

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT
COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on
WEDNESDAY 1st JUNE 2016 at 2.15 p.m.

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor G Green

Swanage Town Council

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Councillor G Suttle

Swanage Town Council

(Until 2.45 p.m.)

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Management Support Officer

Public Participation Time

There were eleven 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 a query raised as to where traffic would be routed if Shore Road became one-way.
- Comments made regarding possible traffic congestion if Shore Road remained two-way, the promenade was made wider, and the parking meters remained in situ, and whether consideration could be given to 'no parking' along Shore Road from May to September each year, or whether 'passing places' could be introduced at intervals along the road.
- Reference made to a planning application that had been submitted relating to operations at Southard Quarry, Swanage, which, if approved, could increase HGV traffic in Panorama Road. Clarification requested as to which part of Cow Lane was owned by the Town Council.
- Concerns raised regarding the increase in holiday traffic, and vehicle speed, in Cow Lane.
- Reference made to the Town Council's Standing Orders regarding Public Participation Time, which were considered to be restrictive.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bishop, Lejeune, Poultney and Trite, and PC K Hickman (Dorset Police).

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.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 10th February 2016

4) Dorset County Council - Highway Matters

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

A query was raised as to whether a reply had been received from Dorset County Council (DCC) in relation to the Committee’s request for assurance that the replacement of natural stone paving slabs would be carried out in conservation areas. It was reported that, in view of the limited DCC budgets available, DCC’s current policy of removing damaged slabs and replacing them with bituminous materials applied to all repairs, regardless of whether the paving slabs were in a conservation area or not. However, if the damaged area in a conservation area was sizeable, then DCC would consider replacing them like for like.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the divisional County Councillor, who could make representations to the County Council.

4) Dorset County Council - Highway Matters

a) Updates from previous meetings

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

It was reported that a public consultation was being held on the Purbeck District Local Plan, Partial Review, which would commence on 9th June 2016 and run until 12th August 2016. A ‘drop-in’ event will be held in Swanage at the Emmanuel Baptist Church on Tuesday 21st June 2016 from 2.00 p.m. until 8.00 p.m., and DCC Transport Planners would also be in attendance, from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Officers/Planners would be seeking public feedback on draft proposals for changes to Shore Road and Institute Road.

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

It was reported that the new school warning sign was in place and appeared to be working well. The sign was illuminated at set times (to cover morning and afternoon school runs, pre-school change over, and after-school clubs), and a ‘30’ warning flashed when triggered by a speeding vehicle outside of these times.

It was confirmed that consideration was still being given to the extension of the 30 mph speed limit zone by DCC, from St Mark’s School entrance to Coombe Corner. This matter would be followed up and reported back to a future meeting.

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

Further to Minute No. 7) c) i) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 22nd October 2014, concerns had again been raised by local residents regarding the increase in traffic, size and speed of vehicles using Cow Lane. A request had been made for the consideration of traffic calming measures on the Town-Council-owned part of the lane.

It was confirmed that the Town Council owned the part of the lane from its junction with the High Street, up to the entrance to Newton Grange Close. A discussion ensued, and Members were in agreement that action needed to be taken. Suggestions included:

- Installation of speed bumps
- Limiting the size of vehicle/load permitted

- Installation of bollards to close off the lane (at its junction with the DCC owned part of the lane)
- To make the Town Council's part of the lane one-way
- To lobby DCC again to consider introducing traffic calming measures on the DCC-owned part of the lane
- To find out whether it would be possible for the Town Council to install suitable new signage on the DCC owned part of the lane.

It was reported that the Town Council would need to look into the legalities of introducing such measures in respect of unadopted highways, and it was understood that any measures implemented would be on an 'advisory' basis only.

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

TO RECOMMEND:

That, subject to confirmation of the Council's legal powers and an assessment of costs, approval be given to the introduction of traffic calming measures on the Town-Council-owned section of Cow Lane, including the installation of speed bumps and new signage, a reduction in speed limit to 20 mph, and the introduction of an appropriate vehicular weight limit (e.g. 7.5 tonnes).

It was further **AGREED:**

That a letter be sent to Dorset County Council Highways requesting that consideration be given to the introduction of further traffic calming measures, and the possible installation of new signage by the Town Council, on the County-Council owned section of Cow Lane.

