

# PURBECK COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP MEETING 27

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA TEAMS  
ON 6 AUGUST 2024



## In person:

Mike Whitwam (MWm) representing Swanage Town Council (Chair), Cllr Beryl Ezzard (BE) of Dorset Council (Vice Chair), Mick Stone (MS) of Swanage Railway (Secretary), Frank Roberts of Swanage Railway (FR), Steven Booth (SB) PCRP Community Rail Officer, Kelly Flynn of Dorset Council (KF), Jaime Rockhill (JR) of Network Rail, Andrew Ardley of SWR (AA), and Ali Rodari of Perenco UK (AR).

The meeting was quorate.

## Agenda Item 1 - Chair's Opening Remarks, Welcome and Introductions

MWm welcomed all to the meeting. He was pleased to advise that the PCRP had been Re-Accredited by CRN on behalf of the DfT. He wished to particularly welcome Ali Rodari to her first meeting of Steering Group. Ali explained that she had taken over from Ade Parvin and was the Environmental Lead, which included responsibility for Stakeholder relationships.

## Agenda Item 2 - Apologies for Absence

Received from Jenni Jones of CRN (JJ), Alex Brocklesby (AB) of National Trust, Jack Wharton (JW) of Network Rail, Paula Aldridge of SWR (PA), and Cllr Cliff Sutton of Swanage Town Council (CS).

## Agenda Item 3 - Draft Minutes of the Steering Group meeting of 21st May 2024

BE pointed out that the draft minutes were incorrect in that the Chair had been described as 'Cllr', and this had not been the case since the May Elections. BE further pointed out that the initials for Andrew Ardley ('AA') had been missed out.

## Agenda Item 4 - Matters Arising from Steering Group of 21st May 2024 and Not Appearing on the Agenda

- JR to chase the local maintenance team at Wareham regarding the former 'Up' yard.
- SB had forwarded the revised Wareham landscape proposal to Jack Wharton of NR and awaited a response.  
**ACTION: JW.**
- AA said that the proposed external power point at Wareham had not been installed because the funding for it had been used elsewhere. BE had thought that the digging up of the forecourt at Wareham might have been in connection with the power point. **ACTION: AA to check.**
- JR and KF would confer regarding the provision of 'anti-idling' signage at Wareham. **ACTION: JR/KF.**
- SB and BE would discuss the completion of a Small Grants application for Wareham. **ACTION: SB and BE.**
- SB confirmed that Network Rail had offered a contribution to the cost of the landscape proposal at Wareham.
- BE had yet to speak to the new Cabinet Member of Dorset Council (Cllr Jon Andrews) to invite him to attend a meeting with PCRP. **ACTION: BE.**
- MS confirmed that the minutes of the Steering Group of 6th February and Stakeholder Group of 17th April had been sent out.
- SB confirmed that the regular 'SitReps' provided by FER were being sent on to all stakeholders.
- MS and SB had provided proposed timings for the agenda to see if it helped with time-keeping. The success of this would be reviewed. **ACTION: SB/MS.**
- SB said that he awaited to hear from JW at Network Rail about the Wool Goods Shed issue. **ACTION: JW.**

## Agenda Item 5 - Financial Update

SB had sent round the latest Finance Sheet prepared by Hampshire CRP on PCRP's behalf with the agenda papers. There was approximately £66,000 in the account, of which some £11,000 was committed expenditure. The costs of employing SB made up a significant part of the remainder.

MS advised that the current Accountable Body arrangement with Hampshire CRP would expire on 1st October 2024, and suggested that the arrangement be renewed for a further year, on the same terms, with effect from 1st October. This suggestion was agreed. **ACTION: MS to finalise matters with HCRP and report back.**

### Agenda Item 6 - CRPO's Update and Reaccreditation status report

SB had sent round a report. The key points and discussion arising were:

- SB had successfully applied to SWR for funding for Wool under the Social Development Fund programme. Discussions were under way. **ACTION: SB.**
- SB needed advice from AA about access for measuring up for the Dorchester South murals. AA thought that the SWR contractor should be contacted in facilitating access. **ACTION: SB and AA.**
- SB had put forward 4 x suggestions for applications to the Community Rail Development Fund (CRDF). These suggestions comprised of a 'parklet' for Beryl Bikes at Dorchester South, running-in boards for Wool and Wareham (which would point to changing for local buses), the Wareham landscape proposals, and the continuation of the 2RN bus service. SB underlined the fact that any funds secured must be spent by the end of June 2025 under DfT regulations. **ACTION: SB to send a report round to members setting out the pros and cons of each of above 4 x suggestions, and asking for agreement on which 2 might go forward for formal applications.**
- Re-accreditation - SB was pleased to report that Re-accreditation had been achieved. He went on to advise that there were some advisory comments attached to the report from CRN. Firstly, Section 5.2.5 of the Constitution needed to have a minor amendment to reflect that voting was restricted to one vote per member organisation. This change was agreed. **ACTION: SB/MS.** Secondly, a Reserves Policy should be drawn up. In this regard, a draft templated version had been sent round with the agenda papers. The draft policy was agreed by the meeting. **ACTION: SB and MS to finalise, including the amount to be held as a minimum for contingency purposes, and report back for approval.**
- SB reminded the meeting that he had asked members to consider the revised version of the Business Plan sent round with the agenda papers, with any comments by 30th August. **ACTION: all to consider and respond.**
- SB reported that the 'Totem' at Wareham Station now included information on PCRP and other local CRPs. However, he still needed to know the process of how to put local information on to the Totem. **ACTION: SB and AA to liaise.**
- 2RN - SB reported that a meeting had been set up by BE with local Councils and others to discuss further funding, to continue operation in 2025. BE said that there had been 17 representatives of local organisations who might be willing to help fund bus services to Arne and other local attractions etc in 2025. A further meeting of that forum was planned for later in the year. **ACTION: SB and BE.**
- Rail 200 - SB reminded the meeting that these national celebrations were a good way to publicise the railways of Purbeck and South Dorset, including museums and cultural sites.

