

Minutes of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** of the Parish of Swanage, held at The Methodist Church, High Street, Swanage on **MONDAY 11th APRIL 2022** at 7.00 p.m.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Avril Harris, assumed the Chair, and in addition to members of the Council and officials, approximately 21 persons were present. The Mayor welcomed all attendees and thanked representatives from local organisations for their attendance.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Finch, and Councillor Monkhouse who attended via Facebook video call.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed. (Copies of the Minutes were circulated to those present at the Meeting).

3. **SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021/22**

Further to Minute No. 3 of the Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2021, it was reported that the Community Awards Panel (consisting of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the Team Rector (Swanage & Studland Team Ministry), the President of Swanage and Purbeck Rotary, and the Council's Administration and Communications Manager), had recently met and further to discussions the Mayor was pleased to launch the Swanage Town Council Community Awards for 2021/22.

It was noted that the Awards information had been advertised on the Town Council's Facebook page and website and paper copies of the nomination forms had been made available at the meeting. The importance of recognising the hard work of local volunteers and their important contribution to the community was highlighted.

4. **PLANS FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

The lead event organiser, Linda Welsh, thanked the Town Council for their contribution of £1,000 towards the event. It was envisaged that Swanage would hold the largest street party on the South coast, stretching from the Pier to the Square. In addition there would be family games, competitions and a live band would play at Prince Albert Gardens in the evening.

It was noted that Dorset Council's beacon lighting event would be held at Durlston Country Park on Thursday 2nd June.

Stuart MacMillan Pratt, Swanage Coastwatch, stated that all 57 Coastwatch sites had been invited to participate in the beacon lighting ceremonies, however 2/3^{rds} of the sites had been deemed unsuitable due to accessibility issues or being sited on protected land, such as land with SSSI status. It was reported that beacon lighting would take place on North Hill and at St Aldhelm's Head and the Banjo Jetty was being explored as a potential site.

5. **PRESENTATIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

Ged Want, West Dorset and Purbeck NPT Inspector, Dorset Police

It was reported that there had been a recent reorganisation to the structure of Dorset Police, and the number of police officers and areas of responsibility were explained.

The force focussed on particular priorities, which were reviewed quarterly, and the public were encouraged to contribute via an online public survey.

It was reported that the crime rates were on a downward trajectory in Swanage and that the town had a good community spirit. The Inspector was keen to identify additional key community groups to assist with Neighbourhood Policing. The public were advised to use 999 for crimes taking place and 101, or the online reporting tool for less urgent concerns. The Inspector was thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

Sarah Spurling, Project Officer, Sustainable Swanage

It was reported that approximately 50 people and various sub-groups were involved in the Sustainable Swanage project and that the work to date had included cherry tree planting at The Swanage School and further tree planting at various locations in the town.

It was envisaged that a tree trail would be established for the autumn with information on the species and history of the trees being placed along the trail.

The Active Travel group had worked with schools to encourage more parents and pupils to walk or cycle to school and continued to investigate ways to promote sustainable transport around the town.

Greengage had started to work with the Community Pantry, Herston Hall, to provide fresh produce for families in need.

The Purbeck Repair group had recently started to assist people to repair items rather than discard.

Under the project heading 'Only rain down the drain', it was reported that various locations in town would see artwork installed around the drains to remind people not to drop waste or cigarette butts down drains which would end up in the sea.

Sustainable Swanage attended the Swanage Market on the first Friday of the month to raise awareness of various projects and provide advice and encouragement to live more sustainably.

Sarah was thanked for her hard work and for her attendance at the meeting.

Kim Gallagher, Trustee and Secretary and Bob Foster, Trustee and Chair, Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust

It was reported that the Swanage Town and Community Partnership had been established in 2007 to bring local community organisations together with the Town Council to work toward delivering on priorities for the town and surrounding areas. It was explained that the Partnership's priorities included social housing, sea defences, environment, wellbeing, improving traffic flow, developing a multi-function centre, sustainable transport and developing a neighbourhood plan. It was likely that addressing the cost of living crisis would be added to the priority list.

It was noted that the Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust, established as a delivery arm of the Town and Community Partnership, acted as an umbrella organisation for approximately 21 local groups, providing insurance and other professional support.

The Trust's Wellbeing Swanage group had established a website and would provide signposting services to residents seeking community groups or support. The Youth Club had been re-established at Herston Hall and proved popular with children from local schools. Herston Hall was now hosting a Community Café, toddler group and Citizens Advice Bureau once a month.

Kim and Bob were thanked for their tireless work for the community.

Matt Haysom, Co-chair, The Mowlem Theatre

It was reported that new trustees had been recruited in specialist areas and the theatre was currently recruiting additional staff and volunteers. It was hoped to keep the

prices affordable to encourage more patrons. There had been an increase in community use and Dementia Friendly met and had a cinema showing once a month. Purbeck Arts Week and the Jazz Festival were noted as upcoming events.

Robin Sutcliffe, Chairman, Swanage Community Land Trust

It was reported that the CLT had been formed to provide affordable housing for local people. Dorset Council had provided a fund of £50,000 which would be drawn down as the project progresses. The CLT had recruited around 40 members and two Town Councillors had been appointed as observers to the group. Potential sites had been identified, and further investigative work would be undertaken.

Robin was thanked for his input and attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Avril Harris, Town Mayor, Swanage Town Council

The Mayor provided an overview of the activities of the Town Council over the past year which included:

A public meeting had been held to consult with local residents regarding the future of St Mark's playing field with an order placed for the removal of redundant play equipment to enable the area to be opened as a green space for the public. Further consultation will be undertaken in due course to determine the use of the area. The Recreation Ground play area had officially been re-opened and re-named the Trevor Chadwick play area.

King George's play area had been updated and would be re-opened shortly.

The #Willdoes Bus had been sited in Main Beach car park, with Town Council providing the site and electricity.

Prince Albert Gardens had seen the construction of the Prince Albert memorial largely due to the S&PDT. The assistance of Greengage in planting the surrounding area was noted.

Tree planting had been undertaken at The Downs and registration as a Local Nature Reserve was in progress.

The collapsed slipway off the Stone Quay had been repaired.

The Godlingston Cemetery extension had been laid out and included additional hedges and trees.

Town councillors, Dorset councillors and the community behind the 'Save Our Ambulance Car' campaign were congratulated for their contribution towards saving the Swanage ambulance car service.

Town council staff were thanked for managing operations during the busiest summer season in recent years.

The Council's plans for the year ahead included:

Public consultation would be encouraged to contribute towards the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Council have an iterative Environment Action Plan and the Council will begin to implement the recommendations of the Council's recently appointed energy consultant.

Work will continue on the development of a seafront strategy to guide future development and stabilisation of the land.

Dorset Coast Forum will lead consultation on proposal for flood defences in the Lower High Street, including possible pedestrianisation.

Work will continue with the Football club and S&PDT to develop community facilities at Day's Park.

Together with Swanage CLT, work to identify sites for affordable housing will continue.

Anticipating another busy season, the council will be supporting a vast number of events, over 40 on council owned land alone.

The Mayor concluded by thanking those involved in making the various events possible, especially after a time of uncertainty during the pandemic.

6. **MATTERS RAISED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS**

One resident expressed support for the potential pedestrianisation of the Lower High Street. No other matters were raised.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Assembly would be held in April/May 2023 with the date to be confirmed.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, and informative presentations and closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.
