

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT
COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on
WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2016 at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor J Bishop

Swanage Town Council

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Miss K Black

Durlston Country Park

PC K Hickman

Dorset Police

PCSO I Leslie

Dorset Police

Also Present: -

Councillor G Green

Swanage Town Council

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Management Support Officer

Miss C Johnston

Operations Administration Officer

Public Participation Time

There were three members of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns raised regarding the proposal to implement changes to traffic flow and road layout along Shore Road, and the possible increase in traffic along De Moulham Road if Shore Road became one-way. Comments were also made regarding the entrance to/exit from the blocks of flats in Victoria Avenue which lead from/onto De Moulham Road, and the possible congestion which may be experienced due to the proximity of these to the junction with Victoria Avenue and the traffic lights, Horsecliffe Lane, and Sandpit Field (where various events are held throughout the year) if there was an increase in traffic. The Chairman confirmed that although the Town Council had given its support to a trial of these changes, the trial would not be going ahead this summer as originally planned.
- Comments made that consideration should be given to 'no parking' along Shore Road from May to October each year, and for it to remain two-way, which may alleviate traffic congestion experienced during these peak months.

1) Apologies

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Lejeune.

2) Declarations Of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interest under the Code of Conduct as defined by regulations made under section 30 (3) 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 11th November 2015**

There were no matters raised.

Panorama Road – consideration of request for a disabled bay

Further to Minute No. 4) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 14th October 2015, the Chairman reported that quotes for these works had now been received from Dorset County Council (DCC), although there could possibly be an issue with a BT chamber, as the chamber and its cover would have to be lowered to suit the gradient of the footway. When the young resident's lift had previously been put in place it had not been situated at the site of the original gateway/entrance to the property, and no thought had been given to access over/off the pavement.

A site visit had been undertaken by the Operations Manager, and a further site meeting was being arranged with a representative from DCC Highways to consider possible solutions to overcome the issue of the chamber, and to discuss the condition of the pavement, and the proposed location of the dropped kerb.

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

a) **Updates from previous meetings**

i) **Strategic issues – traffic flow and Swanage Local Plan (SLP)**

Further to Minute No. 3) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 11th November 2015, the public consultation events which had been proposed for January 2016 had not taken place. It had been anticipated that these would be run jointly with the District Council at planned SLP events, however, the SLP events had been postponed until later in the year, and DCC had advised that there was no funding available to cover the costs of a separate event.

It was reported that limited budgets were available for the delivery of new transport schemes and DCC was therefore in the process of prioritising proposals, which included the experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Shore Road, improvements to Institute Road, and a new crossing at the Langton Matravers/Valley Road junction. The experimental TRO would possibly be implemented in summer 2017, subject to public consultation. It was noted that at a recent meeting of the Coastal Forum concerns were raised regarding rising sea levels and the risk of flooding, and that these concerns should be considered as part of any future scheme for Shore Road.

Members were in agreement that, in the interests of safety, Institute Road was the most important scheme, and it was therefore AGREED:

That a letter be sent to Dorset County Council Highways reiterating the Committee's concerns regarding pedestrian safety/risk of incident in Institute Road.

ii) **St Mark's School – '30 mph when lights are flashing' advisory speed limit**

It was reported that the proposed start date for these works would be between 1st to 11th March 2016. The new school warning sign would be shown at set times (to cover morning and afternoon school runs, pre-school change over, and after school clubs) and '30' would flash when triggered by a speeding vehicle outside of these times. Committee Members welcomed the implementation of this scheme, and were looking forward to the works finally being completed in the interests of safety.

Further to Minute No. 5) a) iii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 14th October 2015, a query was raised as to whether consideration was

still being given to the extension of the 30 mph speed limit zone, from the St Mark's School entrance back to at least Coombe Corner. This matter would be followed up and the outcome reported back to a future meeting.

b) Town Hall Lane – to consider petition from residents of Burr Stone Mead

Consideration was given to a copy of a letter and petition received from residents of Burr Stone Mead which had been sent to DCC to request the resurfacing of Town Hall Lane, which was in a poor condition. The lane was the main route from the flats to the town/shops, and difficulties had been experienced by residents when using walking sticks and rollators.

