



**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the  
Swanage Town & Community Partnership  
held at The Town Hall, Swanage on  
WEDNESDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2017 @ 3.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Kim Gallagher, Chairman ST&CP  
Mike Bonfield, Vice Chairman ST&CP; Swanage Town Councillor  
Martin Ayres, Town Clerk, Swanage Town Council; Honorary Treasurer ST&CP  
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Councillor  
Robin Brasher, Isle of Purbeck Model Railway Group; Swanage Walking Group  
Colin Brixton, CPRE; Photographic Society; Purbeck Society  
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club  
Charlie Dooley, Durlston Country Park  
Collete Ford, Swanage Children's Centre  
Bob Foster, Rotary; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust  
Laurence Gloyn-Cox, Swanage Coastal Change Forum; Probus2  
Mel Norris, Swanage Museum & Heritage Centre; Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust  
Steve Poultney, Swanage Town Council  
Sarah Randall, Swanage Library  
Mike Whitwam, Swanage Town Council

**Also in attendance:**

Simon Thompson, Dorset Community Action

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 John Bishop (STC),  
Caroline Finch (STC & Chamber of Trade), Neil Hardy (Swanage RNLI), Dave Morton (POPP),  
Bill Tritte (STC, PDC & DCC), and Mark Watson (Swanage & Herston Football Club).

**2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

Proposed that these were a true record by Mr Colin Brixton, seconded by Mr Bob Foster and  
agreed unanimously.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters raised.

**4. Dorset Community Action – 'Energy Best Deal' 2017 – Mr Simon Thompson**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Simon Thompson, Community Action Manager, to  
the meeting.

A presentation on 'Energy Best Deal' 2017 was given by Mr Thompson, and an information

booklet was provided to partners. The booklet had been produced by Ofgem and Citizens Advice as a guide to help people obtain the best deal from their energy supplier. It also highlighted the help that was available from both energy suppliers and government if consumers were struggling to pay energy bills. Mr Thompson drew attention to the importance of shopping around to reduce energy costs by switching tariff, payment method, or supplier. Further information was provided, which included:

- The risk of overpayment, or underpayment, when paying fuel bills by direct debit, particularly if bills were regularly estimated.
- Smart Meters and In-Home Displays.
- Warm Home Discount Scheme – a £140 discount off of electricity bills was available to eligible persons in receipt of the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit.
- Priority Services Register – a scheme which offered extra services free of charge/ additional support to vulnerable persons, including improved communication from energy suppliers.
- 388 people had died in Dorset in 2014/15 due to cold related illnesses.

The Chairman thanked Mr Thompson for the informative presentation.

#### **5. Durlston Country Park ‘Parks for People’ Project – update from Ms Charlie Dooley**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Ms Charlie Dooley, Project Development Officer ‘Durlston Pleasure Grounds’, to the meeting.

Ms Dooley gave an update on Durlston Country Park’s bid of £958,000 to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which had passed ‘Round 1’, and was now in ‘Round 2’. It was hoped that the outcome would be known in August 2017 and, if successful, the funds would be used towards the revitalisation, renovation, and improvement of the historic landscape at Durlston for the local community, and for heritage. It was hoped that the planned enhancement/improvement works would commence in early 2018. Updates were also given on the following pilot projects, and other elements of the bid :

- **Shed Group** – a new shed/yard would provide a workshop for people to undertake DIY and woodland crafts, including volunteer days for the less active, and inter-generational working where young persons could learn new skills. The facilities would be Disability Discrimination Act compliant.
- **Wordsworth House craft sessions.**
- **Durlston Dash** – a children’s fun run.
- **Friendship Club** - for persons with learning difficulties – summer BBQ.
- **Landscape Plans (access, viewpoints, woodland, natural play features and discovery trails)** – a public consultation was planned from Easter.
- **Transport plans** – there was a need to improve accessibility all year round.
- **Durlston Bus service** – arrangements for the 2017 service had not been confirmed as yet. If approval was not forthcoming, then a minibus service would run via Swanage Hospital.

The Chairman thanked Ms Dooley for the update, and Partners were very much looking forward to hearing the outcome of the HLF bid at a future meeting.

#### **6. Swanage2027 Project (S2027) – update on identified projects and priorities**

A copy of the minutes of the S2027 Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 was provided to Partners for information purposes, and brief updates were given on the following:

- **Swanage Green Infrastructure Strategy (SGIS)** – an update would be sought from the District Council. S2027 had been waiting for PDC to complete the detailed analysis needed to set up the SGIS Theme Advisory Group.

- **Wessex Community Land Trust** – advice and guidance regarding housing, including support to establish Community Land Trusts, was available to communities.

