



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Swanage Town & Community Partnership
held via the Zoom video conferencing platform, on
WEDNESDAY 3rd MARCH 2021 @ 3.30 p.m.**

Present:

Kim Gallagher, Chair ST&CP
Councillor Mike Bonfield, Swanage Town Council and Vice Chair ST&CP
Martin Ayres, Town Clerk, Honorary Treasurer ST&CP
Sarah Bamber, Swanage Linking Lives
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Council
Robin Brasher, Model Rail and Swanage Walking Group
Colin Brixton, CPRE
Nathalie Carter, Swanage Library
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club
Tom Clarke, National Trust
Emma Evans, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Councillor Avril Harris, Swanage Town Council
Councillor Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Town Council
Lucinda Neall, Purbeck Energy Group
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre
Robert Pullman, RNLI
Mary Trott, Tricuro
Councillor Mike Whitwam, Swanage Town Council

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

Mary Trott (Tricuro), was welcomed to the meeting, attending in place of Helen Spencer.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Bill Trite (Swanage Town Council), Mr Richard Brown (PAW Art's Festival), Ms Jude Evans (Friends of Swanage Library), Mr Laurence Gloyn-Cox (SCCF & Probus 2), Mrs Maggie Hardy (Defibrillator Partnership), Mrs Daphne Saville (Swanage Disabled Club) and Ms Helen Spencer (Tricuro).

2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 9th December 2020

It was proposed that these were a true record by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Mr Mel Norris, and **AGREED**.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters raised.

4. **Presentation on Sustainable Energy**

A presentation was provided by Lucinda Neall from Purbeck Energy Group providing information on the establishment of the group and progress to date which included:

- Purbeck Energy Group was established in 2018 as a sub-group to Sustainable Swanage.
- Purbeck Energy Group was a Purbeck wide initiative to increase sustainable energy usage and reduce carbon footprint by the installation of solar panels on domestic/residential properties.
- Through investigation 'Solar Streets' in Frome was discovered who had used the company, IDDEA, to overcome the financial barrier to the installation of solar panels by the bulk purchase of materials and installation in one area.
- Majority of property owners could expect a 10% reduction on purchase and installation of panels.
- 'Wessex Resolution' supports councils in providing a calculator tool to check viability of installing solar panels.
- 'Energy Local' is a scheme where local residents form a co-op to supply surplus renewable energy.
- Bridport anticipated the commencement of their 'Energy Local' initiative in March 2021.
- The first stage for Swanage would be the installation of solar panels on homes prior to exploring the option to become suppliers.

The chair thanked Lucinda Neall for her presentation and invited questions from partners.

Several queries were raised regarding the cost, installation on different roof structures and the suitability of installation in a conservation area.

In response, it was stated that planning permission was not generally needed to install solar panels, however, homes situated in conservation areas or owners of listed buildings would need to seek further advice. In addition it was noted that installation is not recommended for stone or concrete roofs.

It was noted that although Swanage Town Council agreed to support Sustainable Swanage in encouraging residents to inform themselves about the opportunity that IDDEA are offering, as well as other options and suppliers for installing solar panels, the council is not directly marketing the scheme or promoting the supplier.

Members were encouraged to attend a public meeting scheduled for 17th March 2021 where there would be an opportunity for a 'Q and A' session following the meeting. Further details would be available via the Solar Streets website.

The chair requested to be kept informed of any developments to report to a future meeting.

Lucinda Neall left the meeting at 3.55 p.m.

5. **Swanage S2027 Project (S2027)**

a) Review of projects and priorities

A copy of the updated list of S2027 priorities for 2020/21 had been provided to Partners prior to the meeting.

The following updates were provided: It was reported that the Swanage Community Housing Steering Group anticipated the establishment of a Community Land Trust within months.

It was reported that the Dorset Coast Forum would be undertaking public consultation regarding the design and implementation of sea defences in due course. Early engagement with key stakeholders would take place first.

