



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Swanage Town & Community Partnership  
held at The Town Hall, Swanage on  
WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017 @ 3.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Kim Gallagher, Swanage Lions and Outgoing Chairman ST&CP  
Councillor Mike Bonfield, Swanage Town Council and Outgoing Vice Chairman ST&CP  
Dr Martin Ayres, Town Clerk; Honorary Treasurer ST&CP  
John Bishop, Swanage Town Council  
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Council  
Robin Brasher, Isle of Purbeck Model Railway Group; Swanage Walking Group  
Niki Clark, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council  
Collete Ford, Swanage Children's Centre  
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust  
Alan Houghton, Friends of Swanage Bandstand  
Judith Leyman, Swanage Library  
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre  
Sarah Randall, Swanage Library  
Bill Trite, Dorset County, Purbeck District, and Swanage Town Councils  
Mike Whitwam, Purbeck District and Swanage Town Councils  
Harriet Witt, Swanage Children's Centre

**Also in attendance:**

There were no members of the public present.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman, Mrs Kim Gallagher, welcomed all Partners to the meeting.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Mrs Mo Andrews (SADFC), Mr Colin Brixton (Purbeck Society & CPRE), Ms Sally Craig (St Mark's Primary School), Councillor Caroline Finch (STC, PDC & Chamber of Trade), Mr Laurence Gloyn-Cox (SCCF & Probus 2), Councillor Gail Green (STC), Mr Neil Hardy (Swanage RNLI), Mr Dave Morton (Dorset POPP), Mr Richard Smith (Friends of Durlston), and Mr Mark Watson (S&HFC).

**2. Election of Chairman**

Proposed by Mr Mel Norris, seconded by Councillor Bill Trite and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:  
That Mrs Kim Gallagher be appointed Chairman  
of the Swanage Town & Community Partnership  
for the ensuing year.

**3. Election of Vice Chairman**

Proposed by Mr Bob Foster, seconded by Mr Robin Brasher and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

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

4. **Election of Honorary Secretary**

No nominations had 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 Honorary Treasurer**

As set out in the Swanage Town & Community Partnership (ST&CP) Constitution, Dr Martin Ayres, in his capacity as Town Clerk, would continue in his role as Honorary Treasurer.

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

It was reported that four 'Expression of Interest' forms for the position of Steering Committee Members had been received, from Mr Bob Foster, Mr Dave Morton, Mr Mel Norris and Mr Richard Smith.

In accordance with Paragraph 7. of the ST&CP Constitution, 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 John Bishop, Councillor Mike Bonfield, Councillor Caroline Finch, Mr Bob Foster, Mrs Kim Gallagher, Mr Dave Morton, Mr Mel Norris, Mr Richard Smith, and Councillor Mike Whitwam.

7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts**

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

8. **Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman reported that during the year ST&CP had continued to build strong relationships with strategic partners, and the Partnership's Executive Committee Swanage2027 was working hard to find solutions to priorities identified in the Swanage Local Plan, and Swanage Community Strategic Plan. Progress had been made with the proposals for a new Heritage Centre, improvements to Days Park Football Ground, and local listing of historic buildings in Swanage. The Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust had also successfully taken over the former Swanage Youth Centre building from DCC, with the support of STC and the community.

It was further reported that the new Swanage Volunteer Bureau (SVB) was now up and running, every Friday from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., and good feedback had been received. A wide range of businesses had enrolled, and a list of volunteer vacancies was available. Partners agreed that the best way to recruit volunteers was face to face, and thanks were given to Swanage Library for assisting with the successful open day and launch of SVB.

9. **Statement of Audited Accounts 2016/17**

A copy of the Certified Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 was provided and a brief overview given. 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 one payment of £14,500 made to S&PDT, being the balance of the £15,000 drawdown facility that had been approved at the ST&CP AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Total funds held now sat at £9,603 (non-allocated), and it was therefore proposed by Councillor John Bishop, seconded by Mr Mel Norris and RESOLVED

UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Statement of Audited Accounts 2016/17  
be received and approved.

It was reported that residual unallocated funds would be used to support S&PDT in taking forward The Centre/community projects, and a question was raised as to whether ST&CP would be looking for fundraising opportunities to finance any future projects once all monies had been allocated. It was noted that S&PDT ran at no cost, but that this matter could be considered by S2027 at a future committee meeting.

