

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **WEDNESDAY 12th OCTOBER 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 A Lejeune

Swanage Town Council

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Poultney

Swanage Town Council - from 2.25 p.m.

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

PCSO I Leslie

Dorset Police

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Management Support Officer

Public Participation Time

There were eight members of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns raised regarding problems experienced with overnight and long-term parking of campervans/motorhomes in Gilbert Road, and a request made for the consideration of parking restrictions to be implemented. Photographs were also provided to Committee Members.
- Comments made that similar issues with campervans/motorhomes were also being experienced in other nearby roads.
- A request made for the damaged/missing road signs in Gilbert Road to be repaired/replaced.
- Comments made that Gilbert Road residents did not wish to see parking banned in this area altogether, nor the introduction of parking meters, which was considered to be of particular importance to local employees and railway volunteers.
- A query raised regarding DCC's proposals for enhancements/improvements to Shore Road and Institute Road, and whether the revised plans would be available for public viewing prior to the planned public drop-in event.

Councillor Poultney joined the meeting at 2.25 p.m.

1) Apologies

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

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, and requests for Grants of Dispensations in respect of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Agenda Item No. 4 c) – Councillor Bishop declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being the owner of a property in Gilbert Road, and would not take part in any decision or vote regarding this item.

There were no other declarations to record on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 1st June 2016

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

An update was requested on actions taken to date. As per Minute No. 36. of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 27th June 2016, approval had been given to the Committee’s recommendation to explore what steps could be taken to introduce traffic calming measures in Cow Lane. It was confirmed that legal advice had been taken as there had been a query over the Town Council’s legal powers to introduce such measures in respect of unadopted highways, discussions were ongoing, and the Council would be liaising with the County Council to formulate proposals for further consideration at a future meeting.

4) Dorset County Council - Highway Matters

a) Updates from previous meetings

i) Shore Road and Institute Road – potential enhancements and related matters

Further to Minute No. 4 a) i) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 1st June 2016, it was reported that Dorset County Council (DCC) Transport Planners would be hosting a further public drop-in event at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Swanage, on Wednesday 30th November 2016, at 6.00 p.m. Town Councillors would also be in attendance.

As a result of the previous drop-in event held on 21st June 2016, and having listened to concerns raised, revised scheme proposals for Shore Road, and draft proposals for improvements to Institute Road, were being drawn up. It was considered unlikely that the revised plans would be available before 30th November.

The event would give local residents the opportunity to review the revised plans, ask questions, and raise any concerns regarding the proposals, prior to a formal public consultation proposed for early 2017. The event would be widely publicised in the local press, on the Town Council’s website, and via social media and local community groups/organisations. If members of the public had any questions, or required any further information, contact was to be made with Mr Kevin Humphreys, Transport Planner, DCC, by Tel: 01305 221000, or via Email to: ltt@dorsetcc.gov.uk.

It was noted that the proposals for Institute Road were part of a two-phased approach to improvements, the first phase being the footway improvements and highway resurfacing works planned during October 2016.

b) Highway resurfacing schedule – autumn 2016

A copy of DCC’s schedule for the planned resurfacing of roads in Swanage during October and November 2016 was provided to Committee Members for information purposes. It was reported that this information would also be widely publicised.

Committee Members welcomed the improvements being made, however, concerns were raised regarding the number of overnight road closures/potential noise nuisance, and whether residents had been advised by letter of the possible impact of these works, whether the temporary reversal of traffic flow in Church Hill would be advertised, and whether Swanage Primary School and Swanage

Hospital had been made aware of the daytime road closures in their areas from 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. between 14th and 18th November. It was confirmed that officers would contact DCC for affirmation that these actions had been/would be taken.

It was noted that Town Councillors had recently undertaken a 'walkabout' in the town with DCC's Head of Highways, and a further schedule of resurfacing works was planned for 2017.