DCC had inspected the lane and had advised residents that although they felt that the carriageway had an untidy appearance, there were no areas that met intervention level according to their Highways Safety criteria. A brief discussion ensued and a query was raised as to what the criteria was for action to be taken. Members were in agreement that the condition of the lane was deteriorating and required attention. Comments were also made regarding the number of visitors/school parties who used the lane to view the old jail, and to attend appointments with the Registrar and Citizens Advice Bureau. It was therefore AGREED:

That a letter be sent to Dorset County Council
Highways in support of Burr Stone Mead
residents' request, in the interests of safety.

c) High Street, between the junctions with Townsend Road and Priests Road – to consider proposed traffic calming measures

Consideration was given to a letter received raising concerns about pedestrian safety in the High Street, between the junctions with Townsend Road and Priests Road. The letter included suggestions for possible traffic calming measures, and had been copied to Richard Drax MP.

It was reported that this had always been a problematic area, and had been discussed at a previous meeting. A debate ensued and comments were made about the difficulties experienced along this section of road with parked cars, passing and traffic jams, speed of traffic, and the fact that vehicles were at times seen mounting the pavement.

The suggested traffic calming measures and the possible removal of on-street parking were discussed. However, concerns were raised that the speed of traffic could increase if the road was opened out in this way. Members therefore agreed that they could see no practical solution to these difficulties and that no further action would be taken with this request. A response would be sent accordingly.

d) Damage to colonnade outside 36 High Street, Swanage – to consider new bollards

Consideration was given to a letter received from a local resident advising that the colonnade outside 36 High Street had again been struck and damaged by a vehicle. A copy of the letter had been sent by the Town Council to DCC for their information/review.

The letter suggested protecting the colonnade from any future damage by widening the pavement and installing bollards, similar to those outside Swanage Library, and the loading bay and electrical store on the opposite side of the road.

A brief discussion ensued during which concerns were raised that, although the Committee were in support of improvements being considered, at the present time, and in view of the limited DCC budgets available, there were

more urgent priorities to address in the town. Comments were also made that parking may continue in this area even if bollards were installed. It was therefore AGREED:

That a letter be sent to the local resident in support of his request to DCC seeking his agreement to contribute financially to suggested improvements outside 36 – 42 High Street, Swanage.

e) Pavement surface/'temporary' tarmac outside 82B & 82C High Street – to discuss reinstatement of natural stone paving slabs in Swanage

A letter had been received from a local resident advising that the temporary tarmac put in place by a utility company in January 2015, outside 82B and 82C High Street, was still in situ, the natural stone paving had not been replaced and the pavement surface was now uneven. It was reported that this matter had originally been raised with DCC in March 2015.

The Town Council had sent a copy of the letter to DCC endorsing the concerns raised, and a response had been received advising that Dorset Highways currently removed any damaged slabs and replaced them with bituminous materials as part of a new maintenance programme. However, any damage or removal of slabs by a utility company, as part of works involving their own equipment, could be required by Balfour Beatty streetworks inspectors to repair and reinstate slabs as necessary, and a copy of the letter had been passed to the inspector accordingly.

A discussion ensued and concerns were raised regarding the policy of DCC in this respect. It was strongly felt that Purbeck stone paving should be replaced, especially within the local conservation areas. It was AGREED:

That a letter be sent to Dorset County Council seeking assurance that replacement of paving would be carried out in conservation areas.

5) Car Parks

a) Exploration of the introduction of electric vehicle charging points into Town Council car parks – update

Further to Minute No. 6) a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 14th October 2015, it was reported that the Finance Officer had now spoken to Poole Borough Council regarding electric vehicle charging points and a possible partnership. A 'rapid charger' machine would cost £50,000, plus fitting/electricity mains supply charges, and as there was currently no grant funding available for such a partnership project, it was considered too expensive for the Town Council to pursue at this time. There was a cheaper option available, however, these machines were slower, less convenient, and more expensive for the user.

