luxury beach huts, in early 2020 to gain further information that could be beneficial for the future planning of the Spa improvement scheme along Swanage seafront.

It was reported that the festive lights switch on held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 had been a success with a good turnout. Details were also given about an open public meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 at the Emmanuel Baptist Church at 6.30 p.m. to consider the establishment of a Christmas Festivities Committee, involving the community, to proactively market Swanage as a Christmas destination.

7. **Member Organisations – updates**

**Purbeck & Poole Group CPRE** – it was noted that Mr Peter Bowyer had been elected as the Chairman of the Trustees in Dorset.

**National Trust** - a carols event 'Funky Little Choir' would be held in Corfe Castle on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**Disabled Club** - it was reported that the Disabled club had had a good year and had won the 'Organisation/group of the Year' category of the Town Council's Community Awards 2019. The Club had also celebrated its 10 year anniversary.

**Swanage Bandstand** – thanks were given to the Town Council and also to the local community for the support given towards the restoration of the bandstand. It was noted that a carol service would be held at the bandstand on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 6.00 p.m.

**Swanage Jazz Club** – the Club continued to support the Purbeck Instrument Loan Scheme.

Ms Nathalie Carter joined the Meeting at 3.40 p.m.

**SAR** – it was noted that two families from Syria would be moving to Wareham in January 2020 and the group would be providing them with support.

**Herston Village Hall** – it was noted that the hall was continuing with its fundraising activities, and that the Co-op had accepted it as a local good cause for the Local Community Fund.

**Women's Institute Group (WI)** – it was reported that the new W.I. group was meeting at Herston Village Hall and membership of the group continued to increase.

**Swanage Library** – Nathalie Carter the new Manager of Swanage Library introduced herself and provided details of the various events being held at the library, which had had a positive impact on footfall. An invitation was extended to all to call in and visit the library.

**Swanage Town Council Community Awards 2020** – a reminder was given that the deadline for nominations for the 2020 awards was 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

**Rotary Club** – the Club was keen to invite more attendees to the Christmas breakfast, held on Christmas morning at United Reformed Church. Partners were therefore asked if they could let the Club know of anyone who would benefit from attending the breakfast.

8. **Any other business**

It was noted that a documentary which would be shown at the Catholic Church Hall this on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 7.15 p.m., called 'Under the Knife'. It was a free event and all were welcome.

9. **Date of next Quarterly Meeting** – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 2.15 p.m.

The Chairman gave thanks to Partners for their continued support during 2019.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m., and was followed by:

10. **Partner networking and information sharing**

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