



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Swanage Town & Community Partnership
held via the Zoom video conferencing platform, on
WEDNESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2021 @ 3.30 p.m.**

Present:

Kim Gallagher, Chair ST&CP
Councillor Avril Harris, Town Mayor & Vice Chair
Martin Ayres, Town Clerk, Honorary Treasurer ST&CP
Robin Brasher, Model Railway and Walking Group
Colin Brixton, Swanage Photographic Society
Tom Clarke, National Trust
Emma Evans, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Dai Housell, Swanage Volunteer Bureau (from 3.50 p.m.)
Councillor Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Town Council
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre
Vicky Oliver, Training and Volunteer Development Lead, Dorset Volunteer Centre
Councillor Mike Whitwam, Swanage Town Council

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

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

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Bill Trite (Swanage Town Council), Mr Peter Bowyer (Studland Parish Council), Mr Richard Brown (Dorset National Park and PAW), Ms Nathalie Carter (Swanage Library), Mr P Clark (Swanage Cricket Club), Mrs Ro Clark (Wave Youth and Children's Ministry), Mrs Judy Forgan (Emmanuel Baptist Church), Mr Laurence Gloyn-Cox (SCCF & Probus 2), Mrs Maggie Hardy (Swanage & Purbeck Rotary; Swanage Community Defibrillator Project), Mrs Janet Norley (Emmanuel Baptist Church), Mr Rob Pullman (Lifeboat Operations Manager), Mrs Daphne Saville (Swanage Disabled Club), Mr Alister Tuckey (Durlston Country Park) and Mr Rob Waitt (Planet Purbeck).

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd June 2021**

It was proposed by Councillor Mike Whitwam, seconded by Mr Bob Foster, and **AGREED** that these were a true record.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters raised.

4. **Presentation on the Environment**

It was reported by the Chair that the presentation would be provided at a future meeting.

5. **Volunteer recruitment**

The Chair introduced Vicky Oliver, Training and Volunteer Development Lead, Dorset Volunteer Centre. A discussion ensued around the difficulties faced in the recruitment and retention of volunteers. It was noted that some volunteers were reluctant to return to their roles, while Covid-19 remained prevalent, and others had returned to paid employment following the end of the furlough scheme.

Suggestions for alternative ways for volunteers to engage were made and included:

- Volunteers could provide support via the telephone or online.
- Volunteers could undertake online training courses e.g. safeguarding, to prepare for a return to roles.
- Ensure work places have Covid-secure measures in place, to increase confidence.
- Provide incentives for volunteers.
- Provide opportunities for short volunteer sessions e.g. family days or weekend projects.
- Establish ambassador roles for volunteers to share positive messages.
- Hold a volunteer event/fayre and invite organisations seeking volunteers.
- Celebrate and promote the role of volunteers in the community. It was noted that the Town Council held annual awards in recognition of volunteer work, however, a larger scale scheme was suggested.

It was noted that it would be beneficial to understand the reasons why people volunteered, to focus on the retention of existing volunteers and to increase diversity.

Partners expressed an interest in the formation of a sub-group to focus on volunteer opportunities and an invitation was extended to organisations/groups seeking volunteers. An update would be provided to a future meeting.

Vicky Oliver offered support, and provided approval for her email address to be shared with the wider partnership.

The Chair thanked Vicky for her assistance and attendance at the meeting.

6. **Swanage2027 Project (S2027)**

a) Review of projects and priorities

A copy of the updated list of S2027 priorities for 2021/22 was provided to Partners.

The updates included:

- The Swanage Community Housing Group have incorporated as 'Swanage Community Land Trust' and a public meeting will be held on 10th November 2021 @ 7 p.m. via Zoom to engage with the community and encourage membership.
- The flood defence proposals will be presented to Dorset Council's cabinet in coming months and further public consultation is envisaged to take place in early 2022 with estimated completion of the project in the 2023/24 financial year.
- The Planet Purbeck Festival was well attended and received positive feedback.
- Wellbeing Swanage were continuing to work on a website and directory of community groups. Community Connector training would commence 1st November 2021. The Community Café at Herston Hall had started. Youth Club, held on a

Friday evening, was oversubscribed and the recruitment process for staff to run the club two nights per week was underway.

- Dorset Council representatives would attend a site visit on 13th October 2021 of the Chapel Lane site to include the Day Centre and Children's Centre.
- Football Club members had confirmed support for the multifunction centre proposals.

b) Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

It was noted that an exhibition of the proposed plans for Herston Hall had been held and, further to comments, amendments made to the planning application. It was hoped the provision of the two-bedroomed flat, situated above the hall, would remain part of the re-development.

c) Swanage Town Council – update

It was noted that the Godlingston Cemetery extension would be completed within a few weeks. A 'Seafront Masterplan' was proposed to provide a framework for future enhancement of the seafront and the Spa redevelopment.

7. Member Organisations - updates

Updates were provided by Partners, including:

Model Railway – An exhibition had been held at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne.

Swanage Walking Club – Almost returned to usual procedures with the exception of inside meetings and car sharing.

Town Twinning – The difficulty in visiting Rudesheim at this time was noted. Meetings would re-commence next year.

Swanage Photographic Society – The current programme would continue via Zoom until new premises had been sought.

National Trust – A busy season was reported. Some shared space issues reported between visitors and residents. Work on the 'Studland Masterplan' would commence to include consideration of rising sea levels and demographics. Pupils from The Swanage School had taken part in a 'Dunescapes' project.

The Swanage Forum and S&DPT newsletter – Currently in need of an individual knowledgeable in graphics to assist with the newsletter.

Swanage Town Council – Public meeting to discuss Herston Greenspaces would be held at the Emmanuel Baptist Church hall on Thursday 11th November at 7 p.m.

8. Any other business

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Natural England's Consultation, regarding the reintroduction of beavers in England, was noted and partners encouraged to complete the survey.

9. Provisional Date of Next Quarterly Meetings

The date of the next meeting to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.