

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2017** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor G Green

Swanage Town Council

Councillor A Lejeune

Swanage Town Council – until 3.00 p.m.

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Mr D Rawsthorn

Swanage Railway

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mr G Brookes

Operations Manager

Miss N Clark

Acting Administration & Communications
Manager

Miss C Johnston

Operations Administration Officer

Miss Alison Spencer

Finance Manager – until 3.10 p.m.

Public Participation Time

There were six members of the public present.

The following matter was raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns regarding pedestrian safety in Washpond Lane, near to the junction with Northbrook Road, which included:
 - Size of vehicles using the lane.
 - Speed limit of 60 mph, and a request made for this to be reduced.
 - No footpaths for pedestrians, and particular concerns raised regarding children walking along the lane to St Mary's Catholic Primary School.
 - No street lights in the lane.
 - Potential development of 90 new residential dwellings in Northbrook Road, which would increase the volume of traffic using the lane.
- An explanation was given by the Chairman regarding the responsibility of the County Council as Highway Authority in such matters, and the Traffic Regulation Order process regarding requests for new traffic management measures.
- The County Councillor agreed to meet with residents to discuss their concerns.
- It was also confirmed that a copy of the resident's email submitted under Agenda Item 3) had been forwarded to the County Council, and a response to the concerns raised therein was awaited.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bishop and Bonfield.

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Agenda Item 3) Washpond Lane, near to the junction with Northbrook Road – request for improvements – Councillor Lejeune declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being the parent of a child who attends St Mary’s Catholic Primary School.

There were no further declarations to record on this occasion.

Further to Standing Order No. 12) a) viii, it was proposed by the Chairman and AGREED:

That Item 5 a) iv) on the agenda be brought forward to Item 3.

3) Washpond Lane, near to the junction with Northbrook Road – request for improvements

Further to the concerns raised during Public Participation Time, consideration was given to an email received from a local resident regarding road safety around St Mary’s Catholic Primary School in Northbrook Road. The email included a request for a reduction in the speed limit (currently 60 mph), a new footpath, and new signage and street lighting.

During the discussion it was explained that similar concerns had previously been pointed out to Dorset County Council when the school had been under construction, and a copy of the resident’s email had therefore been sent to the County Council for its attention as Highways Authority. A response was awaited.

It was noted that, at a recent presentation given to the Town Council’s Planning and Consultation Committee by Barratt Homes, regarding proposals for a residential development on land west of Northbrook Road, reference had been made to potential new footpaths and improvements to infrastructure around the site if the development went ahead. Committee Members stressed the importance of residents raising any concerns they had regarding road and pedestrian safety with the District Council during the planning application process.

The County Councillor again confirmed that he would be willing to meet with local residents and undertake a ‘site visit’ with them, and that a request should be made to the County Council for a ‘safe routes to school’ assessment.

4) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 21st June 2017

It was reported that the Community Highways Team Leader (CHTL) had been unable to attend the meeting, to give updates on the various concerns and queries raised at the previous meeting, due to sickness. A meeting would be arranged with the CHTL as soon as she returned to work, and updates given at a future meeting.

3) Shore Road enhancements – update – discussions were being held with DCC regarding improved sea defence and ground stability works along Shore Road, and it was possible that the proposed enhancements to Shore Road could be undertaken as part of a larger scheme. It was noted that DCC had stated that the proposals to move the Shore Road parking meters to De Moulham Road could not be undertaken separate from the proposed enhancements to Shore Road.

Gilbert Road – consideration of parking restrictions/signage – the CHTL had agreed to follow-up these requests, although the Chairman was pleased to report that the Town Council’s advisory signage appeared to be having a positive effect.

5) a) ii) Purchase of electric vehicle charging points (EVCPS) – it was reported that there had been a minor delay in the delivery of the EVCPS, installation was now expected in January 2018.

5) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2018/19

Consideration was given to the draft scale of charges for 2018/19. It was reported that the option of a 5% uplift had been requested by the Car Parks Working Party, however, the general consensus of Members had been that the Town Council should leave charges the same for the ensuing year as car park usage was increasing, in particular in the Main Beach car park.

