

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Ms K Black

Durlston Country Park

Mr D Rawsthorn

Swanage Railway

Also Present: -

Councillor S Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Mr G Brookes

Operations Manager

Miss N Clark

Acting Administration & Communications  
Manager

**Public Participation Time**

There were eight members of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns regarding proposals for a residential development of 90 new homes on land west of Northbrook Road, Swanage, which included:
  - Traffic generation and road safety - in particular outside St Mary's RC Primary School, and in Washpond Lane, near to the junction with Northbrook Road, where there was no footpath for pedestrians, no street lights, and the speed limit was 60mph.
  - Safety concerns highlighted regarding children walking along the lane to the primary school, the poor visibility for road users exiting Washpond Lane into Northbrook Road, and photographs provided to the Committee depicting traffic congestion seen around the school during drop off/pick up times.
  - Reference made to a 'Walked Route Assessment' which had been undertaken by the County Council.
  - A request again made for the Town Council to support a reduction in the speed limit in Washpond Lane from 60mph to 30mph.
  - Existing problems experienced with 'double parking' in Northbrook Road.
  - The potential adverse impact of construction traffic if the development went ahead.
- Request made for the Town Council's support for double yellow lines to be installed in Cluny Crescent, at its junction with Sunridge Close.
- Reference made to the District Council's Swanage & Langton Matravers Walking & Cycling Routes & Traffic Management Feasibility Report, and a request made for consideration of improvements to the existing network of cycle paths between Swanage, Corfe Castle and Wareham.
- Concerns reiterated regarding proposals for enhancements to Shore Road, in particular the number of proposed 'pinch points', and reference made to Minute No. 4 a) i) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The Chairman confirmed that the proposals were on hold at the present time.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bishop, Bonfield, Green and Lejeune, and Mr M Green and Mr P Sykes (Swanage Railway).

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 4 a) ii) Washpond Lane, near to junction with Northbrook Road – request for improvements and consideration of road safety concerns relating to planning application 6/2017/0713, proposed development of 90 new homes on land west of Northbrook Road** - Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a Member of the District Council's Planning Committee, it was deemed likely that the planning application would be considered at a future Planning Committee Meeting.

There were no further declarations to record on this occasion.

3) **Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017**

**4) Purchase of electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs)** – it was reported that the EVCPs had been delivered but had not been installed as yet, however, the new power points would be installed today in readiness for installation. New signage was awaited. It was further reported that the new car park ticket machines had been installed, and it was anticipated that they would be up and running within the next seven to ten days.

**8) Bicycle racks – consideration of the installation of additional bike racks** – the Operations Manager confirmed that he had identified a number of suitable locations for the installation of additional bike racks, all on Town Council owned land, and that the £1,000 allocated budget was sufficient for these works. A further update would be given at a future Committee Meeting.

4) **Dorset County Council (DCC) - Highway Matters**

**a) Requests for improved traffic management in the following locations**

**i) Cluny Crescent, junction with Sunridge Close - consideration of concerns regarding parking issues, and request for new, and repainting of existing, double yellow lines (DYLs)**

Consideration was given to a request received for double yellow lines to be installed in Cluny Crescent, on the north side up to its junction with Sunridge Close, and for the DYL's on the south side to be refreshed as they were currently in a poor condition/very worn. A white line was already in situ near to the junction to protect access to/from the driveway of No. 16 Cluny Crescent, however, it was reported that vehicles regularly parked on the corners of the north and south sides of the junction, as the DYLs did not run to the end of each side of the road. Road safety concerns had been raised by residents as it was reported that motorists had experienced difficulties with visibility when exiting/entering Sunridge Close, which were at times exacerbated by the speed of vehicles using Cluny Crescent. Photographs were provided confirming the condition of the DYLs and highlighting the parking and exiting problems.

During the ensuing discussion Members were in agreement that it would seem an appropriate measure to install DYLs on the north side of the junction, and that the DYLs on the south side were in need of repainting.

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

That a recommendation be made to Dorset County Council to consider installing double yellow lines on the north side of Cluny Crescent, at its junction with Sunridge Close, and that the lines on the south side of the junction be repainted.

**ii) Washpond Lane, near to junction with Northbrook Road - request for improvements and consideration of road safety concerns relating to planning application 6/2017/0713, proposed development of 90 new homes on land west of Northbrook Road**

Further to Minute No. 3) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, and further to the comments and concerns raised during Public Participation Time, consideration was again given to a request made for the Town Council to support a reduction in the speed limit in Washpond Lane from 60mph to 30mph. Members noted the lack of ‘school warning’ signage in Northbrook Road, particularly on the approach from Washpond Lane, and felt that this should have been addressed by DCC when the school originally opened over four years ago.

During the discussion Members acknowledged and were in support of residents’ concerns, were in agreement that any infrastructure improvements should take place prior to commencement of the proposed development, and that the Local Planning Authority should be lobbied to implement a Section 106 Agreement as a condition of any approved plan.

