

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT  
COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M. Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M. Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor Mrs. C. Harris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S. Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Councillor M. Pratt

Swanage Town Council

Councillor W. Trite

Swanage Town Council

Councillor Mrs C. Bartlett

Swanage Town Council

PC D. Cox

Dorset Police

Also Present: -

Dr. M. Ayres

Town Clerk

Mrs. C. Anstey

Administration Assistant

Mr G. Brookes

Operations Manager

**Public Participation Time**

There were six members of the public in attendance.

**MR. B. BARKER** apologised that he would be unable to remain for the duration of the meeting due to work commitments. He asked why the subject of posters advertising free Christmas parking in the Council's car parks had not been put on the agenda as promised. The Town Clerk explained that due to changes in the car park charges for 2011/12, it would be wise to monitor car parking income over the summer months and make a decision with regard to car park charges for the pre-Christmas shopping period in the autumn.

**MR. D. ELLIOT** highlighted the possible danger to pedestrians caused by camper vans parking on Shore Road. He explained that the width of these vehicles made it difficult for HGVs and buses to pass without mounting the pavement opposite. He also brought the Council's attention to the large number of Blue Badge holders parking on Victoria Avenue by the entrance to Main Beach Car Park on market day. Although these cars are legally parked, he questioned the safety aspect of allowing vehicles to park so close to a busy junction. Another area highlighted was Kings Road East, close to the junction by the Conservative Club. He requested that the Town Council consider making recommendations to the County Council as Highway Authority, to introduce traffic regulations to prohibit vehicles from parking in the areas concerned. Attention was also drawn to the early hours that County Council traffic wardens were ticketing cars in the town, he questioned if these were entirely necessary, as traffic was extremely quiet in the early hours and these vehicles may not necessarily be causing congestion.

**MRS. L. STACEY** raised concerns at the overnight sleeping in camper vans in the lay-by on Northbrook Road opposite the old grammar school site. She stated that this area was being abused, with people leaving rubbish and emptying the contents of

their chemical toilets in the hedgerow. An added nuisance was caused by passing motorists sounding their car horns in the early hours of the morning.

1) **Apologies**

No apologies were reported for inability to attend the Meeting.

2) **Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

Further to minute 6) it was reported that a meeting had taken place with officers from Dorset County Council with regard to the siting and filling of grit bins. Dorset County Council were currently reviewing their policy and it was reported that it would be wise to await the outcome of this review, prior to determining where grit bins should be located.

Further to minute 7) it was reported that a meeting with the Town Partnership to discuss and prioritise schemes from the traffic flow presentation had not yet taken place. Due to the change in Councillors at the recent elections it was AGREED:

That the Chairman and Councillor Poultney take the matter forward at the earliest opportunity.

3) **Review of bodies invited to send outside representatives.**

It was reported that Swanage Residents Association had now disbanded, and that a request had been made on behalf of Swanage Hospitality Association to be invited to meetings. It was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Swanage Residents Association be removed from the list of invitees and Swanage Hospitality Association take their place.

4) **Highway Matters:**

a) **Concerns over camper van parking on Shore Road.**

Consideration was given to a number of letters and a petition objecting to the parking of camper vans on Shore Road. The Town Clerk presented a proposed scheme that had been received just prior to the meeting by e-mail from Dorset County Council's traffic management officers. He reported that officers from County had been invited to the meeting, but due to prior commitments were unable to attend. The proposed scheme would be to introduce Pay and Display for cars and motorcycles along the full length of Shore Road. Blue Badge Holder vehicles would be restricted to three hours free parking out of season. The proposal for Station Road would be to make all existing free parking Pay and Display, and to introduce additional Pay and Display parking on the north side by converting some double yellow lines. The recommendation would be for charges to be in line with Town Council car parks, with a pro rata rate for shorter stays for 'pop in shoppers' in Station Road.

Concerns were raised that introducing the scheme would displace the current parking problems to other parts of the town, but it may be the only way to prevent camper vans parking on Shore Road. It was noted that this matter must be approached with caution and parking problems in Swanage must be addressed as a whole. Following a detailed discussion it was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

**TO RECOMMEND:**

**That public consultation be undertaken in respect of Dorset County Council's proposals for the introduction of pay and display parking along Shore Road and Station Road.**

**b) Request for prohibition of overnight sleeping in lay-by, Northbrook Road.**

Further to correspondence that had been received and representation in public participation time it was AGREED:

That the Town Council enter into consultations with Dorset County Council as Highway Authority, to prohibit overnight sleeping in all lay-bys in Swanage.

**c) Parking in front of pathway at top of Bell Street.**

Concerns were raised that vehicles parking at the top of Bell Street could cause difficulties with access for emergency vehicles. It was AGREED:

That Dorset County Council would be consulted on the possibility of marking a hatched area at the top of Bell Street to keep the area clear for access.

**d) Identification of potential additional on-street disabled parking places.**

Following a meeting with an officer from the Highway Department of Dorset County Council in November 2010, suggestions had been made for possible additional on-street parking spaces for Blue Badge Holders. The proposals were noted and after lengthy discussion it was agreed that no further action be taken at the current time.

**5) PACT Panel – Addressing anti-social parking in Swanage.**

It was reported that at a recent PACT (Partners and Communities Together) panel meeting, concern had been expressed regarding anti-social parking in a number of locations along the High Street, outside the market in Victoria Avenue and the loading bay in Institute Road. The Police had been coning several areas in the town at certain times and this had addressed some of these problems. After a brief discussion it was AGREED:

That the situation with parking be monitored and the matter be brought back to a future meeting if necessary.

**6) Peveril Point – Management of parking at Coastwatch Lookout.**

Correspondence and photographic evidence had been received with regard to parking on the grass by the Coastwatch building which is in an A.O.N.B. (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). It was acknowledged that Coastwatch are providing a valuable service, but it was questioned as to whether the number of vehicles parking in this area, actually belonged to people on duty at the time. A discussion took place as to whether parking could be found elsewhere on the Point for extra vehicles. It was noted that there were now fewer active fishermen using the fishermen's huts than in previous years and it may be possible to utilise some of the spaces provided for them. It was RESOLVED:

That officers liaise with the Fishermen's Association and Coastwatch and bring the matter to a future meeting of the General Operations Committee.

It was suggested that a car share scheme within Coastwatch could be a way forward. It was further AGREED:

That officers write to Coastwatch to suggest that a car share scheme when on duty could alleviate the pressure with parking.

**7) Car Parking machines – Upgrade.**

A report was given by the Operations Manager outlining difficulties with the current machines, arising from changes in the metallic content of coinage and new regulations regarding the use of credit cards. From 2012 car park machines would only be able to accept chip and pin cards. The Council's existing machines cannot be upgraded to the new system and therefore would need to be replaced. Initial enquiries had shown that it may cost in the region of £4,400 to replace each machine. Statistics show that the use of credit cards in the car parks is up 13% on last year. Following a detailed discussion it was AGREED:

That options and costings be brought to the General Operations Committee Meeting due to be held 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

It was further noted that the matter of advertising a raise in parking charges for coaches in the Town Council's car parks be addressed.

**8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

- a) It was reported that usage of, and income from, the Town Council's car parks during April 2011 was up on April 2010.
- b) The bus shelter at Ulwell is due to be replaced mid June 2011.

**9) Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

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