



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Swanage Town & Community Partnership
held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage on
WEDNESDAY 31st JANUARY 2024 @ 3.30 p.m.**

Present:

Bob Foster, Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust (S&PDT), Chair ST&CP
Robin Brasher, IOP Model Railway Group, and Swanage Walking Group
Alex Brocklesby, National Trust
Niki Clark, Planning and Community Engagement Manager, Swanage Town Council
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club
Emma Evans, Democratic Services Officer, Swanage Town Council
Lorna Haines, Swanage Skatepark Community Project
Maggie Hardy, Swanage Rotary Club, S.C.D.P. and Friends of Wareham Hospital
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre
Sarah Relph, Administration Officer, Swanage Town Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

In the absence of the Chair, Mrs Kim Gallagher, Mr Bob Foster assumed the Chair and welcomed all Partners to the meeting.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Kim Gallagher (Chair Swanage Town & Community Partnership), Councillor Tina Foster (Vice-Chair ST&CP, Town Mayor), Sonia Atkins (DC Targeted Youth Support Worker Turnaround) Dela Begum (Care Dorset), Peter Bowyer (Studland PC), Anne-Marie Burr (DC Education & Early Help), Laurence Gloyn-Cox (Probus 2), Linda Hernandez (Swanage Linking Lives), Tim Ives (Swanage Cricket Club), Chris LeFevre (Swanage Rotary), Janet Norley (Emmanuel Baptist Church), Dave Richards (St Mark's Church), Jill Weddle (DC Education & Early Help) and Harriet Witt (Dorset Council). Councillor Monkhouse attended the meeting remotely.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th September 2023

It was proposed by Mrs Maggie Hardy, seconded by Mr Mel Norris and **AGREED** that these were a true record.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters raised.

4. Youth Strategy Update

Further to Minute No. 12) of the ST&CP meeting held on 20th September 2023, an update was provided regarding the progress of the Youth Strategy. It was reported that 45 participants had attended the initial meeting held in November, which had included ten school children. It was noted that this meeting had attracted a range of enthusiastic people from local authorities, schools, sports clubs, the skate park, transport and career advisors.

It was noted that the second meeting, held earlier in January, attracted 25 attendees, a lower number due to the local authority and school representatives being unable to attend. A separate meeting would be scheduled to receive feedback from these groups.

It was suggested that in order to progress the strategy the group needed to identify the current youth services, ensure communication reached the community around current services and identify the long term achievable goals. It was noted that administration support was required to help move the project forward. Thanks were given to the Town Council for their assistance in the collation of contacts and support provided at the initial meeting. It was noted that the Town Council was not currently fully staffed and did not have the capacity to provide administration support at this time, however, it was noted that a Town Council grant could be applied for to assist with the employment of administration support for the group. Other suggestions for administration support included older pupils from The Swanage School or the Wave Youth Group to encourage youth participation.

The benefit of networking with sports clubs and local organisations was acknowledged and it was noted that the group could apply for grants in order to realise specific projects.

It was anticipated that one more meeting with all parties would be required in order to pull the strategy together and an update would be provided to a future meeting.

5. **Swanage2027 Project (S2027)**

A copy of the updated list of S2027 priorities for 2023/24 was provided to Partners, and additional updates were provided which included:

- Social Housing – It was reported that the land transfer was progressing and the Swanage Community Land Trust had hosted a public engagement event with local residents regarding the establishment of approximately ten affordable homes on the corner of Washpond Lane and Ulwell Road, Swanage.
- Environment – Sustainable Swanage had won the “Green Champion” award at the Town Council’s Community Awards evening held on 19th January 2024.
- Chapel Lane – It was anticipated that the Asset Transfer may be completed as soon as Monday 5th February and the terms of the lease between DC and SPDT have been agreed. An Open Day will be held as soon as possible and an invitation will be extended to Partners.
- Wellbeing Swanage - The youth club currently has 60 members with 30-40 on a waiting list. The club would like to offer two nights per week but is dependent on staff and funding. The Community Café continues to be well attended. The toddler group sessions attract mostly families living in Herston.
- Warm Welcomes – “Eat and Meet” events continue to be held and are well attended.
- Traffic Management - The southern section of Shore Road is now permanently closed on grounds of pedestrian safety and the future use of the area will be discussed at future meetings. The northern section of Shore Road remains closed and surveys from the various utilities’ companies are taking place to assess damage caused by Storm Ciaran.
- Transport - Plans for the Durlston bus service are continuing and the latest research suggests that it could pay for itself within 2 years. It was noted that sustainable models were available with wide reaching community benefits. Further discussions would be held and an update provided to a future meeting.
- Swanage Neighbourhood Plan – The call for sites had been publicised which enabled landowners to put forward areas for potential development. A meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be held on Monday 5th February 2024 and it was anticipated that details of an informal consultation would be publicised as soon as possible.
- Cost of Living – There was no further update at this time, however, it was noted that it was important not to lose sight of the work completed during the previous year. Warm Welcomes and the Community Pantry had been borne from the Cost of Living Crisis work and the FareShare Larder continued to support 45 households at St Mark’s and 45 at Chapel Lane. It was felt that all parties needed to continue to collaborate to retain connections.

6. **Member Organisations - updates**

Updates were provided by Partners, which included:

National Trust – The programme of events had been finalised for Corfe Castle and Studland. Rang Barse, the Hindu festival of Holi, will be celebrated at Corfe Castle on 23rd March 2024 with Indian food, Bollywood dancing and bursts of coloured powder. Partners were encouraged to visit the website for details of upcoming walks, talks and other events.

Swanage Skatepark Community Project – The Swanage Skatepark team was congratulated for their hard work in engaging with the community to gain support for the provision of a safe skate area for all abilities. It was noted that the skate park had initially been built from the drive of a local group in 2001 and it was hoped that the skatepark would move forward into another era. The Swanage Skatepark group now operated under the umbrella of SPDT. It was noted that a “Community Day” would be held later in the year and all were encouraged to publicise and attend the event.

S.C.D.P. – It was reported that the group continued to meet regularly and reviewed locations of defibs dependant on most used locations. Guardians ensured the defib scheme continued.

Rotary – “Silver Saturday” will be held on 24th February 2024 at the Emmanuel Baptist Church. An event will be held on 28th February 2024 to celebrate the work of the Rotary in town and across the world.

Friends of Wareham Hospital – It was reported that two new services were available at Wareham Hospital, an eating disorder clinic and the Purbeck Community mental health team would join other mental health services based at Wareham Hospital. It was anticipated that some services would operate from Swanage Hospital, subject to the availability of space.

Town Twinning Association – The association was dissolved last year, however, the 18 members previously on the committee continued to visit Rüdesheim.

Model Railway – It was reported that two groups continue to meet however there are no new members and the venues to meet can, on occasion, involve an hour travel, an hour setting up and packing up.

Walking Group – It was reported that the walking group was a huge success, attracting 150 at the current time. A second holiday had been organised to Exmoor in April which was fully subscribed.

Cricket Club – It was noted that the club had adopted the English Cricket Board League structure and Swanage is now in Premier league 2. The club facilities and grounds have been improved and the grounds team won the local Dorset Cricket Collective Awards category of “Volunteer Grounds Team of the Year 2023” and were shortlisted for the National Cricket Collective Awards 2023.

Town Council – It was noted that the Town Council was in the process of launching a new website dedicated to tourism, “Visit Swanage”. Local businesses were encouraged to advertise for free for the first year and an event to preview the site will be held on Monday 5th February at the Show Bar, Mowlem Theatre.

Tourist Information Centre – A Jobs Fair will be held on 9th February between 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. and attendees were encouraged to advertise the event.

Swanage Town Council grant application forms were distributed to attendees.

7. **Any other business**

Further to a brief discussion regarding the theme for the next quarterly meeting, it was agreed that a presentation be provided by representatives from the National Trust to provide an update on current and future projects.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date for next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.