A small increase of less than 2% had been proposed to the Annual Taxi Permit charge, the charging period for parking in the short stay car parks had been amended to 8.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. for a maximum of two hours, and motorhomes would be limited to a maximum stay of 14 hours in permitted bays. All other charges remained the same.

A discussion was held regarding annual car park permits, and Members were in agreement that these should be promoted more widely through the Council's website, Facebook page, and Swanage Matters newsletter.

It was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Whitwam and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Draft Scale of Charges 2018/19 be taken forward to the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee on 13th December 2017, to be considered further during the budget setting process for 2018/19.

Thanks were given to the Finance Manager for the clear, concise reports.

Councillor Lejeune left the meeting at 3.00 p.m.

Consideration was then given to proposals for a new £1.00 all day parking fee in the Council's Main Beach and Broad Road car parks during the winter, from 1st November 2018 to 31st March 2019, on a trial basis for one year. Committee Members agreed that this could be a useful marketing tool and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Green and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a £1 all day charge be introduced in the Main Beach and Broad Road car parks, on a trial basis for one year, from 1st November 2018 until March 2019, to be reviewed during the budget setting process for 2019/20.

It was reported that a request had been made by a local resident to increase the residents' permit parking maximum stay period from two to three hours, as it was felt that two hours was not sufficient at times. Committee Members were not in favour of this change.

It was further reported that the Pay by Phone convenience fee of 8p would continue to be absorbed by the Town Council until the outcome of the tender process was known.

6) Dorset County Council (DCC) - Highway Matters

a) Requests for improved traffic management in the following locations

i) Institute Road improvements – update following Traffic Flow Working Party Meeting on 15th November 2017

It was reported that the working party had met with the Project Engineer and Highway Engineer from Dorset Highways to discuss progress made to date with the draft scheme for the proposed Institute Road improvements. A site visit had been undertaken with the engineers to reiterate concerns regarding highway safety, and highlight the specific areas requiring attention. A number of suggestions for amendments to the proposed scheme had been raised at the meeting, which would be explored by the Engineers, including the possibility of a trial to change the flow of traffic in Kings Road East whilst the works were being undertaken.

The engineers would be drawing up amended draft proposals, and it was

anticipated that public consultation on the draft scheme would be held in spring 2018. However, Committee Members agreed that further detailed information regarding costings, and the potential scale of disruption in the town whilst the work was being carried out, would be required before a decision could be made regarding any financial contribution requested from the Town Council towards the scheme. Discussions were ongoing.

ii) High Street – consideration of concerns regarding parking issues, and request for double yellow lines

Consideration was given to a photograph submitted of an instance of double parking in the section of the High Street between Knapp Stores and Costcutter. It was reported that this had become a regular occurrence, and had been causing passing issues for larger vehicles and traffic jams. Committee Members felt that common sense should prevail in this already congested area, being one of the main routes into the town, and in particular next to the high pavement on the south side. However, Members were in agreement that it would seem an appropriate measure to install double yellow lines on the south side, along the stretch of high pavement.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Whitwam and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a recommendation be made to Dorset County Council to consider installing double yellow lines on the south side of the High Street, next to the high pavement between the junctions with Steer Road.

iii) Lower High Street – consideration of concerns regarding parking issues, and request for kerb markings

Consideration was given to an email regarding parking issues being experienced in the Lower High Street, at the junction with Seymer Road, and requesting the installation of kerb markings. A photograph had also been submitted depicting a coach which had been unable to turn into Lower High Street because of vehicles parked on double yellow lines on the north side of the street, from Gee Whites to Playland.

It was reported that similar parking issues involving Blue Badge Holders had been discussed at previous Committee Meetings, and it was noted that the Senior Technician from Dorset Highways had advised at that time that it would be highly unlikely that a ‘blanket’ no loading, no parking zone could be approved and implemented on the north side of the street.

