



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Swanage Town & Community Partnership
held at The Town Hall, Swanage on
WEDNESDAY 21st MARCH @ 3.30 p.m.**

Present:

Kim Gallagher, Chairman ST&CP
Martin Ayres, Honorary Treasurer ST&CP; Town Clerk
John Bishop, Swanage Town Councillor
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Councillor
Robin Brasher, Isle of Purbeck Model Railway
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club
Tom Clarke, National Trust
Jude Evans, Dorset POPP; Chairman of Friends of Swanage Library
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Laurence Gloyn-Cox, Swanage Coastal Change Forum; Probus
Gail Green, Swanage Town Councillor
Gerard Jensen, Herston Hall Management Committee
Cara Johnston, Operations Administration Officer, Swanage Town Council
Judith Leyman, Swanage Library
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust
Anne Rothery, Swanage Chamber of Trade & Commerce
Bill Trite, Dorset County, Purbeck District, and Swanage Town Councillor
Mike Whitwam, Purbeck District and Swanage Town Councillor

Also in attendance:

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman, Mrs Kim Gallagher, welcomed all Partners to the meeting. Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Mr Colin Brixton (Purbeck Society; CPRE; Photographic Society), Mrs Ann Faulkner (Swanage Library), and Mrs Maria Gadston (St Mary's Primary School).

2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 13th December 2017

Proposed that these were a true record by Mr Bob Foster, seconded by Mr Mel Norris, and agreed.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 13th December 2017

5. Swanage Emergency Plan (SEP) – an update was given regarding progress made with the SEP. It was reported that a draft copy of the plan was being drawn up and, once adopted, volunteers would be sought and training provided.

9. **Any other business** - it was reported that Studland Cricket Ground had established a good relationship with Swanage Cricket Club, and the possibility of youth games being held at the Studland ground in the future had been discussed.

4. **National Trust – introduction and update from Mr Tom Clarke, Community Engagement Officer**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Tom Clarke, Engagement Officer, National Trust, to the meeting. Mr Clarke then gave a presentation on his new role with the National Trust, and explained that he was interested in discussing/considering how the Trust and the ST&CP could work together in the future, to better understand community needs.

Mr Clarke had twenty years' experience working within the environmental and community sectors, had a good understanding of green infrastructure, and would welcome the opportunity to be involved in the delivery of the Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy. A short 'Q and A' session with Partners then ensued.

The Chairman gave thanks to Mr Clarke for the informative presentation, and for taking the time to answer Partners' questions. It was noted that if anyone had any further questions for Mr Clarke he could be contacted by email at: tom.clarke@nationaltrust.org.uk

5. **Community Transport**

Arising from the S2027 Project Plan, it was noted that improvements to community transport were seen as a priority for the town. However, in the absence of further information, it was agreed that this matter would be reviewed at a future meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding the possible withdrawal of the Harmans Cross bus service.

6. **Swanage 2027 Project (S2027)**

a) **Update on identified projects and priorities**

A copy of the updated S2027 Project Plan for 2017/18 was provided to Partners for information purposes, and brief updates were given as follows:

- **Community Land Trust** – STC had established a working group, and a meeting would be arranged.
- **Sea Defence Strategy** – it was reported that this was progressing well, and a consultant had been appointed. Town Council staff had been manning the barricades during recent storms.
- **Traffic Flow - improvements and enhancements to the seafront and town centre** – it was reported that, due to financial constraints at DCC, priority was being given to the Institute Road improvements, and that the draft proposals for Shore Road were on hold at the present time.
- **Swanage Museum and Heritage Centre** – it was reported that options were now being explored for the museum to be expanded in its existing premises.
- **Day's Park/Multi-Function Centre** – updates were given regarding the proposed new west stand and new sports and social centre projects. Lease negotiations were progressing, a planning application would be submitted for the new stand in due course, and interested parties would be meeting to discuss interest in taking forward the multi-function centre project/find out what attendees' requirements would be, both now and in the future.
- **Friends of Swanage Bandstand** – it was reported that a grant bid would be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in due course. If the application was successful, it was anticipated that work would begin on the bandstand in 2019.
- **Local Listing and Conservation Area Review** – it was reported that local listing was currently being undertaken by the Purbeck Society.

b) Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust updates

It was reported that new projects were currently being discussed, although these were in early stages at the present time. Brief updates were given on the following:

- **Herston Village Hall** – there would be an ‘Open Day’ at the hall on Saturday 14th April 2018, from 11am to 2pm, which would give the local community the opportunity to help plan the revitalisation of the hall, and have its say in how the hall should be used in the future. Discussions would also be held regarding a programme of repair, and costs for running the hall.
- **The Centre** – it was reported that operations were going well, a new multimedia system had been installed, and there were now over thirty young people attending the youth club on Friday evenings.

c) Swanage Town Council update

It was reported that the Council’s public conveniences upgrade schemes, in Main Beach and Mermond Place car parks, would be complete in time for Easter. It was noted that the Heritage Centre toilets were now free of charge.

Further updates were given as follows:

- The Swanage Boat Park stabilisation works would be completed in time for the Whitsun holiday.
- New playground equipment would be installed in King George’s Playing Fields in early April.
- It was hoped that STC’s acquisition of a new depot would be finalised within the next couple of months.
- Fishermen’s scheme improvements were progressing.
- Coastal Defence Strategy – discussions between partners were ongoing.
- Electric vehicle charging points had now been installed in Main Beach and Mermond Place car parks.

Mr Tom Clarke left the meeting at 3.30 p.m.

7. Updates

a) Future Dorset proposals – Local Government Reorganisation plans

An update was given on events to date, and it was reported that the Secretary of State had now decided to implement the proposals for two new unitary councils in the county, subject to Parliamentary approval. If approved, the new councils would be established on 1st April 2019. It was noted that local elections would also be taking place in April 2019.

A discussion ensued during which concerns were raised regarding the delivery/possible reduction in future services, in particular planning and housing. Further concerns were raised regarding the coastal defence strategy, and the importance of having local knowledge/expertise when managing the coastline.

Councillor Tritte, as County Councillor, requested that if Partners had any concerns regarding the reorganisation plans, they should be submitted to him in writing.

b) Former St Mark’s Primary School Playing Field & Herston Village Hall

It was reported that discussions between STC and DCC were progressing regarding a proposed long term lease for the playing field. Any interest to participate in the working group was to be directed to Dr Martin Ayres.

The update regarding the hall had been given above.

8. Sandbanks Ferry – Proposed increase in ferry tolls

It was reported that the ferry company had made an application to the Secretary of State for Transport for an Order to revise the charges for the use of the ferry between Sandbanks and South Haven Point. There had already been a great deal of opposition from members of the public regarding these proposals, as the scale of the proposed increases to tolls were considered to be wholly unacceptable and well above inflation rates. Concerns had also been raised regarding the financial impact the increases would have on local residents/students who commuted to work/college in the neighbouring towns of Bournemouth and Poole via the ferry, the possible detrimental effect on tourism and the local economy, and impact on local infrastructure/traffic volumes/environment if motorists took the longer route to the local area around the A351.

The Town Council would be considering its formal letter of objection to the application at the next Monthly Council Meeting being held on 26th March 2018.

9. Any other business

Swanage Library – concerns had been raised regarding the future of Swanage Library. It was noted that the library had not received any new books for the last six months, and a ‘Friends of Swanage Library’ group had now been established. Councillor Trite, as County Councillor, advised that he would make enquiries of DCC on behalf of the Partnership.

A request was made for the bench outside the library to be relocated elsewhere due to recent noise/disturbance issues that had been experienced.

Councillor Gail Green left the meeting at 5.05 p.m.

Studland Village Fete – the fete would be held on Sunday 3rd June 2018 and all were welcome to attend.

Isle of Purbeck Model Railway Group – the group had been approached by Channel 5 to produce a model railway, the best entries would be shown on a future television show.

Dorset AONB Annual Forum: Views on your Landscape – the meeting would be taking place at Westport House, Worgret Road, Wareham this evening between 6.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.

Herston Village Hall - dog training sessions would be held at the hall every Friday morning at 10am. All welcome.

10. Provisional Date of the next Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting would be held on Wednesday 13th June 2018, at the Town Hall, Swanage, at 3.30 p.m.