Further to his declaration of interest under Minute No. 2), Councillor Bishop remained in the room during consideration of the following item, but did not take part in any decision or vote.

c) Gilbert Road – consideration of parking restrictions

Further to Minute No. 8) a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 1st June 2016, consideration was given to a number of requests received for parking restrictions to be implemented in Gilbert Road for campervans and motorhomes. Concerns had been raised regarding problems experienced with overnight and long-stay parking of these vehicles, which included:

- The emptying of fluids/effluent onto the road/pavement – which was a criminal offence
- An increase in litter and bags of waste being left behind on the grass verge – exacerbated by the lack of litter bins in this area
- Motorhomes obscuring one-way signage and vehicles seen turning the wrong way into Rempstone Road
- Vandalised/missing signs and signposts
- Passing problems experienced by coaches (after leaving the 'dropping-off' zone)

A discussion ensued during which comments were made that, at present, there were no restrictions in this part of the road, and that this season had seen an increase in the number of motorhomes parking overnight/long-term, particularly during festivals/events. It was noted that one had been in situ for over four weeks, and was still there. Committee Members felt that this was unacceptable as there were ample facilities available at local camping and caravan sites.

Members agreed that this was a useful road for local residents/employees, and that they would not wish to see the introduction of parking meters. It was felt that consideration should be given to 'cars and motorcycles only, no overnight camping/sleeping'. However, Members felt that further research needed to be undertaken before a formal recommendation could be made, and advice and guidance would also be sought from DCC. During the discussion concerns were raised regarding parking for local tradesmen, however, it was confirmed that tradesmen could obtain temporary parking 'permits' whilst undertaking work in 'restricted' roads. It was therefore AGREED:

That further research be undertaken by officers regarding this matter, the outcome of which to be considered further at the next Transport Committee Meeting being held on 16th November 2016.

The divisional County Councillor also agreed to make representations to DCC, and the Operations Manager would contact DCC regarding replacement of the damaged/missing signage.

d) Victoria Avenue/Rabling Road Service Road and Northbrook Road – consideration of parking restrictions

Consideration was given to a request received for parking restrictions to be introduced in Victoria Avenue/Rabling Road Service Road. Concerns had been raised regarding indiscriminate parking in the service road by cars and motorhomes, and on the double yellow lines (DYLs) in Northbrook Road close to/at the entrance to the service road by Blue Badge holders, motorhomes and vans. At times, local residents had been unable to get their cars out of their own drives/parking spaces, and had experienced difficulties with visibility when leaving the service road. It was reported that service vehicles had also been unable to access the service road.

A discussion ensued and comments were made that numerous similar requests/concerns had been raised regarding various roads around the town, particularly the indiscriminate parking on double yellow lines (DYLs) at road junctions. It was confirmed by the Dorset Police representative that the Highway Code stated ‘Do not stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space’, and that Blue Badge holders could not park on DYLs if it caused an obstruction/was dangerous to do so. Members felt the most appropriate solution was to educate drivers, and that enforcement activities were vital in the interests of safety, and should reduce instances of indiscriminate/illegal parking in future.

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

That letters be sent to Dorset Police and Dorset County Council highlighting the concerns raised by members of the public regarding the illegal/indiscriminate parking seen in the town, making them aware of the particular areas of concern, and requesting that appropriate action be taken.

e) Locarno Road – consideration of traffic calming measures

Consideration was given to a request received for traffic calming measures to be introduced in Locarno Road/Blouchers Lane. It was reported that concerns had been raised regarding turning and speeding in this area, and that a resident’s garage door had recently been damaged by a vehicle. These concerns had also been raised with Dorset County Council (DCC), and copies of the correspondence, and photographs of the damaged door, had been provided to Committee Members for information.

A discussion ensued and a number of comments/observations were made, which included:

- The Committee Chairman had undertaken a site visit to review the area
- Blouchers Lane was a footpath – historically part of Priests Way, adoption of which was in question
- The damage to the garage door was noted and discussed, however, the Dorset Police representative confirmed that any non-injury accident was usually dealt with by insurance companies
- It was felt that it would cause more problems if cars were unable to turn around and had to back down the road towards the right-angled bend
- It would cause problems for residents of Locarno Road who turned to park outside their homes
- Dorset Police would not be able to install a speed camera in this road
- Committee Members felt that it would be very difficult to speed in this location, and were not aware of high traffic volumes

