

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 at 2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Mr D Rawsthorn

Swanage Railway

PCSO C Rosenberg

Dorset Police

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Acting Administration & Communications  
Manager

Mr S Mephram

Community Highways Team Leader

Miss A Spencer

Finance Manager

There were seven members of the public present.

**Public Participation Time**

There were no matters raised.

**1) Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bishop, Bonfield, and Green, and Ms K Black (Durlston Country Park).

**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 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

There were no matters raised.

**4) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2019/20**

Consideration was given to the draft scale of charges for 2019/20. A good summer season was reported, and it was therefore proposed to leave the car park charges the same for the ensuing year. Attention was drawn to two recommendations as follows:

- To change the charging period for the Residents' car park to 10.00am to 7.00pm, with a maximum stay of two hours, which would mirror the charging periods for the Mermond and Co-op car parks.
- Consideration of the introduction of a new daily tariff for motor caravans in the Council's long stay car parks, allowing an overnight stay, with a tariff equivalent to that set for cars (a maximum stay of 14 hours between 8.00am and 10.00pm had been added to the scale of charges last year, although implementation of this parking facility had proven difficult to date for a number of reasons).

During the ensuing discussion Committee Members were in support of the amendment being made to the Residents' car park charging period. However, in view of previous difficulties experienced by the Council with the overnight parking of motor caravans, and the subsequent withdrawal of this facility, it was felt that the successful introduction of the proposal for a 14-hour maximum stay for this type of vehicle, in specific bays, should be implemented first, before further consideration could be given to overnight parking facilities.

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

That the recommendation for the maximum stay charging period in the Residents' car park to be changed to 10.00am to 7.00pm be taken forward to the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018, to be considered further during the budget setting process for 2019/20.

It was reported that a small increase of less than 2% had been proposed to the Annual Taxi Permit charge. All other charges remained the same.

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

That the draft Scale of Charges 2019/20 be taken forward to the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018, to be considered further during the budget setting process for 2019/20.

Consideration was then given to the recommendation that the JustPark card payment transaction fee of 4.5p should continue to be absorbed by the Town Council.

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

That the JustPark card payment fee of 4.5p continues to be absorbed by the Town Council.

Committee Members gave thanks to the Finance Manager for preparing the detailed briefing notes and summaries which accompanied the draft scale of charges.

## **5) Dorset County Council (DCC) - Highway Matters**

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

#### **i) Priests Road**

Consideration was given to correspondence received from a local resident which raised concerns regarding road/pedestrian safety in Priests Road, near the junction with Hillview Road, where the pavement on the north side was extremely narrow. Photographs provided showed vehicles parked next to the pavement, which demonstrated that any wheelchair/pushchair users would have to proceed out into the middle of the road to pass by the vehicles.

During the ensuing discussion comments were made that this was a very busy vehicle/pedestrian route to/from two local caravan parks, particularly in the summer season, and that the streetlights were switched off overnight in this location. Further comments were made that it may be prudent to request that a nearby landowner cut back overgrown hedges/vegetation next to the footpath to increase visibility, and that it would be important that the historic Purbeck Stone wall adjacent to the footpath should be retained as part of any improvement scheme.

The Community Highways Team Leader (CHTL) reported that it may be possible for an improvement scheme to be considered under DCC's Local Transport Plan programme, including the installation of a 'pinch point' and widened footway.

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

That a recommendation be made to Dorset County Council to consider footway improvement works in Priests Road, under its Local Transport Plan programme, in the interests of safety.

## **ii) Junction of Newton Road and Knollsea Close**

Consideration was given to correspondence received from a local resident which raised concerns regarding the poor visibility experienced by motorists at times when exiting Knollsea Close into Newton Road, due to parked vehicles in Newton Road near to the junction. Further concerns were held regarding the speed of some vehicles in Newton Road.

During the ensuing discussion comments were made that Newton Road was not a particularly busy road, although the gas works being undertaken in Seymer Road could have had an impact on traffic volume at the present time. Further comments were made that there were a number of roads in the town which experienced similar problems, including Princess, Linden and Cecil Roads, and Kings Road West.

The CHTL had reviewed collision statistics for the area from October 2013 to date, and no data had been found. Committee Members therefore agreed that, with regret, no further action would be taken at this time, and that the resident should keep the Town Council informed of the situation as appropriate.

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

That the request for improved traffic management at the junction of Newton Road and Knollsea Close has been reviewed and appropriately discussed, and that no further action be taken at this time.

## **iii) Seymer Road**

At 2.40 p.m. the Chair invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow a member of the public to address the Committee, and respond to/ask questions regarding/relevant to Agenda Item 5 a) iii).

Consideration was then given to correspondence received from a local resident which raised concerns regarding pedestrian safety in Seymer Road, particularly during the main season when pedestrians were regularly seen walking in the road. It was noted that a number of emails from other residents had also been received raising the same concerns.

Suggestions for future improvements had been put forward, which included the possible implementation of a one-way system, a new footway on the east side down to the junction with Lower High Street, and the closure of the Lower High Street in the summer months.

