



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the  
Swanage Town & Community Partnership  
held via the Zoom video conferencing platform, on  
WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020 @ 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  
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Council  
Colin Brixton,  
Nathalie Carter, Swanage Library  
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club  
Emma Evans, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council  
Helen Ffitch, Swanage.News (Press)  
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust  
Councillor Avril Harris, Swanage Town Council  
Councillor Debby Monkhouse, Swanage Town Council  
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre  
Robert Pullman, RNLI  
Sarah Spurling, Sustainable Swanage  
Councillor Mike Whitwam, Swanage Town Council

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

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

Ms Helen Ffitch provided a brief introduction to Swanage.News and its role in the provision of news to the local community.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Bill Trite (Swanage Town Council), Mr Richard Brown (Dorset National Park Team), Ms Nikki Canning (St Mark's School), Mrs Ro Clark (Wave Youth and Children's Ministry), Mr Tom Clarke (National Trust) Mrs Maria Gadstone (St Mary's Primary School), Mr Laurence Gloyn-Cox (SCCF & Probus 2) and Mrs Daphne Saville (Swanage Disabled Club).

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

It was proposed that these were a true record by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Mr Peter Clark, and **AGREED**. It was noted that Agenda item 11 c) the word coat should read coast and Agenda item 11 b) the open day would be scheduled for May 2021 not November 2020.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters raised.

#### 4. **Presentation on Sustainable Swanage**

A presentation was provided by Sarah Spurling from Sustainable Swanage providing an update of recent projects which included:

- Love Your Harbour campaign – highlighting the issue of sewage waste generated by boats.
- Slam Dunk the Junk – encouraging people to take litter home if public bins are full.
- Love our Beach – reducing oil spillages on beaches.
- Tree Giveaway – Dorset CPRE funded free trees for residents.
- Biodiversity in gardens – promoting simple ideas to attract diverse wildlife.
- Greening Swanage – Downs nature reserve and Prospect pocket park – consultations scheduled for early 2021.
- Solar Streets – A group investigating procuring local green energy, further details would be provided to a future meeting.
- Active Travel – walking to school initiative.
- Plans for 2021 – Food Fridge, redirecting food to avoid wastage and investigation into additional suitable sites for Greening Swanage.

It was noted that the success of the various projects had been a result of partnership working with the Town Council, councillors, Litter Free Coast and Sea, Litter Free Dorset and Swanage Regatta and Carnival Committee and that the initial project to reduce the use of single use plastics had brought organisations together.

The chair thanked Sarah Spurling for her presentation and invited questions from partners.

A query was raised regarding whether any investigation would be completed in relation to the level of nitrates in Poole Harbour. Sarah Spurling confirmed she would raise the query and respond accordingly.

#### 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: Swanage Community Housing Steering Group had been meeting monthly to drive the project regarding affordable housing forward. It was reported that a public meeting had been held in November to encourage new members to join the group. It was noted that Dorset Council would commence a public consultation, regarding the Dorset Local Plan, in January 2021.

It was reported that the long term sea defence strategy for the town, a result of multi-agency working and headed by Dorset Coast Forum, would launch a public consultation regarding the design and implementation of sea defences, however, due to Covid-19 the consultation had been delayed and an update would be provided at a future meeting.

It was noted that the Durlston bus service had been discussed at the Roads and Transport Committee meeting held in November. The distinction between the Durlston bus service and a community bus service was discussed. It was proposed that a working party meeting would be scheduled to review options.

An update was provided regarding the proposed multifunction centre which included that a recent meeting had been held, via Zoom, with the Football Association and that a business plan was being prepared in conjunction with the football club.

It was reported that although Wellbeing Swanage had been established primarily as a property model, the service provision in Swanage was now being investigated. The Wellbeing sub-group had met and it was reported that key people were involved to look into the strategic overview of services including highlighting gaps in service provision. The idea of a 'social prescription' rather than a 'medical prescription' was discussed and that work was underway to liaise with the medical

practice to signpost people to mental health services.

It was reported that the museum refurbishment was nearing completion and hoped to re-open April 2021, government restrictions permitting. An Edwardian/Victorian themed opening event was in the planning stage with the involvement of the town encouraged.

There were no questions raised regarding the plan or updates.

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

It was reported that the Annual General meeting would be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

The refurbishment of Herston Hall was scheduled to be completed by May 2021.

It was noted that a local quarry had been instructed to begin refurbishment of the stones for the Albert Memorial and tenders had been advertised for the construction of the memorial. The opening date was anticipated as May 2021.

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

It was noted that the longer-term projects had been reported under agenda item 5 a) however, the following additional updates were provided:

- Monthly Council meeting to be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 7 p.m.
- Dorset Council Consultation regarding Dorset Local Plan would commence January 2021.
- Town Carol service would be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 6.30 p.m. and would be live streamed.

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

Updates were provided by Partners, including:

**RNLI** – Call outs for assistance had significantly reduced. Skills and training exercises were undertaken every fortnight.

**Photographic Society** – Currently revising the provision of the club and offering online competitions.

**Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre** - It was hoped that an Edwardian/Victorian event would be planned for the re-opening and further details would be provided at a future meeting.

**Swanage Railway** – it was reported that the tickets for the ‘Steam and Lights’ service were almost fully booked.

**Studland Parish Council** – updates were given on a number of matters affecting the parish, which included the opposition to the ferry toll increase and the support of the proposal by the National Trust to provide discounts in travel to local residents. It was noted the public inquiry would re-convene on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Support was shown for the 20’s Plenty vehicle speed campaign. It was reported that the chair from Studland Parish Council had met with a representative from the National Trust to discuss a ‘Green Plan’ and potential traffic free zones.

**Swanage Library** – It was reported that a garden may be situated behind the library in place of the current car park. Friends of Swanage Library were leading the project which hoped to offer a community garden for groups using the library.

**Swanage.News** – It was noted that lots of positive news stories were reported and a request made to contact Swanage.News with any items to promote.

**Councillor Monkhouse** - Swanage Paramedic car – Potentially ceasing December 2020, Town Council will request an update.

### **7. Any other business**

No other business was raised.

### **8. Date of Next Quarterly Meetings**

The date of the next meeting was noted as Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 3.30 p.m.

9. **Partner networking and information sharing**

It was noted that this item will become relevant following an end to social distancing measures.

The chair thanked all Partners for their perseverance during a difficult year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

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