Members were in support of the speed limit being reduced, and for new advisory ‘school’ signage to be installed, and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Morris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a recommendation be made to Dorset County Council to consider reducing the speed limit in Washpond Lane, between its junctions with Ulwell Road and Northbrook Road, and in Northbrook Road on the approach to St Mary’s RC Primary School to 30mph, in the interests of safety.

It was further proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Morris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That a recommendation be made to Dorset County Council for new advisory school warning signage to be put in place, as soon as is practical, to alert motorists that they are approaching a school, in the interests of safety.

At 3.00 p.m. the Chairman invoked Standing Order No. 1 p) to briefly suspend the Meeting to allow members of the public to address the Committee and ask/respond to questions regarding/relevant to Agenda Item 4 a) ii).

**b) Updates from previous meetings**

**i) Institute Road improvements**

It was reported that the Council’s Traffic Flow Working Party had recently undertaken a site visit in Institute Road with the Project Engineers from Dorset Highways to discuss the latest draft scheme for the proposed Institute Road Improvements. The working party had reiterated its previous concerns raised regarding pedestrian safety/risk of incident, and a request was made for proposals

to be progressed as soon as possible. However, it was noted that further public consultation would be required before any scheme could proceed.

The scheme was projected to cost £470k, and was subject to approval by the County Council (DCC) as the Highway Authority. A grant of £60,000 to DCC towards the scheme had been included in the Town Council's 2018/19 capital programme. Discussions were ongoing.

**ii) Report from Community Highways Team Leader**

There were no updates to be given at the present time.

**5) Cycle paths between Swanage, Corfe Castle and Wareham– consideration of enhancements to the existing network**

Further to the comments raised during Public Participation Time, consideration was given to a request received for enhancements to be made to the existing network of cycle paths between Swanage, Corfe Castle and Wareham.

During the discussion Members were in agreement that the County Council should be requested to revisit the feasibility study it had previously commissioned, titled the 'Swanage and Langton Matravers Walking and Cycling Routes and Traffic Management Feasibility Report' dated November 2014, which had detailed the feasibility of improvements to the walking and cycling network in Swanage, and was supported by Sustrans. It was reported that, at a public drop-in event held by DCC at the Emmanuel Baptist Church on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016, regarding draft proposals for improvements to Shore Road and Institute Road, plans had also been presented for proposed cycle routes.

It was noted that proposals were underway for a cycleway and footpath to be installed along the edge of a field in Norden, and comments were made that it would also be prudent for members of the public to lobby other Parish Councils in the area regarding further possible improvements.

It was therefore AGREED:-

That Dorset County Council be requested to revisit the 'Swanage and Langton Matravers Walking and Cycling Routes and Traffic Management Feasibility Report' dated November 2014, and advise when the improvements would be made to the walking and cycling routes as highlighted in the report.

**6) Bus Shelter- consideration of the purchase of new shelter outside Costcutter, Herston**

Further to Minute No. 10) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, it was reported that the County Council had advised that it did not own the bus shelter, however, funds may be available from DCC towards its replacement. Committee Members reiterated concerns regarding the poor condition of the shelter, and were in agreement that financial support should also be provided by the Town Council, subject to the outcome of discussions with DCC, and clarification regarding future ownership of the new shelter and ongoing maintenance responsibilities. A comment was also made that possible sponsorship options could be explored to raise further funds.

The Operations Manager would provide up to date costings for the removal of the existing shelter, and installation of a new anti-vandal shelter.

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

That agreement in principle be given to a budget of up to £4,000 towards the cost of a replacement bus shelter outside Costcutter, Herston, subject to the outcome of discussions with the County Council, and satisfactory costings being obtained.

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

- a) **Urgent temporary road closure - Victoria Avenue, Swanage, between its junctions with De Moulham Road and Shore Road, from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018** – the Environment Agency would require access to its chambers in the middle of the road to undertake repair works.
- b) **Temporary Traffic Regulations Notice – Victoria Avenue, Swanage, from 19<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, for carriageway maintenance** – DCC would be undertaking carriageway maintenance and resurfacing works to Victoria Avenue.
- c) **Temporary closure of High Street, Swanage, between its junctions with Townsend Road and Court Hill, from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February** – Wessex Water would be undertaking repair works overnight from 7.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m., the road would be closed in the interests of safety and a diversion route between Townsend Road and Church Hill would be in place during this time.

Requests were also made for the following matters to be included on future Council Meeting agendas:-

- d) **Consideration of raised kerbs in Swanage Station at the bus stops**
- e) **Consideration of a Nordcat community bus service in Swanage**
- f) **Shore Road**
  - i) **Consideration of surface water flooding/drainage issues onto the beach**
  - ii) **Consideration of long term responsibility/repair of the barriers**

8) **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting, planned for June 2018, would be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2018.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.

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