Councillor Suttle left the meeting at 2.45 p.m.

6) Car Parks

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

Further to Minute No. 5)a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 10th February 2016, it was reported that information had been sought from the Transport Policy Manager, Borough of Poole, regarding funding opportunities for EV chargers.

A brief overview was given of an email received which gave information regarding potential funding from the Coastal Communities Fund. It was reported that the current funding round would close on 30th June 2016, which did not give the Town Council sufficient time to put a business case together to submit a bid. It was possible that an application could be lodged in the next round of funding in 2017.

Committee members felt that this item should be included on the agenda of the next Committee Meeting, in October 2016. It was agreed that thorough investigation needed to be undertaken in preparation for the next round of funding. It was noted that further thought needed to be given to which Council car park should host the EV chargers, and infrastructure. It was reported that grant funding may also be available from SSE plc.

b) Broad Road Car Park – consideration of parking permits for local residents

An overview was given of an email received requesting the consideration of parking permits for local residents in Broad Road car park, for either year-round parking, or for overnight parking from 4.30 p.m. to 9.00 a.m.

A discussion ensued and it was felt that such facilities already existed in the town, albeit in a different format, and the following observations were noted:

- 4.30 p.m. considered too early, and 9.00 a.m. too late
- During winter months the car park was free for 24 hours for residents' permit holders
- It currently costs only £1 to park overnight from 6.00 p.m. until 8.00 a.m. – and by paying a further £1 you could park until 9.00 a.m.
- At £1 per night for seven months it would cost £214 – an annual permit would cost a similar amount – and it would make sense to pay £1 per night when you needed to, rather than purchase an annual permit which holders may not use every day
- Broad Road car park was the Town Council's busiest car park in the summer months, with spaces limited in the early evening, and was not considered big enough to accommodate permit parking
- There was a large number of streets/houses/flats in the immediate area, and residents who had annual permits for Main Beach car park had also previously intimated that they would like to be able to use Broad Road car park.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that officers would look into the response to a previous similar request, and report back to a future meeting if appropriate.

7) Public Transport Matters

a) Durlston bus service – update

Further to Minute No. 6) a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 10th February 2016, an email had been received from the Head Ranger, Durlston Country Park, and circulated to Committee Members with the agenda for information purposes. The email advised that, for various reasons, the bus company had decided not to change the route of the service this year, and had advised 'the benefits of stability in retaining a tried and trusted timetable over multiple consecutive years'. The Head Ranger would now look to secure funding to run the service as per last year's timetable.

b) Rural Bus Services Review – outcome

As a result of DCC's Rural Bus Service Review, a number of services were changing. Details of the withdrawn, altered and new services were provided, and details of the Dorset Community Transport Scheme/Directory were given.

It was reported that, due to funding reductions, DCC needed to save £1.85m from transport services next year, and there would therefore be a further public consultation on public and school bus services. The consultation would be discussed at the July meeting of the Town Council's Planning and Consultation Committee. The closing date for comments was 22nd July 2016.

c) Morebus – bus service changes

Details of Morebus bus service changes had been received from the bus company and circulated to Committee Members with the agenda paperwork for

information purposes.

It was noted that the Durlston bus would run until 24th September this year, amendments had been made to the 40 and 50 services, and the Swanage to Weymouth summer service would be called Breezer 30. The Purbeck Transport Action Group slogan ‘use it or lose it’ was reiterated.

8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- a) **Gilbert Road** – a request was made for the consideration of parking restrictions to be implemented in Gilbert Road for campervans/motorhomes, to be included on the agenda of the next Committee Meeting in October 2016. Concerns had been raised by local residents regarding problems experienced with the overnight and long-stay parking of these vehicles, and the emptying of effluent, in Gilbert Road, and a further request was made that these concerns should also be brought to the attention of the County and District Councils.
- b) **Shore Road** – it was reported that a comments slip had been handed in at the Monthly Council Meeting held on 27th May 2016 regarding cyclists riding their bicycles on the closed, pedestrian only, section of Shore Road. It was felt that signage could be improved, and more effective enforcement action taken. In a recent incident a pedestrian had been knocked down by a cyclist, and this had been publicised by a local resident on social media. It was reported that the Town Council would be recruiting two further seasonal Enforcement Officers this year.

8) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 12th October 2016 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.