A discussion ensued and comments were again made about the possible future increase in sales of electric vehicles, and the lack of charging points in the Purbeck area. It was felt that electric vehicle manufacturer input was required to assist discussions as there could be many variables, e.g. types of vehicles, charging points and adaptors, and that further advice should be taken before making a decision.

It was therefore agreed that Councillor Poultney would make contact with the Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders to seek advice and discuss options available, and report findings back for further discussion by the Committee at its next meeting in May 2016.

b) Consideration of overnight parking facilities for motorhomes and campervans

Further to Minute No. 3) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 11th November 2015, consideration was again given to a request received for overnight parking facilities for motorhomes and campervans in the town.

A debate ensued and, further to Minute No. 7) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 21st January 2015, Members reiterated the previous concerns raised by the Committee. It was considered that ample facilities were available at local camping and caravan sites. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Trite and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That no further action be taken with this request.

6) Public Transport Matters

a) Durlston bus service – update

Further to Minute No. 4) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 11th November 2015, it was reported by the Head Ranger, Durlston Country Park, that the bus company would be willing to run the bus service again in 2016, from May to September, 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., subject to funding being available. The bus would follow the same route as last year, however, the company would be willing to consider a circular route, running the service via Swanage Hospital, if the previous turning difficulties experienced by the bus at the Queens Road/Bon Accord Road junction, due to parked vehicles on double yellow lines, could be overcome.

During the ensuing discussion comments were made that local residents should be made aware of these difficulties, as it was felt that ultimately the town was at risk of losing this valuable service altogether. Suggestions made included education through Swanage Matters newsletter, a flyer with hospital appointment cards, the League of Friends, local press, placing of traffic cones, consideration of a hatched area, and Enforcement Officer patrols of the area.

The Head Ranger therefore agreed to contact the bus company to enquire whether they would consider a trial of a circular route if the parking issues could be alleviated. The outcome of these discussions would be considered further at the next meeting of the Committee in May 2016.

It was noted that Durlston Country Park and Seventh Wave Restaurant would be providing financial assistance towards the 2016 service.

7) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Dorset Highways Councillors Satisfaction Survey Results 2015 – the 2015 survey results were circulated for information purposes. 65.5% of Councillors who had responded were satisfied (very or fairly) and 19.9% were dissatisfied (very or fairly), which was reported to be a slight improvement over the last three years. During the ensuing discussion Members raised concerns regarding the present poor condition of roads and pavements in the town, and it was felt that repairs and improvements remained a priority. Comments were made that it had been disappointing to note that a number of items included in the survey were considered to be of relatively minor importance.

b) Dorset County Council Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme – it was reported that, after a comprehensive review, DCC would be reducing the number of sites it would be deploying SID units using a ‘ranking’ system. Two existing SID sites in Studland would no longer be covered by DCC with effect from 1st April 2016. There was a policy in place whereby Town and Parish Councils could purchase their own SIDs under DCC management, and details

of the 'Community Owned SID Deployment Programme' had been provided. After a brief discussion it was agreed that no further action would be taken.

8) Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2016. However, Members confirmed that they still wanted meetings to be held on a Wednesday at 2.15 p.m.

Miss K Black, PC K Hickman and PCSO I Leslie left the meeting at 3.40 p.m.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under Standing Order No. 1) c), in the public interest, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under agenda item 9) (regarding staffing and contractual matters).

9) Car park management – review of Swanage Town Council's Parking Order and potential move to enforcement under the Traffic Management Act 2004 – Parking Associates Ltd Report

Further to Minute 9) of the meeting of the Transport Committee held on 11th November 2015, consideration was given to the Review of Town Council Car Parks carried out by Parking Associates Ltd.

The potential strengths and weaknesses of a joined-up enforcement service to cover both on and off street parking arrangements were noted, although the importance of maintaining local control over parking policy was highlighted.

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

That the Town Council proceed with discussions with Dorset County Council Parking Services (DCC) to further explore potential future operation of the Town Council car parks under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the delegation of enforcement duties to DCC.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.
