

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of the
Parish of Swanage, held at the Mowlem Community Room
on **MONDAY, 25th MARCH 2013** at 7 o'clock p.m.

Councillor Bill Trite, Town Mayor, was in the Chair, and, in addition to members of the Council and officials, approx. 50 persons were present.

Chairman – Councillor W.S. Trite (Town Mayor)

In attendance:-

Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett
Councillor Miss C. Harris
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Mars
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor M. Pratt

Mrs. K. Gallagher	Swanage Town & Community Partnership
Mr. A. Power	Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association
Mr. B. Barker	Swanage Chamber of Trade
Mr. B. Adeney	Swanage Pier Trust
Mr. T. Hobson	Education Swanage
Mr. S. Tooley	Education Swanage
Mr. P. Angel	Education Swanage
Mr. G. Wallace	Swanage Sea Rowing Club
Mr. B. Taylor	Swanage Sea Rowing Club
Ms. D. Barron	Swanage Sea Rowing Club
Mr. D Bale	The Mowlem Trust
Mr. M. Stollery	The Purbeck Society

Before the commencement of the Meeting, the Mayor explained that, with a view to attracting a wider audience, local organisations had been invited to make a short presentation on local issues and/or matters relating to their organisation, and he introduced the representatives that were present.

The Town Clerk then outlined the procedure that would be followed during the Meeting. All registered electors in attendance had been issued with blue cards.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Marsh and Suttle, Anneliese Fay (Swanage Youth Centre), Gill Jennings (Swanage Sea Rowing Club) and Insp. Fiona Gaffney (Dorset Police).

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12th April 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed. (Copies of the Minutes were circulated to those present at the Meeting).

3. PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor welcomed the representatives from the various organisations, and invited presentations which were given on behalf of the following groups:-

a) **Swanage Sea Rowing Club**

Mr. George Wallace reported that four gigs from the Swanage Sea Rowing Club had taken part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames. It had been an amazing experience for the Club and the 32 local rowers that had participated.

Mr. Bryan Taylor reported that the Sea Rowing Club had been in operation for over 10 years and had been working from temporary accommodation during that time. He was delighted to report that funding had now been secured for the new boathouse and he wished to record the appreciation of the Club for the support given to the project by the Town Council.

Ms. Dee Barron reported that the project was estimated to cost approximately £300,000, and expressed grateful thanks for the many fundraising efforts that had made the project possible.

b) **Education Swanage**

Mr. Tristan Hobson, Headteacher of the Swanage School, updated those present on the progress of the new school. He gave a brief summary of the proposed curriculum, and reported that the Swanage School would be opening in temporary accommodation at Harrow House at the start of the autumn term in 2013.

c) **The Mowlem Trust**

Mr. David Bale reported on the usage of the Mowlem Community Room, and also the Theatre which was regularly used for live shows and cinema.

On behalf of the Mowlem Trust, he expressed grateful thanks for the donation made by the De Moulham Trust towards the purchase of a new cinema screen.

d) **Swanage Pier Trust**

Mr. Ben Adeney, General Manager of the Pier Trust, gave a brief summary of the heritage of Swanage Pier, and of a Heritage Lottery Grant awarded in 1997 towards the restoration of the Victorian structure.

A structural survey undertaken in 2012 had identified three sections in need of urgent attention, at an estimated cost of £800,000 – the south landing stage, ‘dog leg’ and remaining section of the top walkway. He expressed his appreciation of a grant of £25,000 pledged by the De Moulham Trust towards the cost of these repairs.

e) **Swanage Town and Community Partnership**

Mrs. Kim Gallagher reported on the work of the Swanage Town and Community Partnership, which co-ordinated the views of local organisations. The partnership met on a quarterly basis and the next Annual General Meeting was scheduled to be held on 25th June. She then referred to the Swanage Local Plan, which, when adopted, would become the formal guide to development in Swanage under the

umbrella of the Purbeck District Local Plan for the next 15 years. She explained that four Working Groups had been set up to progress the Local Plan, and she urged interested local residents to join the groups. These groups were:-

Economy and Town Centre, Housing and Built Environment, Social and Community, and Natural Environment.

f) **Swanage & Isle of Purbeck Chamber of Trade & Commerce**

Mr. Brian Barker did not wish to report on the activities of the Chamber of Trade at the present time, but wished to record his appreciation of the support given to the traders by local residents.

g) **Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association**

Mr. Alan Power outlined the main objectives of the Hospitality Association and explained the strategies adopted by the organisation. He was pleased to report on the increased membership of the Association which now included approx. 100 businesses.