It was reported that initial discussions had been held regarding potential funding options for a sea defence scheme in the area, and that it was possible that highway improvements may be considered as part of any scheme. However, this matter was still in its very early stages.

In the meantime, Committee Members felt that signage in the area could be improved to direct pedestrians on a recommended/safer route from Broad Road car park to the seafront, and that a recommendation should be made to DCC to consider

a possible improvement scheme, to include new dropped kerb access points in Marshall Row and Lower High Street.

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

That the Town Council installs new directional signage for pedestrians from Broad Road car park to the seafront, and a recommendation be made to Dorset County Council to consider highway/footway improvements in Seymer Road, under its Local Transport Plan programme, in the interests of safety, which will be discussed as part of a possible wider improvement scheme in the New Year.

**iv) Lower High Street – to reconsider parking outside of Royal Victoria Apartments**

At 3.05 p.m. the Chair invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow a member of the public to address the Committee, and respond to/ask questions regarding/relevant to Agenda Item 5 a) iv).

Further to Minute No. 4 a) iv) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018, consideration was given to a request received for the reconsideration of parking outside of Royal Victoria Apartments. A recommendation had been made by the Committee to DCC to consider the introduction of shared parking arrangements outside the apartments.

As previously reported, technically there should be no parking at this location as vehicles were parking behind the double yellow lines, however, confirmation had been received from DCC's Parking Services that enforcement would not be undertaken unless complaints were forthcoming.

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that the Royal Victoria Residents Association had now enquired about the possibility of annual parking permits for its residents, and it was agreed that Councillors would set up a meeting with the Association to discuss this matter/explore options for possible consideration at a future meeting.

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

To advise Dorset County Council that no further action will be taken by the Town Council regarding its recommendation for shared parking arrangements outside of Royal Victoria Apartments.

**v) Cluny Crescent – further consideration of request to remove double-yellow lines**

Further to Minute No. 4 a) iii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the Double Yellow Lines (DYL) Working Party had met to undertake a review of DYLS in the town, including those in Cluny Crescent which had been installed for highway safety reasons, being close to a sharp bend/junction with Stafford Road.

It was reported that that there were a number of roads in the town which experienced similar problems, and Committee Members agreed that no further action would be taken with this request.

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

That no further action be taken by the Town Council regarding the request for removal of double yellow lines in Cluny Crescent.

**vi) Shore Road parking bays**

At 3.25 p.m. the Chair invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow a member of the public to address the Committee, and respond to/ask questions regarding/relevant to Agenda Item 5 a) vi).

Consideration was then given to a request received for the continuous marked parking bay along Shore Road to be separated into individual bays to encourage sensible parking, in order to maximise the available number of parking spaces, and revenue to DCC. A further suggestion had been made for designated parking spaces for Blue Badge Holders near to the access ramps to the beach.

A discussion ensued, during which questions were raised regarding the legal minimum size of marked bays, and enforcement procedures for these bays. Committee Members agreed that they supported the proposals in principle, but that further information was required from DCC's Parking Services before a recommendation could be made. Advice would be sought accordingly and brought back to a future Committee Meeting.

**vii) Ilminster Road and Cranborne Road – to consider removal of summer parking restrictions**

At 3.35 p.m. the Chair invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow a member of the public to address the Committee, and respond to/ask questions regarding/relevant to Agenda Item 5 a) vi).

Consideration was then given to a request received for the removal of the summer parking restrictions in Ilminster Road and Cranborne Road, which restricted parking to one hour only from 15<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September. Photographs were provided dated May 2018 which showed empty roads. It was felt that these roads could be better utilised by local residents who lived in the town centre, and by commuters working in the town.

During the ensuing discussion a suggestion was made that two-hour parking arrangements may be more beneficial to visitors/shoppers, and Committee Members were in agreement that advice should be sought from DCC's Parking Services before a recommendation could be made. The outcome of which would be considered at a future Committee Meeting.

**viii) Bonfields Avenue**

Consideration was given to correspondence received from a local resident which raised concerns regarding the indiscriminate parking seen at times by minibuses and vans which parked in Bonfields Avenue, and whether 'cars and motorcycles only' restrictions could be introduced in this area. Photographs were provided highlighting the problems, and also showing that the nearby North Beach car park had been empty on that day (it was noted that the car park was free to use from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March each year).

The CHTL reported that residents could apply for access protection markings to be installed across their driveways by DCC, subject to a small charge, and which could reduce these problems.

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

That no further action be taken by the Town Council regarding the request for 'cars and motorcycles only' restrictions to be implemented in Bonfields Avenue, and to make the resident aware of DCC's application process for access protection markings.

PCSO Chris Rosenberg left the meeting at 4.00 p.m.

**ix) Prospect Crescent**

Consideration was given to an email received raising concerns regarding the long term parking of campervans in Prospect Crescent, and the poor visibility experienced by mobility scooter users and motorists when entering/exiting Prospect Crescent from/to Victoria Avenue. Further concerns were raised regarding the potential difficulties which could be experienced by the emergency services.

