

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of the Parish of Swanage, held at the Mowlem Community Room on **WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014** at 7 o'clock p.m.

Councillor Mrs Alison Patrick, Town Mayor, was in the Chair, and, in addition to members of the Council and officials, approx. 32 persons were present.

Chairman – Councillor Mrs Alison Patrick (Town Mayor)

In attendance:-

Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett  
Councillor M. Bonfield  
Councillor I. Brown  
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh  
Councillor S. Poultney  
Councillor M. Pratt  
Councillor W.S. Trite  
Councillor A. Wiggins

Mrs. K. Gallagher	Swanage Town & Community Partnership
Diane Bemand	Swanage Local Plan
PC Kyle Hickman	Dorset Police
Mr. D. Holman	Swanage Senior Forum
Mr. J. Lejeune	The Swanage School
Mr. P. Sills	Swanage Railway
Councillor Mrs. C. Bartlett	Swanage Youth Centre
Mrs. L. Haines	Y-Axis and Impact
Mr. R. Patrick	Dorset Coastguard
Mr. B. Quaddy	Swanage Sea Rowing Club

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 she introduced the representatives that were present.

The Town Clerk then outlined the procedure that would be followed during the Meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies to report for inability to attend the Meeting.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed. (Copies of the Minutes were circulated to those present at the Meeting).

3. **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 had previously been highlighted, and details of the scheme, together with timescales regarding planning and the tender process, up to the awarding of the contract at the end of November 2013 were reported.. Work had commenced on site in early December, and since then a series of hurdles had had to be overcome – unknown gas pipe, continual rain from the start of the contractors’ work for approximately two and a half months (wettest winter for 200 years) and variability in the ground, resulting in the requirement for additional work to the central section around the war memorial. On a positive note, it was anticipated that the new toilets would be opened by early July and the Broad Road stabilisation works would also be completed around that time.
- b) **Swanage Local Plan**  
Work on the Swanage Local Plan was continuing and useful discussions had been held with working groups on four key subjects, led by local residents – Mel Norris, Richard Smith, Bob Foster and Gary Richardson.
- c) **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. Grateful thanks were extended to all those involved in the public information events and the clean-up operation at North Beach, with particular mention of the emergency services and the Town Council’s workforce.
- d) **Storms**  
Appreciation was expressed for the work undertaken by the Council’s Operations Department in providing sandbags and help in clearing up along Shore Road and lower High Street during the winter storms.
- e) **Looking to the Future**
- Tenders for the running of a market in Swanage would be considered shortly, with a view to being operational before the start of the summer season.
  - Consultation would be held regarding the setting of the war memorial.
  - Continuation of working with the Football Club in respect of the provision of new youth changing facilities at Forres Field.
  - Completion of the next phase of the skate park and the installation of a street art wall (to be provided by Raymond Brown Construction Ltd).

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

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

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

(a) **Swanage Town and Community Partnership**

Mrs. Kim Gallagher reported on the work of the Swanage Town and Community Partnership, a voluntary organisation which co-ordinated the views of local organisations. The Partnership continues to work closely with Purbeck District Council to develop the Swanage Local Plan, and also with the Swanage Development Trust.

The Town Partnership Annual General Meeting was scheduled to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> June in the Town Hall at 2.30 p.m.

(b) **Swanage Local Plan**

Ms Diane Bemand reported that following the first public consultation, 800 responses had been received. It was hoped that the responses would be incorporated in a data base by mid-May, and further workshops would be held during that month. A further period of consultation would be undertaken later in the year. Following analysis of the final consultation, it was hoped that the Swanage Local Plan would be formally adopted early in 2016.

(c) **Dorset Police**

PC Kyle Hickman gave a brief outline of the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Officers, and sadly reported that as a result of cost-saving cuts by Dorset Police, the number of officers assigned to the Safer Neighbourhood service would be reduced.

The front desk counter services would be retained in Swanage, but unfortunately this service would probably not be available at the Wareham Police Station at some time in the future.

(d) **Swanage Senior Forum**

Mr David Holman, on behalf of the Swanage Senior Forum, expressed concerns that some elderly residents were worried at the increasing number of 'scams', and enquired whether a representative from Dorset Police would give a presentation at a future meeting of the Senior Forum on how to deal with this issue.

(e) **The Swanage School**

Mr John LeJeune, (parent/teacher governor), was pleased to report that the Swanage School had now moved from its temporary accommodation at Harrow House, and would be occupying the new school premises with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The number of pupils had increased from 55 in September 2013 to 120 at the present time.

(f) **Swanage Railway**

Mr Peter Sills updated those present on matters relating to Swanage Railway. During the previous year, the Railway had operated on 270 days, had attracted over 211,000 visitors and 40,000 cars had used the 'Park and Ride' facility at Norden.

Work was progressing towards establishing the link to the main line train service at Wareham.

In answer to a question raised, it was stated that the pricing structure for the main line service had not yet been determined.

(g) **Swanage Youth Centre**

In the absence of (Analiene Fay, Youth Centre Leader), Councillor Mrs. Cherry Bartlett gave a brief report on the services provided for young people at the Youth Centre.

These included advice on matters relating to employment, health and safety, as well as social activities.

It was also reported that arrangements were being made for a Music Festival to be held in King George's Field in August 2014.

(h) **Y-Axis (Skate Park) and Impact**

Mrs Lorna Haines was pleased to report that three new pieces of equipment were soon to be installed in the Skate Park. This facility continued to be very popular with young people, and a second Skate Festival was being arranged for Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Arrangements were also progressing for the construction of a 'Street Art Wall' in this area.

Mrs. Haines then gave a brief outline of 'Impact', a Christian organisation, which visited the town on Friday evenings to offer help and advice to young people.

(i) **Coastguard**

Mr Roger Patrick provided an insight into the training programme and cover provided by the Swanage Coastguard Rescue Team. He then reported on proposed changes by the Coastguard & Maritime Agency which may impact on the services provided locally in the future.

(j) **Swanage Sea Rowing Club**

Mr Barnaby Quaddy reported on fundraising activities, undertaken by the Swanage Sea Rowing Club, which had resulted in approximately £350,000 being raised in the past 4 years towards the costs of the new boathouse.

5. **GENERAL ISSUES**

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

Matters raised included:-

- Re-instatement of the war memorial.
- Downs/Broad Road – Completion of stabilisation and re-surfacing works.
- Installation of new pedestrian crossing on the High Street in the vicinity of The Swanage School.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was provisionally agreed that the next Parish Meeting be held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

In conclusion, the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.