



Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
SWANAGE TOWN & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP held at
The Town Hall, Swanage on
WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH 2016 @ 3.30 p.m.

Present:

Kim Gallagher, Chairman ST&CP and Swanage Lions
Mike Bonfield, Vice Chairman ST&CP and Swanage Town Councillor
Tony Bennett, Prospect Allotment Association
John Bishop, Swanage Town Councillor
Peter Bowyer, Studland Parish Council
Robin Brasher, Swanage Town Twinning; Swanage Walking Group
Colin Brixton, Purbeck Society; Photographic Society
Niki Clark, Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council
Peter Clark, Swanage Cricket Club - (From 3.40 p.m.)
Collette Drayson, Langton Matravers PC; Purbeck Society
Caroline Finch, Swanage Town Councillor
Bob Foster, Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust, Swanage Rotary
Laurence Gloyn-Cox, Swanage Coastal Change Forum; Probus 2
Dave Morton, Swanage Youth Centre; Dorset POPP
Mel Norris, Swanage Senior Forum; Jazz Festival; Museum

Also in attendance:

There was one member of the public present.

1. **Welcome**

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

2. **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from David Bale (Mowlem), Karen Delahay (S&PHA), Anneliese Fay (Swanage Youth Centre), Collette Ford (Swanage Children's Centre), Neil Hardy (Swanage RNLI), Sarah Randall (Swanage Library), and Councillor Bill Trite (STC).

3. **Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 10th December 2015**

Proposed that these were a true record by Councillor Mike Bonfield, seconded by Mr Bob Foster and agreed.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 10th December 2015**

- **Dorset County Council (DCC) Feasibility Study – cycle routes** – it was reported that the work on potential cycle routes in and around Swanage was ongoing.

- **Purbeck District Council (PDC) - Housing Needs Survey** – it was reported that no feedback had been received as yet. The Chairman confirmed that she would contact PDC’s Planning Policy Manager accordingly, and report back at a future meeting.

5. Swanage2027 (S2027) – update on identified projects and priorities

It was reported that the main focus for S2027 had been the Swanage Youth and Community Centre Project, details of which would be given in more detail under Agenda Item 7), and an update was given on S2027’s further priorities/actions, which included:

- Co-ordination of the Swanage Green infrastructure strategy.
- Sea Defence Theme Advisory Group (TAG) – the first meeting would take place next week.
- Former St Mark’s School - after three years of negotiations, and following a very disappointing offer from the Salisbury Diocese, the Swanage & Purbeck Development Trust had reluctantly withdrawn from this project.

Mr Peter Clark joined the meeting at 3.40 p.m.

- A Town Centre Improvements TAG was in the process of being established, and advice and guidance had been obtained from PDC’s Planning Policy Manager. The TAG would be putting together a brief to present to the Planning Authority. It was reported that possible projects included improved signage, horticulture, and the regeneration of ‘problem’ areas in the town in partnership with others e.g. Commercial Lane.
- Heritage TAG - working in partnership with PDC to produce A3-sized tear-off maps for distribution to local visitor centres and Tourist Information Centres (TICs). The Group had also developed a ‘passport’ for the Heritage attractions which included offers and rewards, and a new leaflet, and logo, which would promote the town as a ‘Heritage’ destination.
- The Heritage Working Group were exploring potential options to improve museum facilities, and had arranged visits to other TICs and museums across Dorset to help shape/prepare a proposal document in due course.

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

It was reported that S&PDT continued to undertake a collaborative role with S2027, and had been involved with the Swanage Youth and Community Centre Project. Brief updates were also given on other existing projects:

- Fresh Prospects
- Art Workshop
- Defibrillator Project
- Dementia Friendly Community

It was explained that a joint approach to projects was taken under the ‘umbrella’ of the Trust, and cost savings were to be had, e.g. Gift Aid, and reduced insurance premiums. However, projects retained their independence. S&PDT were eager for more local groups and organisations to join the Trust, and that Trust Members had voting rights.

It was noted that Kim Gallagher, Trustee, would be giving a presentation about S&PDT to the Purbeck Society at their AGM on Friday 8th April 2016.

7. Swanage Youth and Community Centre - update

Further to Minute No. 7. a) of the Swanage Town & Community Partnership Meeting held on 10th December 2015, it was confirmed that funding would be withdrawn from 'open access' youth services and youth centres across the county. Invitations had therefore been sent out by DCC to local councils and voluntary groups to provide a business case for taking over these services and buildings. Business Plans had to be submitted to DCC for consideration by 31st March 2016, and decisions on submissions would be made by the DCC Cabinet on 25th May 2016. Successful parties would be able to commence the new services, and lease buildings, with effect from September 2016, and there would be limited DCC funding support available.

An overview was given of the Swanage Youth Club Advisory Group Meeting that had taken place on 14th December 2015, and it was reported that the Swanage Youth and Community Centre Project would be taken forward as a partnership between Swanage Town Council (STC), S&PDT and S2027. It was explained that unless action was taken by the local community the services, and the Swanage Youth and Community Centre buildings, would no longer be available to local residents. It was felt that this would be an important 'test case' for S&PDT and STC, and it was reported that it had been an exciting, and challenging, time for all concerned. A new steering group had been established to oversee the preparation/completion of the business plan, and a further update would be given at the AGM in June 2016.

The vision of the partnership was to create a vibrant social hub at the heart of the community, providing a varied programme of youth sessions, learning/training courses, and a range of recreational arts, sporting, and environmental activities and services. It was reported that the building was currently in a poor condition and the plan would be to refurbish/reinvigorate it, as greater use would have to be achieved to increase income. Fund raising support would be key to assist in bringing the building up to standard to encourage future income producing use. In this respect, there would be an 'open/fun day' held at the Youth Centre in June 2016, with stalls and activities, to raise awareness of the project, and local organisations/residents would be invited to attend.

The existing Swanage Youth Centre team would be holding a 'closing down' party on Saturday 29th July 2016 at 7.00 p.m., an open invitation was extended to all current and past members, staff, stakeholders, partners and the wider community. A request was also made for any photographs or memorabilia which could be displayed on the night.

8. Any Other Business

a) Dorset County Council – Herston Fields, Swanage, Notice of Public Inquiry

Monday 4th April 2016 – it was reported that, as DCC had not been able to determine an application received to register Herston Fields as a Village Green, notice had been given that an Inspector had been appointed to prepare a report and recommendations to be considered by DCC. The Public Inquiry would be held at Worth Matravers Village Hall, from 4th April 2016, Monday to Thursday for four weeks. A copy of the Inquiry documents could be viewed at the Town Hall, Swanage.

b) Conservation Areas – a copy of the Local Heritage Listing Guide, and a link to the Townscape Heritage Grant Programme website, had been circulated to Partners for their information. It was reported that the District Council's Design and Conservation Officer had unfortunately been unable to attend previous meetings to discuss the proposed review of the Swanage Conservation Areas, which was being undertaken as part of the SLP process. It was hoped that the Officer would attend a future meeting to give an update on the review. It was noted that the Purbeck Society had expressed an interest in leading the review locally.

c) **Swanage Coastal Change Forum** – a meeting of the Swanage Coastal Change Forum Steering Group would be held on Wednesday 16th March 2016 at the Emmanuel Baptist Church. Reference was made to the joint DEFRA/Environment Agency guidelines regarding the amenity value of a beach, and it was felt that this information should form part of any coastal defence strategy/beach management plan.

9. **Date of Next Quarterly Meeting**

The date of the Annual General Meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 8th June 2016 at the Town Hall, Swanage, at 3.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.