The achievements of Sustainable Swanage to date were noted and future plans included identifying new projects for 2022 and the establishment of a volunteer group to work independently.

It was reported that the Wellbeing sub-group had met regularly and was now in the process

of mapping services. A designated Wellbeing website had been created and it was hoped a 'Mini-hub' would be established at Herston Hall.

The re-opening event for the museum would be postponed, with an historical themed event planned for 2022.

An update was provided regarding Purbeck Transport Action Group's draft strategy. The PTAG had collated responses from local Town and Parish councils regarding local transport issues and would submit the strategy document to Dorset Council for consideration. An update would be provided to a future meeting.

b) Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust

It was reported that despite the inability for face-to-face interaction with the public, regular contact had been maintained using other channels.

It was noted that the foundations and walls for the Albert Memorial had been erected with some stone awaiting cutting.

c) Swanage Town Council – update

In addition to updates provided under agenda item 5 a), the following information was reported:

- Winter works had included play park refurbishments at Day's Park and Chadwick playpark.
- Car parks had been resurfaced.
- Planned projects included an extension to the Godlingston cemetery between May and September.
- Stability probes were currently in position at The Spa area on the seafront, prior to decisions over potential development plans.
- A tender for a Cycle Hire concession would close on 8th March 2021.
- The Swanage Friday Market would be open to 'Artisan' traders on the first Friday of each month to encourage local, handmade gifts to be sold, from May 2021.
- The Mayor updated that the Trevor Chadwick Memorial appeal would commence 28th March 2021 and a ¼ size model had been finished to enable visualisation of the finished statue and assist in fundraising. It was anticipated that the statue would be in place in 2022/early 2023.

6. Member Organisations - updates

Updates were provided by Partners, including:

Councillor Monkhouse – posters and garden plaques would be available to promote the retention of the Swanage paramedic car. Councillor Monkhouse offered her email address as a point of contact.

The Swanage Forum and S&PDT newsletter – thanks was offered for all contributions made and members were encouraged to continue to share news.

Swanage Linking Lives - it was noted that Link Visiting was now renamed Swanage Linking Lives.

Telephone consultations had been successful however it was hoped face-to-face meetings could be arranged when restrictions allowed and were looking for new premises in which to operate.

Photographic Society – Currently holding fortnightly sessions via Zoom, anticipate a new programme starting in September.

RNLI – Call outs for assistance had significantly reduced. RNLI had been authorised to hold skills and training exercises intensively for two weeks prior to the summer season.

Town Twinning – No subscription charge was made during 2020 and meetings were held every two weeks via Zoom, one week in English and the next in German.

Swanage Walking Group – It was hoped the walking programme would be finalised shortly with an anticipated start date in April.

Swanage Library – It was reported that libraries should be able to re-open 12th April and Swanage library would open during the mornings only with eight people in the building at one time. New stock would be arriving and via Dorset Council's website books could be selected for a click and collect service.

Studland Parish Council – updates were given which included that DYL’s would be introduced in School Lane to encourage use of car parks. A meeting was scheduled with relevant parties to discuss summer traffic management plans.

National Trust – various projects were in progress which included rejuvenating the dune scape and introducing cattle to graze the dunes. The reintroduction of beavers may be in place by the end of the year. Consideration was being given to the issues faced regarding re-opening the countryside following lockdown.

7. **Any other business**

a) **Dorset Council – public consultation on the draft Dorset Local Plan**

It was noted that the closing date of the draft Dorset Local Plan consultation was 15th March 2021 and that Swanage Town council would be meeting week commencing 8th March to finalise the council’s response. Areas of concern included the settlement of 150 houses, retail policy, gypsy and traveller site and the protection of specific areas (e.g. Ballard Estate).

It was noted that Corfe Castle Parish Council had held a successful community engagement meeting and in addition that the CPRE website contained professional advice regarding response.

Members were encouraged to respond and it was advised that paper copies of the draft consultation could be obtained from Swanage library by using the Click and Collect service.

8. **Date of Next Quarterly Meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 5.05 p.m.
