

Minutes of the Meeting of the **CAR PARKS**  
**BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP** held at the  
**Town Hall** on **Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2006** at **9.30 a.m.**

Present: -

Councillor G Suttle – Chairman  
Councillor C Bright  
Councillor Mrs J Farrow  
Councillor M Hadley  
Councillor M Tyrer

Also in attendance: -

Mr A.J. Leeson    Town Clerk

1) **Apologies**

There were no apologies to report.

2) **Parking Permits-Review of allocation policy**

Consideration was given to the current policy of allocation of parking permits to members of staff and Councillors at Swanage Town Council, Purbeck District Council, Dorset County Council and other agencies. It was noted that Purbeck District Council had a formal agency agreement with the Town Council and an annual payment was received accordingly. It was further noted that the payment was set to drastically reduce in 2006/07. No formal arrangements had been made with any other agencies.

After discussion during which Members recognised the need for more control over the distribution of permits it was AGREED:

That the issue should be agreed at Officer level and be delegated to the Town Clerk, with the suggestion that two permits be issued to the relevant departments at Purbeck District Council including agencies working on behalf of the Council, marked business use only. The need to negotiate an annual payment from Dorset County Council for permits should be resolved by the Town Clerk.

The issue of allocation of key fobs for the Town Hall car park was discussed and it was AGREED:

That no change to policy should be made.

3) **Provision of additional facilities**

a) **Campervans**

The Clerk reported that there was no legal definition of a campervan, with the class of vehicle being decided by weight. This made it difficult to prohibit campervans from the car parks however the need to park within marked bays would determine if campervans could use the car parks.

The provision of larger bays was discussed. Technically, campervans would be prohibited from certain car parks due to the size of the bays. It was noted that larger bays were provided for coaches in Main Beach and North Beach car parks.

The need to consult interested parties and to identify their needs when considering best value was emphasised. The high cost in providing proper facilities for waste disposal etc. was noted.

In reviewing the Town Council's policy the need to acknowledge that campervans can use the car parks was noted. The Chairman highlighted the need to assess how other authorities were treating campervans during the consultation process. After further discussion it was RESOLVED:

That the consultation should commence and include  
a) an assessment by the Operations Manager as to the suitability for accommodating campervans in the car parks and b) to consult with other authorities and user groups.

**b) Cycles**

Following a request from Swanage Transport Action Group (STAG), Members discussed the provision of cycle racks in car parks. It was noted and AGREED:

That further clarification be sought from STAG as to their suggested requirements.

**4) Request use of Journey's End**

A letter had been received from the Auto-Trail Owners' Club requesting the use of Journey's End to hold a rally for between seven and fourteen nights in August 2007. It was noted that rallies had traditionally been held on King George's Field. After a short discussion during which the lack of facilities at Journey's End was noted, it was RESOLVED:

That the Working Group recommends to the Council that the use of Journey's End be declined however the option to hold the rally on King George's Field be offered as an alternative.

**5) Traffic Management Issues-Horsecliffe Lane, Loading Bay, Reversal of Church**

Following a brief discussion it was RESOLVED:

That the traffic management issues did not fall within the remit of the Working Group and should be referred to the Town Council's Policy and Resources meeting. The issue of the safety measures on Shore Road should also be discussed.

**6) Car Parking Order 2006  
-Classes of use and operational arrangements**

The Working Group considered the Swanage Town Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2006 and specifically any additions to the existing Order. The issue of Peveril Point Road was deferred until later in the meeting due to a potential personal and prejudicial interest held by Councillor Hadley. It was reported by the Clerk that the classes of vehicles would be incorporated within the off street parking places order which could be inspected. It was recognised that the restrictive height barriers and size of bays would be self controlling in determining the use of the car parks. Due to Council's recommendation to the Highways Authority (P & R 20<sup>th</sup> March 2006 Minute 6a refers) that the provisions

to restrict the scope of the current Traffic Regulations Order so as to effectively ban campervans on certain streets not be pursued, it was recognised by the Working Group that a resident's campervan season ticket would not be applicable in the North Beach car park and should therefore be removed from the Order.

After a lengthy discussion it was AGREED:

That a) the classes of vehicles and hours of operation be submitted as per the draft Order, b) the resident's campervan season ticket for North Beach be noted as not applicable.

7) **Peveril Point Road-Private parking provisions**

This item was deferred until later in the meeting.

8) **Signage Review**

Councillor Bright distributed a template for a sign for the Town Council's car parks. Councillor Bright informed the Working Group that his intention had been to keep the signs as simple and informative as possible. It was noted that the charges would be incorporated onto the ticket machines and the signs would be situated on a board next to the machines. The Working Group agreed on the template for the signs and it was noted that Councillor Bright should liaise with the Town Clerk for options for the signage for the entrance to the car parks. This information should be submitted to the Working Group at the next meeting.

9) **Peveril Point Road-Private parking provisions**

The Clerk reported on the outstanding issue of the demolition of the public convenience/store and garage site on Peveril Point Road. It was noted that he was awaiting a structural engineers report from Batchelor Stebbings before any progress could be made.

Councillor Hadley declared a personal interest under the model code of conduct and as this was a prejudicial interest left the meeting during the debate, before consideration of the next matter.

The Clerk outlined the reasons for the need to regularise parking on Peveril Point Road in respect of providing access for emergency vehicles. The Chairman raised his concerns at the possible cost of defending any litigation brought against the Council and spoke against being confrontational with residents.

Several options on how to move forward were discussed, with the need to regularise parking being paramount. After a lengthy discussion it was PROPOSED by the Chairman, SECONDED by Councillor Bright and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Working Group recommends the proposed scheme for Peveril Point Road, to introduce yellow lines to restrict indiscriminate parking and provide a parking area free of charge, be dealt with as an urgent matter by the Council at its meeting scheduled for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

It was further AGREED:

That the charges be removed from Peveril Point Road in the draft Order and the Council's Scale of Charges be altered accordingly.

**10) Any matters considered urgent**

Councillor Tyrer raised the issue of safety in the Town Hall car park. The Clerk stated that a quote to resurface the car park had been received for £1,500. It was agreed that the Operations Manager should arrange for the removal of loose aggregate as a remedial measure.

**11) Date of next meeting**

No date was set for the next meeting. Members would be informed at a later date when outstanding action points had been completed.