It was noted that all year-round parking restrictions would be implemented in Victoria Avenue in due course, and that there was an alternative access route over Prospect Green if required. Committee Members therefore agreed that, with regret, no further action would be taken with this request. It was suggested that the resident should be made aware of DCC's application process for access protection markings which could reduce the problems being experienced.

**b) Station Road and Institute Road – consideration of concerns raised regarding the increase in A-boards, displays, and tables and chairs, in the town centre**

It was reported that the Committee Member who had raised concerns regarding this matter was not in attendance at the meeting and, following a brief discussion, it was therefore agreed to defer consideration of this matter to a future Committee Meeting.

A comment was made regarding the length of the agenda for this meeting, and a request was made for the frequency of meetings to be placed on a future agenda.

**c) Updates from previous meetings**

**i) Institute Road improvements**

It was reported that, following feedback and suggestions received at the public meeting held at the Town Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the Council's Traffic Flow Working Party would be meeting representatives from Dorset Highways on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to consider a revised draft plan for the proposed improvements to Institute Road. An update would be given at a future Council Meeting.

**ii) Rempstone Road – removal of redundant dropped kerb**

Further to Minute No. 33 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, it was reported that the CHTL would be chasing completion of these approved works as soon as possible.

**iii) De Moulham Road and Walrond Road crossroads**

Further to Minute No. 4 a) i) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018, it was reported that DCC's Collision Reduction Officer had undertaken a review of the crossroads area. Improved road markings had now been installed (including two 'SLOW' markings on either side of the junction), existing road markings had been refreshed, and a tree and hedge had been cut back to improve visibility for motorists at the junction.

**iv) 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. 4 a) ii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, it was anticipated that planning application 6/2017/0713 would be considered at the District Council's Planning Committee Meeting being held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

The Case Officer had advised that he had been in lengthy discussions with Dorset Highways regarding road safety in Northbrook Road, around the new development and St Mary's RC Primary School, and in Washpond Lane. Dorset Highways would be installing a new pedestrian crossing in Northbrook Road, near to the school. However, as there were safer alternative pedestrian and vehicular routes to/from the development and the school, Dorset Highways did not feel that a request for a contribution towards road safety measures from Barratt Homes was appropriate.

A discussion ensued regarding previous concerns raised about the speed limit in Washpond Lane, which was currently 60mph, and the request for consideration to be given to a new 30mph limit. The CHTL requested full details of this request, and suggested that a meeting be held in the New Year between representatives from the Town Council, St Mary's School, Local Transport Planning Team, and DCC, to discuss this matter further.

It was reported that discussions were ongoing regarding proposals for a new footpath to be installed in the field adjacent to Washpond Lane to the school in the interests of pedestrian safety.

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

The new CHTL, Mr Steve Mephram, introduced himself to the meeting, and reported on a number of matters, including the following:

- **Emergency planning programme** – Dorset Highways had been working on a new plan in partnership with the Town Council and the Environment Agency.
- **Shore Road gates** – approval had been given for repairs to be undertaken to the gates over the winter months. A request was made for details of any local craftsmen to be submitted to Dorset Highways.
- **The Parade railings** – a safety survey was due to be undertaken on the railings, the outcome of which would need to be discussed between the three tiers of local authority.

**6) Cow Lane – update**

Further to Minute No. 5) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018, it was reported that new advisory signage had been installed by the Newton Grange Swanage Management Company, which had made a difference and had reduced the instances of inconsiderate parking seen on the north side of the lane.

It was reported that funds had been allocated in the Council's budget for 2019/20 for the purchase and installation of speed humps on the Town Council-owned part of the lane, and discussions were ongoing regarding the adoption of Cow Lane by DCC.

**7) Car Parks**

**a) Consideration of request for parking permits for ex-Mayors of Swanage**

Consideration was given to a request for parking permits for ex-Mayors of Swanage for use in all of the Town Council's car parks. It was reported that there was currently no policy in place regarding this matter.

A brief discussion ensued, during which Committee Members agreed that they were not in support of the request, and wished it to be noted that the request had been reviewed and appropriately discussed, and that no further action would be taken at this time.

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

**a) Bus Shelter- Installation of new shelter outside Costcutter, Herston - update**

further to Minute No. 8 a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018, it was reported that the new shelter had been measured up and ordered, however, the company fulfilling the order had now advised that it was closing down at the end of the

year and had cancelled all outstanding orders. DCC was therefore currently in the process of requesting quotes from two new suppliers, and would keep the Council posted as to progress with these.

- b) Dorset Highways Monthly Update – September 2018** – the latest update was provided to Committee Members for information purposes.
- c) Sandbanks Ferry Toll Review Application – Public Inquiry – update** – it was reported that the outcome of the Public Inquiry was still awaited. Details would be published on the Council’s website and Facebook page as soon as the Secretary of State for Transport’s decision on the Toll Application became available.
- d) Shore Road – traffic signal crossing upgrade** – details of a traffic signal crossing upgrade in Shore Road, planned for February/March 2019, were provided to Committee Members for information purposes. It was noted that the works were being undertaken to move the lights to a safer location (adjacent to the footway leading to De Moulham Road).

**9) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

The meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.

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