Committee Members were in support of kerb markings being installed at this location in the interests of safety, and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Morris and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a recommendation be made to Dorset County Council to consider installing kerb markings to the north side of Lower High Street, at the junction with Seymer Road.

b) Dropped Kerbs – request for suggestions for new dropped kerbs from Dorset Highways

It was reported that the County Council had set aside a small capital budget for new/improved dropped kerbs. A request was therefore made that if anyone had any suggestions for new dropped kerbs they should contact the Town Council accordingly.

Committee Members also agreed that this request should be advertised on the Town Council’s website and Facebook page.

7) Cow Lane – consideration of new traffic calming measures on Town Council owned part

Further to Minute 110 (a) (Matters for Forthcoming Agendas) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 25th September 2017, consideration was again given to possible new traffic calming measures on the Town Council owned part of Cow Lane.

Concerns had previously been raised by residents regarding the volume and speed of vehicles using Cow Lane, and requests made for traffic calming measures to be introduced. The County Council had undertaken a traffic survey in the lane, a copy of which had been submitted for information purposes. DCC had installed ‘slow’ markings on its part of the road following the survey, but had advised that traffic volumes and speed had not been high enough to warrant any type of restriction, and had taken no further action in this respect. The Town Council had also taken legal advice as there had been a query over the Town Council’s legal powers to introduce such measures in respect of un-adopted highways.

During the discussion Committee Members were in agreement that if speed bumps were installed at the bottom of the lane it could cause potential problems for disabled drivers, and that any signs put up would be ‘advisory’ only. It was noted that resurfacing works to the whole of Steer Road would be undertaken in the near future, which could possibly alleviate traffic volumes in Cow Lane in the future.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Poultney and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Town Council investigates options for the County Council to adopt the Town Council owned part of Cow Lane.

8) Bicycle racks – consideration of the installation of additional bike racks

Consideration was given to a request received for the installation of additional bike racks in the town. It was noted that racks were currently installed at the Stone Quay, the Mowlem, and Swanage Station.

During the discussion, it was reported that permission would be required from DCC if the racks were to be installed on the highway, and Committee Members were in agreement that any new racks should be situated on Town Council owned land if possible. It was also felt that this could possibly encourage more cyclists to venture into the town.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Poultney and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That delegated authority be given to the Council’s Operations Manager to explore potential locations, and costs, for the installation of new bicycle racks on Town Council owned land, up to a maximum budget of £1,000, and report his findings back to a future meeting.

9) Public Transport Matters

a) Cancellation of the Worth Matravers bus service

It was reported that, due to the lack of public demand for this bus service, DCC’s subsidy had been withdrawn and the service had ceased to operate with effect from 22nd July 2017. Details were given of the local ‘ring and ride’ community transport service.

10) Bus Shelter – consideration of the purchase of a new shelter outside Costcutter, Herston

Further to Minute 6) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 21st June 2017, it was reported that contact had been made with DCC and the bus company regarding

possible funding towards a new shelter. Responses had yet to be received, and it was therefore AGREED:-

That this matter be deferred to a future Committee Meeting for further consideration, once responses are received from the County Council and Morebus accordingly.

11) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- a) **Dorset Highways – capital schemes proposed 2017/18** – details of the upcoming planned resurfacing works were submitted for information purposes, including those in relation to Victoria Avenue and Steer Road.
- b) **Requesting new traffic management measures – guidance for local councils and residents to request new traffic measures** – DCC’s guidance document and a link to the Dorset road and transport online reporting tool had been submitted for update/information purposes. It was noted that it was vitally important for the Town Council and residents to use the online reporting tool to log any highway concerns/defects to ensure that these are brought to the attention of the relevant County Council officer or works team as appropriate.
- c) **Weed control – highways/pavements** - the Operations Manager reported that, due to financial constraints, weed control in the town was not being undertaken by DCC on a regular basis, and complaints had been received from local residents. The Town Council’s Operations Team had therefore been undertaking weeding around the town, however, there was currently no budget for these additional works. It was agreed that this would need to be given consideration during the budget setting process for 2018/19.

12) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.
