

Minutes of the Meeting of the **SWANAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2026** at 6.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Bonfield – Chairman  
Councillor Lejeune  
Councillor Sutton (Until 7.10 p.m.)  
Mr A Lerner  
Mrs J Owens  
Mr G Richardson  
Mrs J Sutcliffe

**Also in attendance:** Miss N Clark – Planning and Community Engagement Manager

One member of the public attended the meeting remotely.

**Public Participation Time**

There were no matters raised.

**1) Election of Chairman**

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, it was agreed that the Town Mayor, Councillor Bonfield, should assume the Chair for the meeting.

**2) Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Foster, Tomes, and Vile, and Mr B Taylor.

**3) Declarations of Interest**

Sub-committee Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations (Councillor Members in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct).

There were no declarations on this occasion.

**4) To approve as a correct record Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) Steering Group held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

It was proposed that these were a true record by Mr G Richardson, seconded by Councillor Lejeune and agreed.

**5) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) Steering Group held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

**7) ONeill Homer (ONH) Planning Consultants**

c) **To consider new webpage for the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan (SNP)** - further to Minute No. 8) a) i) of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026, and Minute No. 181 (a) of the Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, it was reported that approval had been given for the creation of a dedicated SNP website, and allocation of budget for this work.

**10) Draft of Pre-submission Swanage Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) 2026-2043**

- a) **To review the updated draft Plan, consider amendments, and recommend its approval for Regulation 14 public consultation at the Council Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026** - it was reported that, further to Minute No. 8) a) ii) of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026, and Minute No. 214 of the Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026, the updated draft of the Pre-submission SNP had been authorised for Regulation 14 public consultation, subject to any final amendments being approved at a meeting of the SNP Steering Group, and additional budget provision had been agreed to cover outstanding professional fees, consultation support, and work required to progress the Plan to submission and examination.

**6) ONH Planning Consultants**

**a) Update**

Further to Minute No. 7 c) of the SNP Sub-Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026, and Minute No. 5) above, ONH had advised that the new SNP website was expected to be completed by the end of April. Officers would be providing ONH with suitable photographs for inclusion on the website and to accompany the policies in the draft Plan.

It was noted that ONH were now awaiting the final versions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Reports from Locality/AECOM planning consultants.

**b) Review of SNP Project Plan**

Further to Minute No. 7 b) of the SNP Sub-Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026, and in light of the recent work undertaken to update and refine content for the draft Plan, ONH had provided an updated draft of the Project Plan for consideration. Consultation milestones and indicative timelines for progression of the Plan would be discussed under Item No. 8) on the agenda, and any agreed amendments would be reported back to ONH for incorporation into the revised Project Plan.

**7) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas**

There were no matters raised on this occasion.

**8) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next Steering Group meeting would be arranged in due course, once the Regulation 14 consultation timeline had been agreed.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Lejeune and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under Standing Order No. 1 c), in the public interest, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under agenda items 9 a) and b) (to preserve the integrity of the forthcoming public consultation process).

**9) Draft of Pre-submission Swanage Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) 2026-2043**

- a) **To review and approve the updated draft Plan for Regulation 14 public consultation**

Further to Minute No. 10 a) of the SNP Sub-Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026, Minute No. 5) above, and the workshop held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026, Group Members considered the updated draft Pre-submission SNP. It was noted that the draft Plan now incorporated the additions and amendments agreed at the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

During discussion, a query was raised in relation to potential housing numbers and the types and sizes of homes required within the town. Reference was made to the Housing Needs Assessment prepared for the Steering Group by Locality/AECOM. It was noted that the draft Plan now included reference to this evidence following clarification and advice received from planning policy officers at Dorset Council.

It was therefore proposed by Mr A Lerner, seconded by Mr G Richardson and AGREED:-

That the draft Pre-submission Swanage Neighbourhood Plan 2026-2043 be approved for Regulation 14 public consultation.

It was further noted that the completed draft Plan would be submitted to ONH Planning Consultants for final health checks prior to the launch of the SNP website and commencement of public consultation.

**b) To agree the communications and engagement strategy for the Regulation 14 consultation**

Further to Minute No. 10 b) of the SNP Steering Group Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026, and the workshop held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026, Group Members considered the arrangements for the Regulation 14 public consultation, which were agreed as follows:

- The consultation period would run for six weeks (it was hoped that this would commence on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and close on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026).
- Four in-person engagement events would be held at the following accessible venues (subject to confirmation of availability):
  - The Mowlem
  - All Saints Church
  - Emmanuel Baptist Church
  - Swanage Friday Market
  - It was also suggested that a weekend information stall could be considered in Shore Place, if required.
- An online consultation survey would be prepared to gather feedback on the draft Plan and proposed policies. Paper copies and large-print versions would also be made available on request.
- The consultation would be promoted via the SNP website, the Town Council's website, social media channels, and the local press.
- Swanage Library would also be approached to explore the possibility of hosting a public display in the library.

It was noted that the statutory consultee list had been obtained from Dorset Council and updated to include additional relevant organisations and local groups.

A discussion took place regarding consultation materials. It was agreed that these would include banners (which could be moved around the town), a large-scale town and coastline floor map, posters, and leaflets/flyers setting out key information, consultation details, and frequently asked questions. A suggestion was made that the

Group should approach Dorset Coast Forum to enquire about their availability to assist with producing the consultation materials.

It was further agreed that that ONH be requested to provide separate policy maps for use at the engagement events, rather than the consolidated map currently included in the draft Plan.

It was also suggested that the potential community projects and public realm improvements listed in Appendix B of the draft Plan, which did not require planning policy to deliver, should be presented on a separate display board at consultation events to improve public awareness.

Councillor Sutton left the meeting at 7.10 p.m.

It was therefore agreed that officers would:

- Confirm venue availability and associated dates;
- Liaise with Dorset Coast Forum regarding the possibility of creating public engagement materials for the consultation events;
- Liaise with ONH Planning Consultants regarding finalisation of the draft Plan and website;
- Prepare a draft consultation survey, newsletter, and press release, and circulate these to Group Members for approval prior to launch of the consultation.

The Meeting was closed at 7.15 p.m.

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