## 7. Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust (S&PDT) – update

Updates were given on the following projects:

- **Swanage & Herston Football Club**
  - A draft business plan had been produced setting out proposals for the club's future development.
  - The club was looking for ways to improve the stands to the west of the ground.
  - A project plan was being developed for new pitches, and a multifunction centre.
  - Discussions were ongoing with the F.A. regarding the club's promotion.
- **Proposals for a combined TIC and Museum & Heritage Centre**
  - A working party had been established between STC, the Museum & Heritage Centre, and S&PDT, and an application for funding was being prepared for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the proposed new 'Heritage Visitor Hub'. S&PDT would be undertaking a management/advisory role for this project. Plans were being drawn up, which would include community space on the ground floor of the proposed building.
- **Trust Membership**
  - Seven projects had now become Members, the latest addition being Swanage Action for Refugees.
  - A meeting had been held with Members to discuss joint working on funding applications.
- **Bandstand**
  - The Trust was open to meeting with the Town Band to discuss options for the future of the bandstand. However, under the terms of reference laid down by the Charity Commission for the Trust, any projects taken on by the Trust needed to demonstrate that they had a financially sustainable future.

## 8. The Centre – update

It was reported that the refurbishment works were nearing completion, hopefully by the end of March 2017.

Further to Minute No. 3. of the S2027 Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017, letting details had been confirmed with Explorers Childcare Group to deliver a childcare service from 7.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. five days a week, offering nursery, wraparound school care (children would be transported to The Centre from local schools and pre-schools), and holiday provision, for 0-11 years. The group would also run two youth sessions each week on behalf of The Centre, on Tuesday and Friday evenings.

Purbeck Runners continued to meet at The Centre on Wednesday evenings, and the only days currently available for hire were weekends, and Monday evenings.

## 9. Any other business

### a) Swanage Local Plan (SLP)/Purbeck Local Plan (PLP) – update

Updates had been received from the Planning Policy Manager, PDC, as follows:

- **SLP**
  - The plan was currently subject to an independent examination by a planning inspector.
  - The planning inspector's report was expected within the next month.
  - If the inspector found the plan 'sound', then officers would seek Council approval to adopt the plan so that it could be used when determining planning applications in Swanage.
- **PLP Review (previously known as the Partial Review)**
  - A new timetable for the Local Plan Review had been approved, and PDC hoped to publish the 'final draft' plan for comments in early 2018.
  - PDC had agreed to establish five local forums, and a 'Purbeck Infrastructure Forum'. Each

forum would cover a different area of the district, the South East Purbeck Forum would cover Swanage and surrounding parishes, and would provide interested parties with the opportunity to discuss the emerging evidence base, and make suggestions to help inform the plan.

- It was likely that each forum would meet three times between May and September 2017. In the meantime, work was ongoing to update and review various evidence studies.
- 'Expressions of interest' were currently being invited from anyone who was interested in joining the local forums.

During the ensuing discussion, comments were made that the decision regarding the Herston Fields Village Green application was still awaited, and that if that was unsuccessful, it was possible that the fields could be allocated for development as part of the PLP Review.

#### **b) Local Listing and Conservation Area Review – update**

It was reported that the Purbeck Society had been working in conjunction with PDC to produce a 'Local List' of buildings, which were valued by local residents, but which did not meet the demanding standards of being categorised nationally as Listed Buildings. Once complete, PDC intended to refer to the list when considering planning applications that could affect buildings on the list.

A working group had been formed and had met with STC, and PDC's Design and Conservation Officer. The group would be looking to identify buildings, or groups of buildings, within the Swanage area which were:

- Valued by local residents, and considered to enhance the area in which they stood, by reason of history, or association with the area's history.
- Associated with people well known in the fields of industry, literature, art, exploration, politics, science, sport and athletics.

Research/surveys would now be undertaken by group members, and the initial areas identified for review were, New Swanage, old Ulwell Village, and Durlston.

It was further reported that PDC, in conjunction with STC, was currently in the early stages of developing a 'Swanage Conservation Area Management Plan', and assistance in compiling the brief for the appointment of consultants, and part-funding, would be available from Historic England.

#### **c) Swanage Volunteer Bureau (SVB) Launch – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Details were given of this new initiative, which had been set up to promote volunteering opportunities in Swanage (under the umbrella of the S&PDT). An 'open day' had been held on 9th March 2017, the purpose of which had been to get to know local organisations, and find out about their volunteer requirements. A database of volunteering 'vacancies' would now be created, and SVB's aim would be to increase the number of volunteers in Swanage by providing a weekly face-to-face drop-in session at Swanage Library.

There would be a SVB Launch 'open day' held in Swanage Library on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

#### **10. Date of Next Annual General Meeting and Quarterly Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting, and Quarterly Meeting, would be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 respectively, at the Town Hall, Swanage, at 3.30 p.m.

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