

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017** 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 G Green

Swanage Town Council

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Management Support Officer

### **Public Participation Time**

There were six members of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Reference made to the recent DCC public drop in event, and the draft proposals for potential enhancements to Shore Road and De Moulham Road.
- Concerns raised regarding the number of possible ‘pinch points’ to be installed in Shore Road, and traffic generation/highway safety in De Moulham Road if the parking meters were moved from Shore Road to De Moulham Road.
- Concerns again raised regarding problems experienced with overnight and long-term parking of campervans/motorhomes in Gilbert Road, which had continued.
- Concerns raised regarding the redevelopment of the old Grammar School site, and the impact on traffic generation and highway safety in Northbrook Road. Comments made that the planning applications should be considered in conjunction with DCC’s draft proposals for potential enhancements to infrastructure in the town.
- Durlston Country Park’s ‘Parks for People’ Heritage Lottery Funding Bid, and potential plans for a community transport plan/seasonal shuttle bus to/from the park.

#### **1) Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Lejeune, and Mr M Green, 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 No. 4 b)** – Councillor Bishop declared an interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of having an interest in a nearby property, and would not take part in any decision or vote regarding this item.

**Agenda Item No. 4 b)** – Councillor Green declared an interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of having an interest in a nearby property, 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 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

There were no matters raised.

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

**a) Strategic issues – traffic flow and Swanage Local Plan**

**i) DCC public drop in event, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Swanage, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – update**

It was reported that the public drop in event had been well attended and, in view of the large number of attendees, the format of the event had been a more formal presentation of the draft proposals for Shore Road, Institute Road, and Northbrook Road, by the DCC Transport Planners, followed by an informative question and answer session.

Following on from the event, updates had been received from the Project Engineer as follows:

- Institute Road improvements – the design had been refined (HSBC Bank had now closed, and a loading bay was no longer required for security vehicles), details of the revised proposals would be available within the next few weeks. Further public consultation would follow.
- Coombe Corner – the design brief for the A352/B3069 junction improvements and pedestrian refuge had been drawn up, however, further research needed to be undertaken to ensure that the proposed changes did not impact on any major buried services.
- Northbrook Road cycleway, and Shore Road enhancements – further design work had been programmed for 2017/18.

A discussion was held regarding the Shore Road proposals. Committee Members raised concerns regarding the proposed number of ‘pinch points’, which was considered to be excessive, and felt that these would discourage drivers from using the road, pushing the traffic to other nearby roads. Members were in agreement that it would be important to retain the free-flow of traffic in Shore Road, and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by Councillor Whitwam and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That the Committee’s comments regarding the proposed number of ‘pinch points’, and importance of retaining free-flow of traffic, in Shore Road be brought to the attention of the DCC Transport Planners and Project Engineer accordingly.

A further question was raised as to whether DCC was still considering the request for the reduction in the speed limit from 40 to 30 mph as part of the Coombe Corner proposals, and this query would be followed up by officers accordingly. Concerns were also raised regarding the increased spend on new cycleways when the existing condition of many roads in the county was considered to be poor.

**b) Updates from previous meetings**

Further to their declarations of interest under Minute No. 2), Councillors

Bishop and Green remained in the room during consideration of the following item but did not take part in any decision or vote.

**i) Gilbert Road – consideration of parking restrictions/signage**

Further to Minute No. 4) a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the new Town Council advisory signage had been manufactured, and a copy of the design had been provided to Committee Members for information purposes.

A brief discussion ensued, during which comments were made that the signage could have been worded in a firmer manner, and been designed to more closely resemble official highway signage. However, it was noted that guidance had been sought from DCC's Regulation Team and advice had been received that the wording should not be perceived as being 'intimidatory', or undermine any legal signage. Members therefore agreed that a review of the wording should only be undertaken if the signs did not deter this type of vehicle from parking, and that the Town Council should continue to lobby DCC to review its parking order and consider the introduction of parking restrictions in Gilbert Road.

A question was raised as to whether any potential changes to Gilbert Road should be considered as part of DCC's proposals for enhancements to Shore Road.

**ii) Gilbert Road Service Road – junction with Rempstone Road improvement**

It was reported that the Senior Technical Officer, Dorset Highways Regulation Team, had confirmed that the request for safety improvements would be included in the 2017/18 programme of proposed Traffic Regulation Orders. However, once the legal process was underway the changes to the existing restrictions/making of new restrictions would be advertised, and any comments or objections received would need to be considered at that time.

A query was raised regarding the confusing dropped kerb in Rempstone Road which had previously been reported to DCC. The dropped kerb was still in situ and motorists continued to receive parking tickets. A request was therefore made for officers to chase this matter, and also make contact with the Head of Parking Services, to alert DCC Enforcement Officers of this anomaly. County Councillor Trite also agreed to make representations to DCC on behalf of the Committee accordingly.

**c) DCC Capital Highway Maintenance Programme (CHMP) - Capital Schemes Proposed 2017/18**

A copy of DCC's map detailing the CHMP for 2017/18 was provided to Committee Members for their information/review.

Members welcomed the proposed improvements/highway resurfacing works, however, queries were raised regarding Taunton Road, as the top part of the road was an unmade track but had been highlighted for resurfacing, and whether Kings Road West and Princess Road would be included in the schedule of works as previously planned. A further question was raised as to when the works would be undertaken. Officers would make contact with DCC accordingly.

**5) Car Parks**

**a) Proposed installation of electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) – update**

It was reported that the budget for EVCPs had been approved for 2017/18,

and potential parking spaces had been identified to accommodate the new posts. Committee Members were keen to complete installation prior to the summer season 2017.

**b) Establishment of working party to consider:**

**i) Car park charges - consideration of review of tariffs**

**ii) Car park ticket machines - consideration of the procurement of new machines**

Consideration was given to the establishment of a working party to review the structure of the Town Council's car park charges, and to explore options for the procurement of new ticket machines.

A brief discussion ensued, during which Members agreed that if new machines were to be installed, charges should be reviewed at the same time, and that it would be particularly important to consider the financial risk of any proposed amendments to the charging tariff. Reference was made to a nearby local authority who now charged a flat rate of £1.00 per hour in its car parks.

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

That a Working Party be appointed from members of the Transport Committee, consisting of Councillors Poultney, Bonfield, Whitwam and Bishop, to undertake a review of the Town Council's car park charges, and to explore options for the procurement of new ticket machines, and present their findings to a future Committee Meeting.

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

Details of the following temporary road closures were provided to Committee Members for information purposes, and would also be posted on the Town Council's website and noticeboard.

**a) A351 East Street, Corfe Castle - proposed Temporary Traffic Regulation Order between Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

It was reported that resurfacing works would be undertaken by DCC between the hours of 7.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. daily.

**b) Victoria Avenue, Swanage, between its junctions with De Moulham Road and Shore Road – proposed temporary road closure between Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017**

It was reported that the Environment Agency would be surveying and cleaning their cover lids and culverts within the highway, and the road closure was necessary for safety reasons.

**c) A351 Sandford Bridge Roundabout to Sandford Road junction, Sandford – proposed temporary road closure between Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

It was reported that resurfacing works would be undertaken by DCC between the hours of 7.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. daily.

**7) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting, planned for June 2017, would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.