Issues and events supported by the Association included:-

- Marketing and website.
- Swanage Railway.
- Promotion of Festivals, including the Walking Festival.
- Promotion of conferences.
- Liaising with Lyme Regis Development Trust regarding the provision of wet weather facilities and other projects.
- Supporting the visit to Swanage of an American war veteran, Mr. Wes Mullen.

h) **Swanage Town Twinning Association**

Mr. Mike Stollery reported on the forthcoming visit of a party of visitors from Rudesheim am Rhein.

i) **The Purbeck Society**

Mr. Mike Stollery reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Purbeck Society was scheduled to be held on 12th April 2013. Having regard to the impending resignation of the current Treasurer, the Society was seeking to appoint a successor to the post.

j) **Swanage Railway**

An update was given on the refurbishment of the Swanage Station. It was also reported that a grant of £1.47million had been secured to enable the re-connection of the main line to Wareham.

The theme for the Swanage Railway during the Easter period was 'Peppa Pig'.

4. **SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Mayor gave a brief summary of matters affecting the Town Council during the past year.

a) **Seafront Stabilisation Scheme**

The need to stabilise the sea frontage of the Recreation Ground was explained. This scheme would also provide an opportunity to explore wider improvements – two tiers of beach huts and a new kiosk. Public

consultation on these proposals would be undertaken before the scheme is progressed.

- b) **Pathway Office**
The new Pathway Office, combining the Town Hall and Police reception facilities, had been opened in December 2012, and was proving to be a welcoming and well-used service.
- c) **New Schools**
The Town Council had fully supported Education Swanage in their commitment to provide The Swanage School facility.
It had also been able to assist in the provision of the land for the new enlarged St. Mary's School on the lower Grammar School Field site.
- d) **Swanage Local Plan**
The Town Council had made representations to shaping the Purbeck Core Strategy during its inspection in May 2012. The Swanage Local Plan was now being developed, which when adopted, would become the formal guide to development in Swanage under the umbrella of the Purbeck District Local Plan for the next 15 years.
- e) **Bandstand**
Unfortunately, the roof structure on the bandstand had been declared completely unsound and the support structures were weak.
Consideration would be given to a replacement structure following progression of the Seafront Stabilisation Scheme, and public consultation would be undertaken regarding the type of replacement structure.
- f) **North Beach Cliff Falls**
Following the recent cliff falls at North Beach, the Town Council had joined with the Environment Agency, Coastguard, Purbeck District Council and Dorset County Council to try to ensure public safety in the area. Signs had been erected advising people to be vigilant, but at the same time stating that the beach and businesses were open as usual.
- g) **Forres Field**
Forres Field had now been formally dedicated as a Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field. Work was continuing in the quest to provide new changing facilities for youth football and it was now likely that Forres Field would be the preferred location for these.
- h) **Day's Park Play Area**
The new play area had been officially opened last summer and was proving to be very popular. Outdoor gym equipment had also been installed at Day's Park to encourage exercise for all age groups.
- i) **Natural Burial Ground**
This facility had been opened during the previous summer and the first interments had taken place.

- j) **On-Street Pay and Display Parking**
Implementation of the On-Street ‘Pay and Display’ parking scheme by Dorset County Council had been delayed due to electrical problems. The new target dates for commencement of the scheme are:-
Station Road – 8th April 2013.
Shore Road – 22nd April 2013.

Other matters mentioned included:-

- Removal of wartime shelter at Peveril Point, and improvement of remaining structures by Coastwatch.
- Installation of foot shows on Shore Road.
- Installation of new CCTV camera at junction of Station Road and Institute Road.
- Digital preservation of archives by Swanage Museum and transfer of original documents to Dorset History Centre for safe keeping.
- Concerns for the future provision of health services in the town if Swanage Hospital was closed.
- Retention of ‘Blue Flag’ award.

In concluding his report, the Town Mayor expressed his appreciation of the sterling work and dedication of all members of the Town Council’s staff.

5. **NAVITUS BAY WIND FARM**

Grave concerns were again expressed regarding the proposals for the Navitus Bay Wind Farm.

It was considered that the proposed siting of the wind farm could have a serious detrimental effect on tourism in the area and every effort should be made to deter the project. The possibility of a compensation claim was raised, and issues previously mooted regarding light pollution, the detrimental effect on the fishing industry etc. were re-iterated.

It was noted that a ‘Drop In’ session in respect of the Wind Farm proposals was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 28th March 2013.

6. **GENERAL ISSUES**

The Mayor then opened the Meeting for general discussion, and invited questions and comments from the audience.

MR. M. HADLEY requested that the Minutes from the Parish Meeting be made available to the public as soon as possible after the meeting. It was noted that, due to the limited resources and heavy commitments of the Town Council’s staff, early publication of the Minutes could not be guaranteed. However, a brief report may be included in the Council’s newsletter.

In conclusion, the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 9.35 p.m.