### Agenda Item 7 - Reports from Group Members

Dorset Council:

- BE raised the issue of Wareham level crossing. Dorset Council had received the Network Rail consultant's report on the options. The report had not been shared with PCRP group members. It was pointed out that this was a matter between Dorset Council and Network Rail. Paula Haustead of Network Rail joined the call briefly to help to explain where matters had got to. It seemed that Dorset Council would be taking a view on how to respond formally to the report. BE advised that there would be also be a more local response from bodies such as Wareham Town Council and Wareham Town Trust, including by way of press release.
- BE had raised via email the issue of young people trespassing on the railway at Wareham Station, and thought that more signage should be introduced warning of the dangers of the 3rd rail. MS had brought this to the attention of Network Rail who would consider what action to take. FR suggested that anyone who sees trespass on the railway should text 61016, which would alert the British Transport Police.

### Network Rail:

- JR reported that work on the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for the Dorset Metro scheme would be starting in September. The key component would be an extra train per hour between Brockenhurst and Wareham, and half hourly (clock face) fast trains to/from Weymouth and Waterloo. The latter would help with timings of Heart of Wessex services to/from Weymouth. The report would also consider the impact of services between Swanage and Wareham. BE asked why the Wareham SSP did not mention the level crossing. JR advised that it was agreed not to consider the level crossing as part of the SSP at the outset.

### SWR:

- A report from PA had been sent round ahead of the meeting. A key point was the forthcoming conference at Woking on 10th October, for which submissions for Awards were awaited. Further, Rail 200 in 2025 gave an opportunity for communities to recognise the anniversaries of local stations and celebrate them.
- AA advised that the mid-tier scheme at Dorchester South was due for completion in the Autumn.

### Swanage Railway:

- FR was providing regular 'SITREP' reports to its stakeholders. A Stakeholder Day had been held in July, attended by 18 stakeholders. A further such Day was planned for October.

### Perenco UK:

- AR was asked two questions by the Chair. Firstly, about the status of the lease of Furzebrook Sidings and secondly about the availability of hydrogen. Negotiations with Dorset Council on the lease and sub-lease were ongoing, seeking to finalise the Heads of Terms. AR agreed to find out about the hydrogen point. **ACTION: AR to find out and report back.**
- Under this heading the issue of the potential for a halt on SR's section of line to serve Blue Pool was raised. The new owner (Matt Jones) was keen to discuss the potential further. BE was supportive of the principle. FR commented that Corfe Castle Parish Council wanted SR to consider a more regular train service between Corfe and Norden (Purbeck Park) and he wondered if such a service might usefully be extended to Blue Pool. MS cautioned that planning permission would be required for such a halt and the National Landscapes designation would mean an application was unlikely to be quick or easy.

### CRN:

- No report was available. Jenni Jones would be the contact point in future.

### Swanage Town Council:

- CS had given his apologies and no report was available in his absence. MW/m commented that it was the peak holiday season and that Swanage was very busy.

### National Trust:

- AB had apologised for absence, but had asked SB to remind the meeting that the Studland Masterplan consultation was ongoing.

### Agenda Item 8 - Any Other Business

- BE advised that PTAG was due to attend a meeting on 20th August at Dorset Council offices, to which all TAGs in Dorset were invited. The proposal for a 'Purbeck Pilot' local transport scheme was on the agenda and BE would report back. **ACTION: BE.**

- Another issue to be raised at that forum would be a proposal from the Ferry Company to raise its fares and to charge for overnight camping on Ferry Road.
- FR raised the issue of parking fees at Purbeck Park, and asked whether they could be reduced, bearing in mind the site's importance as a transport hub. BE commented that she had previously managed to get the fees reduced using a similar argument.
- MS asked JR if he could check on the current status of SR's bid to the Restoring Your Railway scheme. **ACTION: JR to speak to Sean Cullen.**

### Date of Next Meetings:

- In Person Stakeholder Group/AGM - To be confirmed, but possibly 16th October (subject to a suitable venue being found) **ACTION: SB to confirm location and date.**
- In person Steering Group - 12th November at Wareham Youth Centre

ENDS

MS – V2 - 21/08/24

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