10. **Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017**

Proposed that these were a true record by Councillor Mike Whitwam, seconded by Councillor John Bishop and agreed unanimously.

11. **Matters arising**

**Swanage Local Plan (SLP)** – it was reported that the SLP had been formally adopted by PDC on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017, and now formed part of the Purbeck District Local Plan, covering the period to 2027. Concerns had been raised regarding a recent amendment to the settlement boundary around Cliff Cottage, Shore Road, Swanage, and the possible redevelopment of land adjacent to the property. Clarification was being sought from PDC regarding this amendment, and a request had been made for the planning application to be referred to PDC's Planning Committee for consideration.

**Local Forum Meetings** – initial meetings had now been arranged. The SE Purbeck Forum's meeting would be held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017, and comments were made that it would be important for the local community to take part in discussions. If anyone was interested in attending the meeting then contact was to be made with PDC. A full review of the Purbeck Local Plan was to be undertaken, and responsibility for the review had been transferred to PDC's Policy Group. It was anticipated that meetings would be held more frequently going forward.

**Herston Village Green** – it was anticipated that a decision on the village green application would now be made at the next meeting of DCC's Regulatory Committee being held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

12. **Swanage2027 Project (S2027) – update on identified projects and priorities**

A copy of the updated list of S2027 priorities for 2017/18 was provided to Partners, along with a copy of the minutes of the S2027 Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017. A review of the list/order of priorities had been undertaken, and it had been agreed that each identified project would be linked to a S2027 Committee Member, and appropriate key partner organisations, to take forward. The list had also been renamed 'Swanage2027 – Plan for 2017/18', and updates were given as follows:

- **Community Land Trust** – research was ongoing, and a first meeting of the Town Council's Affordable Housing Working Party would be held in due course.
- **Sea Defence** – a discussion was held regarding the recent adverse weather conditions/storm damage seen in the town. It had been 11 years since the last beach recharge and the Environment Agency, in conjunction with SCCF and S2027, was working up outline sea defence proposals to protect the town from rising sea levels in the future, from the Stone Quay to the Banjo Jetty, and a great deal of work would be required to secure grant funding for this project.
- **Transport links and traffic flow improvements** – DCC was currently working on proposals for enhancements/improvements to the Institute Road and Shore Road areas. Draft plans would follow in due course.
- **Community Bus/Transport** – the Durlston Bus Service would be running daily until 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017. A discussion was held as to whether better use could be made of local community minibuses/school buses when they were not in use, and if anyone was

interested in leading such a project contact was to be made with Mrs Kim Gallagher accordingly.

- **Heritage Group** – a representative from the Heritage Lottery Fund had visited the group recently, and agreement in principle had been given to funding. The working group (STC/Museum/S&PDT) would be meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to discuss next steps.
- **Multi-Function Centre** – regular meetings continued to be held, and a development plan for Days Park Football Ground was being prepared, which included new changing and catering facilities. Longer term projects would include a new sports and social centre, with entertainment/performance space, and conference facilities. In the short term the youth teams would be moving to Days Park. A new 100-year lease was being negotiated with STC.
- **Friends of Swanage Bandstand (FOSB)** – a public meeting had been held in May 2017, which had been attended by approximately 200 local residents, who supported the restoration of the bandstand by an overwhelming majority. STC's Bandstand Working Party would be meeting with FOSB to discuss next steps, and it was anticipated that a final decision would be made in the autumn. Following on from the success of the Fish Festival and Pirate Festival earlier in the year, possible improvements to Prince Albert Gardens may also be considered.
- **Lower Priorities:**  
Brief updates were given on the following matters:  
**Green Infrastructure Strategy** – the detailed analysis was still awaited from PDC.  
**New allotment sites** – it was reported that demand had recently decreased, with only a very small waiting list held by STC at the present time. Discussions were still ongoing regarding the possible redevelopment of land at the Prospect Allotment site.

