

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Swanage Town  
Council held at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage, on  
**MONDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025** at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M. Bonfield – Chairman

Councillor J. Bishop  
Councillor P. BurrIDGE  
Councillor M. Coward  
Councillor T. Foster  
Councillor J. Lejeune  
Councillor C. Moreton  
Councillor C. Tomes  
Councillor S. Vile

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, one member of the public attended the Meeting.

**Public Participation Time**

The following matter was raised during Public Participation Time:-

- **Agenda item 3)** – the member of the public present expressed appreciation to the Town Council and officers for their work on the consultation responses relating to Agenda Item 3, which he found to be thoughtful and meaningful.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at approximately 7.05 p.m.

132. **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting had been received from Councillors Suttle and Sutton, and the reasons for their absence had been noted. Councillor Dorrington attended the meeting remotely.

133. **Declarations of Interest**

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

No declarations were made on this occasion.

134. **Dorset Local Plan and Local Transport Plan – To agree response to public consultations for submission to Dorset Council**

Further to Minute Nos. 5 a) i) & ii) of the Meetings of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 respectively, and the Task and Finish Group meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October, consideration was given to the Town Council's draft responses to Dorset Council's consultations on the Local Plan Options (LPO) 2025 and the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2026-2041.

In light of progress on the Swanage Neighbourhood Plan, which it was currently envisaged would allocate development sites, it was noted that, unlike the Council's 2021 Local Plan response, the draft LPO 2025 response did not give definitive views on whether particular sites should or should not be allocated by Dorset Council. The only exceptions were:

- The Council's objection to site LA/SWAN/005, which formed part of Herston Village Green (formally registered by Dorset County Council in July 2017).

- Reference to the Council's detailed comments on the current planning application P/OUT/2024/03253 relating to options site LA/SWAN/017 Harrow House.

The draft response focussed primarily on supporting the delivery of community-led, genuinely affordable and social housing to meet the needs of local residents, while raising concerns that market-led housing in the area was not affordable for the local community.

During the discussion, Councillors requested two minor amendments to the LPO 2025 draft response:-

**1. 2.2.1 Provide affordable and high-quality homes**

- **From:** *'Rigorous affordable-housing targets are essential.'*

- **To:** *'Rigorous affordable housing targets are essential and are key to attracting and retaining young families, thereby helping to protect the viability of local schools.'*

**2. 7.2 Managing town centre development**

- **From:** *'Concerns have been raised that the existing retail offering in the town centre by the larger food stores is inadequate and expensive for local people (there are pockets of deprivation in the town).'*

- **To:** *'Concerns have been raised that the existing offering in the town centre by the larger food stores is inadequate and expensive for local people (there are pockets of deprivation in the town).'*

No amendments were required to the draft LTP 2026-2041 response.

It was proposed by Councillor Foster, seconded by Councillor Coward and  
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council's draft responses to Dorset Council's consultations on the Local Plan Options 2025 and the draft Local Transport Plan 2026-2041 be approved for submission, incorporating the agreed amendments listed above.

Copies of the final approved responses are appended to these Minutes for reference.

135. **Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

- (a) **Talk of the Town Hall newsletter** – an update was provided on the upcoming edition of the newsletter.

Following discussions, Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to the members of the Task and Finish Group and to the Planning and Community Engagement Manager for their work in compiling the Town Council's responses to the consultations.

The Meeting concluded at approximately 7.35 p.m.