

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE 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

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

Management Support Officer

J Penney

DCC Community Highways Officer

Public Participation Time

There were six members of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns regarding vehicles observed travelling in the wrong direction around the one-way system/roundabout in Ulwell Road, at the junctions with Ballard Road and Redcliffe Road, and a request made for improved signage to be installed.
- Concerns regarding problems experienced with HGVs parking on the pavement in the access road to Purbeck Business Centre, loading/unloading deliveries and causing damage to the pavement, and pedestrian safety. The Community Highways Officer confirmed that there were double yellow lines at this location and that she would review the position/concerns raised accordingly.

Prior to commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed and introduced Mrs Jenny Penney, Community Highways Officer (CHO), Dorset Highways, to the meeting. Mrs Penney gave a brief overview of her role/responsibilities, which included the inspection of road surfaces and investigation of road condition issues, drainage and signage.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bishop, Bonfield, and Poultney, Miss C Dooley (Durlston Country Park), and PCSO I Leslie (Swanage Neighbourhood Policing Team).

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.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 8th February 2017

4) a) i) DCC public drop in event, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Swanage, Wednesday 30th November 2016 – update

• **Institute Road improvements – update**

It was reported that the design brief for the proposed Institute Road improvements had still not been finalised. Concerns were again reiterated regarding pedestrian safety/risk of incident in Institute Road, and comments made that peak season was fast approaching. Officers would continue to chase for a copy of the brief as a matter of urgency. County Councillor Trite and the CHO also agreed to make representations to DCC on behalf of the Committee accordingly.

A meeting of the Town Council's Traffic Flow Working Party would be held to discuss the brief as soon as it was available. However, it was confirmed that the proposals included the widening of the footway, and removal/relocation of the existing loading bays. The traffic calming/building out works were scheduled to be undertaken during the 2017/18 financial year.

A question was raised as to whether the local Chamber of Trade (COT) would be willing to undertake a 'voluntary initiative', in conjunction with business owners in Institute Road, to limit the size/amount of street furniture on the pavement to reduce the risk of incident in the interim. Officers would make contact with the COT Chairman accordingly.

• **Coombe Corner - update**

It was reported that the design brief for the proposed A352/B3069 junction improvements at Coombe Corner had now been finalised, and that copies of the brief had been provided to Mr Kevin Humphreys, Transport Planner, and Langton Parish Council, for review. It was understood that the proposals did include the reduction in the speed limit from 40 to 30 mph.

• **Shore Road enhancements – update**

It was reported that the DCC Project Engineer would be working on revised proposals/a design brief for the Shore Road enhancements during 2017/18, and that any approved works were likely to be undertaken during the 2018/19 financial year.

4) b) i) Gilbert Road – consideration of parking restrictions/signage

The Chairman was pleased to report that the new Town Council advisory signage had been successful, and a sizeable reduction had been seen in the number/long-term parking of campervans/motorhomes in Gilbert Road. An additional sign would be installed, mid-way between the two existing signs, to provide better coverage along the road of this 'advisory' message.

However, concerns were raised that the signs had had the effect of moving the previous problems experienced in Gilbert Road to Northbrook Road, and a request was therefore made for the Town Council's Car Parks Working Party to consider the provision of overnight parking facilities for campervans/motorhomes in the town. A further request was made that the Town Council should continue to lobby DCC to review its parking order and consider the introduction of parking restrictions in Gilbert Road.

During the discussion, comments were also made that the two missing DCC 'coaches only' signs had still not been replaced.

The CHO agreed to follow up on the above requests previously made to

DCC, and Officers would therefore provide copies of the relevant minutes/ correspondence accordingly.

4) c) DCC Capital Highway Maintenance Programme (CHMP) - Capital Schemes Proposed 2017/18

It was reported that the proposed improvements/highway resurfacing works were on schedule for autumn 2017, however, the CHO advised that the Victoria Avenue resurfacing works had now been pushed back to February 2018.

