# Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012** at **2.15 p.m**.

Chairman: -

Councillor M. Whitwam Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M. Bonfield Swanage Town Council

(from 2.40 p.m.)

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor M. Pratt

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Dr. M. Ayres Town Clerk
Ms A Spencer Finance Officer

Mrs Carole Anstey Administration Assistant

Mr I McKenzie Purbeck Cycling Club

#### **Public Participation Time**

There were two members of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Christmas free parking in Town Council Car Parks
- Footpaths at Priests Way and Pines Hotel
- Wilts & Dorset early morning bus service

## 1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Bartlett, Miss Harris, and Mrs Patrick, Mr B Barker (Swanage and District Chamber of Trade & Commerce), and Ms E Sellen (Swanage Railway).

### 2) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2013/14

Careful consideration was given to the scale of car parking charges for 2013/14. It was reported that the income from car parking is the largest source of revenue for Swanage Town Council, contributing approximately 25 per cent of the Council's net income. It was noted that this puts the Town Council in the difficult position between calls to keep prices low to attract visitors to the town and the need to increase charges to help fund important public services, including public toilets, the Tourist Information Centre and beach maintenance.

Concern was expressed in regard to a drop in the number of coaches using the long stay car parks. It was questioned as to whether this was attributable to the increase in last year's tariff, or the general downward trend in visitor numbers, but attention was drawn to the importance of encouraging visitors to the town.

It was also noted that the number of cars using North Beach car park had also reduced significantly since last year's increase in charges.

It was agreed that the following resolutions would be discussed further at the Finance & Performance Committee Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 during the budget setting for the 2013/14 financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Trite and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the tariff for coaches in Main Beach and North Beach car parks be reduced from £12.00 to £9.50 for up to 24 hours and from £7.80 to £6.50 for up to four hours.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the tariff in North Beach car park be reduced to encourage usage from £8.00 to £6.00 for up to 24 hours, from £6.40 to £4.00 for up to 4 hours and from £3.40 to £2.50 for up to 2 hours.

Following further discussion it was AGREED:

That the weekly ticket remains transferable between all long stay car parks, but the 24 hour ticket be transferable between Broad Road and Main Beach car parks only.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Mermond and Co-Op short stay shoppers car parks be chargeable from 8 a.m. but that residents' permit holders be permitted free parking in these car parks from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. Any part period after 10.00 a.m. would incur the full charge.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the draft scale of charges be taken forward and considered further during the budget setting for 2013/14.

#### 3) Consideration of Installation of Parking Management System

Consideration was given to a report detailing parking management systems, which enable office staff to monitor Pay & Display terminals, machine alerts and receive financial information directly from the terminals. This information is currently generated from audit tickets on a monthly basis and is subject to estimate if the machines fault and zero the statistical information. It was noted that the costs of this facility may be weighed against time currently spent by Enforcement Officers and back office support staff, both in checking machines, maintenance costs and generating statistical information. Audit system checks are currently a manual check against cash collection and audit tickets.

It was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

#### TO RECOMMEND:

That a parking management system be purchased at an approximate cost of £4,000.

## 4) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- **a)** Request from the Chamber of Trade for signage in Main Beach car park to promote Swanage.
- **b)** Enquiries were made in regard to the footpath diversions in the vicinity of Swanage Bay View Holiday Park and Hoburne Park.
- **c**) Attention was drawn to the need to investigate contactless parking machines for use in the Town Council car parks.

# 5) Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed	at 3.23 p.m.		
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