



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the  
Swanage Town & Community Partnership  
held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022 @ 5.00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Kim Gallagher, Chair ST&CP  
Councillor Avril Harris, Town Mayor & Vice Chair  
Martin Ayres, Town Clerk, Honorary Treasurer ST&CP  
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club (until 6 p.m.)  
Tom Clarke, National Trust  
Emma Evans, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council  
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust  
Maggie Hardy, Rotary; Swanage Community Defibrillator Group; Wareham Hospital Friends  
Sylvia Libicka, Swanage Chamber of Trade  
Janet Norley, Emmanuel Baptist Church  
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre  
Councillor Mike Whitwam, Swanage Town Council

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair, 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), Peter Bowyer (Studland Parish Council), Robin Brasher (Model Railway and Walking Group), Colin Brixton (Swanage Photographic Society), Laurence Gloyn-Cox (SCCF & Probus 2), Daphne Saville (Swanage Disabled Club) and Helen Spencer (Tricuro).

Apologies had also been received from Pauline Werba, Swanage Food Bank and Judy Herring from CAB, who intended to speak under item 4). Councillor Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Town Council, attended the meeting remotely.

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

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

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters raised.

#### 4. **The rising cost of living**

At a recent meeting of the S2027 steering group, concerns had been raised around the rising cost of living, and the impact this was having on local families. In light of these concerns a broad discussion ensued around possible action members of the ST&CP group could undertake to assist, which included:

- Local businesses/supermarkets to be contacted regarding the process of disposal of waste food at the end of the day. It was noted that logistics could prove problematic.
- Increase publicity and donations to the Swanage Food Bank.
- Information to be shared regarding saving on utility bills, leaflets at the Food Bank.
- Further information would be useful regarding the areas, and number of people worst affected by the cost of living crisis to inform support provision.
- It was noted that there were various groups undertaking support work in town and that a co-ordinated approach would be useful to avoid overlapping/missing areas of support.
- In response it was noted that Wellbeing Swanage, Swanage Churches, and the Rotary Club all offered support.
- It was decided that a sub-group to ST&CP could be set up to further explore the issues and possible support provision.
- Partners would be contacted to gauge interest.

#### 5. **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 were currently investigating potential sites for the housing project.
- It was anticipated that Dorset Council would make a decision on the flood defence proposals early 2023. The modelling of wave heights was being progressed, and further public consultation was envisaged to take place Autumn 2022.
- Sarah Spurling was in her role with Sustainable Swanage (funded by STC) and taking the lead on various environmental projects. The new Purbeck Heaths website had received positive feedback and was bringing people and organisations together. The National Trust were looking at ways to link local landscapes together and were in communication with Durlston Country Park as well as having purchased Weston Farm, Worth Matravers.
- Discussions had been held around a health hub to encompass the Purbeck area, which would include low level mental health support as well as signposting to services.
- Monthly meetings were being held between S&PDT, the Town Council, and the Football Club to discuss the multi-function centre proposals.
- It was noted that the Durlston Bus service was unlikely to run this season due to a shortfall in funds to operate the service. It was suggested that contact be made with local businesses/organisations earlier in the year to assist in securing funds. It was agreed that the Visitor Services Manager would liaise with Durlston Country Park to confirm the status for this season.

- It was reported that the trial railway service between Swanage and Wareham would not commence this year as planned due to the financial risks associated with a new venture at a time of recovery.
- It was noted that a pilot bus service would run this season, from Wareham Station to Arne, with every other bus stopping at Purbeck Park. The fully funded service had been made possible with money from the Heritage Lottery fund and contributions from RSPB and Purbeck Heaths.

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

Further to the updates under item 5 a) it was noted that a new online system had been established to manage bookings for Herston Hall/The Centre.

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

Further to information provided under item 5 a) it was reported that the refurbishment of King George’s play area was nearing completion, a new ‘Changing Places’ disabled W/C would be installed at North Beach car park and approval had been provided for a defibrillator to be installed at Burlington Chine W/C’s.

### **6. Member Organisations - updates**

Updates were provided by Partners, including:

**Swanage Chamber of Trade** – The chamber reported it was attracting more members and had a new website. Sustainable Swanage assisted with environmental projects e.g. raising awareness with businesses for the need to reduce plastic waste. It was reported that the hotels and B&Bs were already busy, and although a few shops remained empty, occupation was in progress for most. Chamber of Trade members reported a recruitment issue, with the cost of travel and local housing noted as contributing factors.

**Studland Parish Council** – It was reported, via email, that Studland Parish Council had expressed a desire for a 20-m.p.h. speed limit, a possible neighbourhood plan and a resilience plan, following the recent electrical supply interruptions.

**The Swanage Forum and S&DPT newsletter** – Currently producing ten issues per year with an opportunity for organisations to promote news.

**National Trust** – It was noted that farming subsidies had changed, since leaving the E.U., and there was a need for farmers to diversify and this was seen as an opportunity for the sector to move away from high intensity/low nature farming. The National Trust had acquired Weston Farm, Worth Matravers, which would undergo a period of transition to re-establish meadows and natural grasslands.

**Swanage Rotary** – Praise was given to the people of Swanage for their generosity in donating to the Ukraine Appeal. It was reported that £8,800 had been raised over only a few days and Swanage Rotary had added a further £1,200 to make a total of £10,000.

**Swanage Community Defibrillator Project** – Further to the Town Council confirming use of the Burlington Chine public conveniences and funds being raised, a defibrillator would be installed at this location.

**Emmanuel Baptist Church** – It was expressed that community use of the church was actively encouraged. It was stated that the ST&CP meetings were a useful way to share information.

**Post meeting note: Update from Swanage Disabled Club via email** – It was reported that Swanage Disabled Club are still very active in the town with their weekly Monday

afternoon meetings now at All Saints Church, with transport available. Buses are available for use by other organisations/care homes etc. There is a hire charge for any booking. It was reported that the single wheelchair vehicle remained busy transporting people to appointments, either locally, or in Poole or Bournemouth hospital. It was noted that this service must be pre-booked and donations are asked for to help cover the fuel and maintenance of the vehicles. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer driver should contact the Transport Manager, Robert Payne on 01929 423729. Full training will be given. Thanks was extended to everyone currently supporting the club through the Co-op Community Fund this year.

7. **Any other business**

**a) Purbeck Heaths new website**

The new website was noted.

**b) Christmas lights**

It was suggested that a discussion be held between the Town Council's Operations Department and Chamber of Trade to discuss Christmas lighting and the need for additional fundraising to assist with costs.

8. **Provisional Date of the Annual General Meeting**

The provisional date to hold the Annual General Meeting was proposed as Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 @ 4.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.

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