- It was further felt that the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit was not appropriate - it was a cul-de-sac
- Comments made that visitors to the nearby shops usually only parked in the first section of Locarno Road, and that the dance school traffic parked in Church Hill now when dropping off/picking up students

The Committee therefore wished it to be noted that the request had been appropriately reviewed and discussed, but felt that no further action could be taken by the Town Council, and that this was a matter for DCC as Highways Authority. It was noted that the residents' comments had already been passed to the Highways Road Safety Team and Collision Reduction Officers for investigation, and that it would be prudent for the resident to contact DCC Officers for the outcome of their research. It was possible that DCC could consider 'access only' in this location if it was deemed appropriate.

f) Traffic congestion on the A351

Consideration was given to concerns raised regarding the increase in traffic congestion seen on the A351, in low and high seasons, the potential impact of future proposed housing development in the local area, and the reduction in public transport services.

A discussion ensued and it was agreed that from time to time such problems were unfortunately a feature of popular holiday destinations/a seaside resort in a peninsular location, and reference was made to the much worse traffic congestion difficulties faced by drivers/commuters in other areas of the UK.

It was reported that DCC's Transport Planning Team had been working closely with District Council Planners on their residential development proposals. Committee Members therefore wished it to be noted that this matter had been appropriately reviewed and discussed, but that no further action could be taken by the Town Council.

A reminder was given about the impending refit of the Sandbanks Ferry. The ferry would be withdrawn from service after the 8.00 p.m. crossing on Sunday 6th November 2016 for a period of two to three weeks. Updates would be given via the ferry website: <http://www.sandbanksferry.co.uk/news.php>

5) Car Parks

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

Further to Minute No. 6 a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 1st June 2016, further research had been undertaken by Committee Members.

It was reported that there were no grants available at the present time, and details of charging points supplied by a company called Chargemaster plc were provided. A discussion ensued, during which comments were again made that there were no charging points in the Purbeck area, the nearest points being in Poole, and that by 2020 it was possible that one in ten vehicles would be able to be powered by electric. It was noted that the chargers were cheaper than options previously presented to the Committee, and users used a card to activate the chargers (similar to an Oyster card) which was subscription based. However, concerns were raised which included the possible installation costs of a three phase electricity supply, the potential loss of car parking spaces, what the ongoing/operational costs to the Town Council would be, and whether users would be charged.

Committee Members were in agreement that further investigation needed to be undertaken regarding the costs and options available, and that the District

Council should be included in any discussions. It was further agreed that a working party should be formed to undertake this research, and that a meeting should also be arranged with Chargemaster's local Business Development Manager. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Morris and AGREED:

That a Working Party be appointed, consisting of Councillor Morris, and the Town Council's General Operations Manager and Finance Officer, to undertake further research into the Chargemaster charging points and present their findings to the next Transport Committee Meeting being held on 16th November 2016.

6) Public Transport Matters

a) Public and School Transport Review – results of the consultation

Further to Minute No. 7 b) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 1st June 2016, and Minute No. 5 a) of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on 4th July 2016, a copy of the results of the consultation had been circulated to Committee Members for information purposes. It was reported that, due to reduced central government funding, the County Council needed to reduce the public transport subsidy by £1m, and the cost of school transport services by £850k. A different approach to both public and schools transport was essential to meet the savings targets required, which included the proposal to open school services to the general public, and needed to be in place by 2017/18.

Committee Members had reviewed and noted the contents of the report accordingly. Concerns were raised regarding the potential increase in adult social care costs in the future, and the possible increased demand for public transport.

7) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Town Council car park charges - budget setting for 2017/18 – a request was made for the consideration of a flat fee for overnight parking in Town Council car parks. Concerns had been raised that from 1st April to 31st October residents permit holders had to pay £1.50 for three hours in Horsecliffe Lane, from 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m., then free overnight until 8.00 a.m., but were able to park for £1 overnight in Broad Road from 6.00 p.m.

8) Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been scheduled for: Scale of Charges Meeting Wednesday 16th November 2016 at 2.15 p.m., and next full Committee Meeting Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.