4) Dorset County Council (DCC) – Highway Matters

a) Requests for improved traffic management in the following locations

i) Junction of Ulwell Road/Redcliffe Road

Consideration was given to a request received for improved signage at the junction of Ulwell Road/Redcliffe Road, following concerns raised by local residents at the Annual Parish Assembly on 15th May 2017, and further concerns raised regarding motorists ‘missing’ the Studland exit off of the roundabout. It was reported that the existing one-way sign was almost hidden by a hedge, and vehicles had been observed travelling in the wrong direction around the one-way system, the road being wide enough for two-way traffic.

A discussion ensued, and suggestions for improvements were made, which included moving the existing one-way sign to below hedge level for better visibility, the painting of large white one-way directional arrows/‘no entry’ wording on the road, and the installation of additional ‘no entry’ and ‘one-way’ signs, at appropriate locations.

The CHO reported that she had previously reviewed the area in some detail, and had approached homeowners to cut overgrown hedges to increase visibility at junctions. DCC was also aware of the overgrown bushes in the central reservation. However, in light of the above information, she would review the situation and report back to a future meeting.

ii) Pier Approach

Consideration was given to a request received for improved signage/enforcement at Pier Approach. Issues had been experienced with indiscriminate parking, particularly by larger vehicles and Blue-Badge-holders (BBH). There were double yellow lines on both sides of the road, however, these were frequently ignored. Concerns had therefore been raised regarding pedestrian safety, particularly during the busy summer months when a sizeable increase in footfall and vehicle movements was seen to/from the Pier, Prince Albert Gardens (PAG), Sailing Club, and Wessex Water Treatment Plant. Vehicles also regularly continued straight ahead from Lower High Street along Pier Approach, as there was also no indication at the junction that it was a ‘no through road’, which exacerbated the problem.

A discussion ensued regarding obstruction, bottle-necking, and BBH parking. The CHO confirmed that DCC Traffic Wardens did regularly patrol the area, and a suggestion was made as to whether a ‘volunteer’ could be enlisted to advise motorists not to park in this area.

Questions were raised as to whether BBH parking could be suspended in Pier Approach during events, whether a pedestrian crossing could be installed to/from PAG, and whether a new ‘No through road’ or ‘Except access’ sign could be erected. The CHO agreed to review the request for signage accordingly.

iii) Northbrook Road cross roads

Consideration was given to a request received for ‘cars and motor cycles only’ signage, or double yellow lines (DYLs), to be installed at the junction of

Northbrook Road and Victoria Avenue. Concerns had been raised regarding an increase in parking by large vehicles near the busy junction, creating poor visibility when exiting the road, speeding vehicles in Victoria Avenue, and increased risk of incident for motorists and pedestrians crossing the road.

A discussion ensued and comments were made that it would appear that some of the existing lines had become faded/worn, and it was felt that the DYLS had previously run to the end of the road. The CHO reported that she had reviewed the area, and would research whether an existing Parking Order was already in place.

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

That, if an existing Parking Order is in place at the Northbrook Road/Victoria Avenue junction, a request be made to Dorset Highways to reinstate the double yellow lines as soon as possible, in the interests of safety.

iv) Durlston Road, adjacent to entrance of Hillcrest

Consideration was given to a request received for parking restrictions to be implemented in Durlston Road, and near the junction with Hillcrest. Concerns had again been raised regarding the parking of large vehicles in Durlston Road, and issues experienced with poor visibility and obstruction.

A discussion ensued, and comments were made that Durlston Road was a wide road and could accommodate such parking, although some of the DYLS around the junctions had become worn/faded. The CHO also reported that she was aware of the issues experienced, had reviewed the area, and had requested homeowners to cut overgrown hedges/trees to improve visibility at the Hillcrest junction. Committee Members therefore agreed that no further action should be taken with this request, but would ask that the CHO reviewed the condition of the DYLS in the area accordingly.

b) Updates from previous meetings

i) Rempstone Road – response from DCC to request to remove obsolete dropped kerb

It was reported that DCC had now advised that, due to financial constraints, the removal of the obsolete dropped kerb would not be implemented.

A brief discussion ensued, during which it was explained that the dropped kerb appeared to be historic, confusing and of no use, and it left motorists who parked their car across it vulnerable to enforcement action. The CHO therefore requested copies of previous minutes/correspondence relating to this request, would review any possible solutions, and report back to a future meeting.