### 13. Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

Updates were given as follows:

- **Swanage & Herston Football Club** – as mentioned above, Trustees were working on the proposals for the development project in conjunction with S&HFC, and discussions were ongoing with STC.
- **Proposals for a combined Museum** – discussions were ongoing.
- **Trust Membership** – seven organisations had become Members, and enquiries were still being received. Congratulations were extended to the Defibrillator Trust on achievements so far, and to Swanage Area Dementia Friendly Community who had been successful in raising funds for an Admiral Nurse for the Purbeck area. The Trust's AGM would be held in August 2017 and invitations would be sent round in due course.
- **Swanage Action for Refugees** – it was reported that a Syrian family would be coming to Swanage under the government's resettlement scheme. A local resident had provided the family with a house for a one-year period, a local business would be providing food supplies, and funding had been sourced for clothing and furniture.
- **The Centre** – an update on the current position was given, as detailed in the S2027 Meeting minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 which had been provided to Partners.

During the update, it was reported that the current team of organisers of the Swanage Jazz Festival would be retiring this year, after 28 years of running the event. A London-based team of musicians were interested in running the festival from 2018, and an announcement would be made at this year's festival.

### 14. Member Organisations – updates

#### **Swanage Library**

It was reported there had been problems experienced with the windows of the library building, which were currently being stress-tested, and works would continue over the summer months.

Sarah Randall, Library Manager, announced that she would be retiring and introduced Judith Leyman to the meeting. Judith would be taking over with effect from 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**Swanage Children's Centre** - Collete Ford, Children's Centre Team Lead for Swanage, introduced Harriet Witt to the meeting. Harriet would be taking over as Swanage Children's Centre Team Leader with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017, and Collete would be starting the 'handover' process this week. The Centre was keen to build links with local schools, and Harriet would endeavour to meet everyone over the coming weeks. The Centre wished to link up with the Syrian family when they arrived in Swanage.

Reminders were given about the following sessions held at the Children's Centre, and the slogan 'use it or lose it' was reiterated:

- **Purbeck Citizens Advice** – every Tuesday 9.30am – 12.30pm. A local charity offering free, confidential, impartial information and advice to people who live and/or work in Purbeck. These sessions held at the Children's Centre were specifically for anyone with dependent children under 19 years of age.
- **Swanage Job Club** – every Tuesday 1.00pm – 3.00pm. The sessions were run by Skills & Learning, Bournemouth, Dorset, Poole, and assistance given included CV skills, application letters/forms, job searches, and learning difficulties.

It was noted that the Children's Centre Teams currently had a number of staff vacancies, and job adverts had been placed on the Dorset for You website.

**Friends of Swanage Bandstand** – Mr Alan Houghton introduced himself to the meeting, and outlined FOSB's proposals for the restoration of the bandstand. It was reported that so far pledges of support from members of the public amounted to circa £26,430.

**Studland Parish Council (SPC)** – it was reported that SPC had recently adopted a BT telephone box in the village, which had been converted into a 'book exchange', new roundels were being installed, and discussions were ongoing with the National Trust regarding the possible relocation of the Middle Beach Café, toilets, and activity centre.

**Swanage Railway** - Councillor Whitwam was pleased to report that the two-year trial rail service, reconnecting Swanage to Wareham and the mainline, had commenced on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**Town Twinning Association** – a visit from Rudesheim was imminent, and visitors would be taken on trips to Sherborne and Kingston Lacy, and would attend the Civic Service.

**Isle of Purbeck Model Railway Group** – it was reported that a model of Swanage Railway was being developed/progressed.

**Swanage Walking Group** – the group had now been in existence for approximately fifteen years, and had some 100 enthusiastic members.

**Dorset County Council** – it was reported that a decision had not yet been made by the Secretary of State on the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation, and it was anticipated that this was unlikely to be made before September 2017.

**Swanage Town Council** – the next edition of the 'Swanage Matters' newsletter was nearing completion, and would be published during July. The Council also had a new Facebook page, and a link to the page would be circulated to Partners: <https://www.facebook.com/swanagetowncouncil/>

#### 15. Any other business

None raised.

#### 16. Provisional Date of Next Annual General Meeting, and Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018, and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, both at 3.30 p.m., at the Town Hall, Swanage.

Good luck and best wishes were extended to Sarah Randall and Collete Ford as they left for pastures new.

The meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.