5) Car Parks

a) To consider recommendations from Car Parks Working Party

A report from the Meeting of the Car Parks Working Party held on 16th June 2017 was provided to Committee Members. Recommendations from the meeting were considered as follows:

i) Purchase of car park ticket machines

Working Party Members had attended a trade exhibition and demonstrations of many different ticket machines, and had recommended Metric as the preferred supplier, as the machines were deemed to be easier to use for the customer, and more ‘aesthetically pleasing’. All machines would take card payments.

It was reported that a provisional budget of £50,000 had been included in the 2017/18 Capital Programme to purchase and install new machines, however, given the required specification, the costs were now anticipated to be £70,000 for the purchase of fourteen machines, and a further £10,000 to cover installation/DDA compliance costs. The machines would be procured via an established framework agreement, rendering a full tender process unnecessary.

After a brief discussion, it was therefore proposed by Councillor Morris, seconded by Councillor Green and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

TO RECOMMEND:

That a revised total capital budget of £80,000 be agreed to finance the purchase and installation of fourteen new Pay & Display machines in the Town Council's car parks.

ii) Purchase of electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs)

It was reported that a provisional budget of £4,000 had previously been approved for the purchase and installation of one EVCP in Mermond Place car park. However, having met with suppliers at the car park exhibition and, following discussions held at the working party meeting, it had been agreed that a more appropriate option would be to install EVCPs in Main Beach car park instead, as this was a destination car park/the main visitor car park in the summer months, and also had a longer maximum stay allowance than Mermond Place.

As detailed in the Working Party's report, two suppliers had been reviewed, with Members' preferred supplier being PODPoint. The Working Party had recommended the purchase of two EVCPs, which would require an additional revenue budget of £2,000, and suggested a charge of 18p per Kwh to cover electricity costs. Customers would be required to purchase a valid parking ticket whilst charging vehicles, with a maximum stay of four hours in marked bays.

Committee Members agreed that the EVCPs could be promoted as part of the town's 'tourism offering' and provided an important service. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Morris and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

TO RECOMMEND:

That a revised total revenue budget of £6,000 be agreed for the purchase of two EVCPs from PODPoint, with electricity being charged at 18p per Kwh, and a maximum stay of four hours in marked bays whilst charging with a valid parking ticket.

It was noted that the EVCPs would be installed in the 2017/18 financial year, and that usage would be monitored and tariffs revised if appropriate.

b) Request for parking permit from lessee of seafront kiosk

Consideration was given to a request received from the lessee of the seafront kiosk for parking facilities in the residents' car park in Horsecliffe Lane, on a temporary basis until September 2017.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that a parking permit could be provided to the business owner as requested. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Morris and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That a parking permit for Horsecliffe Lane car park be issued to the lessee of the seafront kiosk until 30th September 2017.

6) Bus shelter – request for new shelter outside Costcutter, Herston

A letter had been received from a local resident raising concerns about the poor condition of the bus shelter outside Costcutter in Herston, and a request made as to whether it could be replaced. It was reported that the Town Council already owned two bus shelters situated on the highway.

Committee Members agreed that the shelter was in bad repair, and comments were made that it was unlikely that DCC funding would be available for the provision of a new shelter. A question was raised as to whether the bus company should be requested to cover the cost of a new shelter. Costings were provided for a new anti-vandal shelter, including groundworks and disposal of the existing shelter, estimated at between £1,800-£2,300. It was therefore agreed that further research/enquiries needed to be undertaken before the Town Council could agree to replace the Herston shelter.

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

That, in view of the condition of the existing shelter, further enquiries be made of the bus company regarding possible funding towards a new shelter, the outcome of such enquiries to be considered at a future meeting.

7) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- a) **Bus cuts** – further to recent consultation regarding the withdrawal of subsidy support by DCC from rural bus services, it was reported that the Traffic Commissioner had published details that the Morebus route 40 timetable was to be amended with effect from 24th July 2017, exact details unknown at the present time. An announcement had yet to be made about the 44 service. The Chairman would be attending the Purbeck Transport Action Group Meeting later today and would update the Committee when further details were known.

8) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 11th October 2017 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.
