

Minutes of the Meeting of the **CAR PARKS**
BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP held at the
Town Hall on **Wednesday, 20th September 2006** at **2.15 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor G.M. Suttle – Chairman (until 4.15 p.m.)
Councillor C. Bright
Councillor Mrs J. Farrow
Councillor M. Hadley
Councillor M. Tyrer

Also in attendance:-

Mr A. Leeson	Town Clerk
Dr M. Ayres	Assistant Town Clerk
Mrs A. Holmes	Tourist Information Centre Manager
Mrs S. Gutteridge	Swanage and Purbeck Holiday Accommodation Association
Ms B. Wallis	Dorset County Council (until 4.15 p.m.)
Mr T. Mackle	Dorset County Council (from 2.35 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.)

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for his inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr P. Brown of the Chamber of Trade.

2) **Traffic Management Issues**

a) **Seafront Scheme**

The Town Mayor set out proposals for the enhancement of Swanage seafront. The two key traffic management issues arising from this were the possible stopping up of the A351 Victoria Avenue, east of its junction with De Moulham Road and Horsecliffe Lane, and the closure of the entire length of Shore Road during the summer season. The proposals included Shore Road being reopened to traffic during the winter, one-way southbound.

Some concern was expressed over a number of issues, including access to Ocean Bay, the possibility that such a scheme would increase the problem of parking for local business people and their staff, and the increase in traffic along De Moulham Road.

Mr T. Mackle entered the meeting at 2.35 p.m.

Further concerns were aired over the effects of the closure of Shore Road on the ability of those with mobility impairment to be driven to the sea front to enjoy the view.

Strong support was voiced for the complete closure of the southern section of Shore Road, between the junction with Victoria Avenue and the Mowlem Theatre, during the summer season. A desire was expressed to put this in place for 2007. The possibility of introducing the closure of the eastern end of Victoria Avenue and Shore Road on an experimental basis was noted

with interest as this could provide for the scheme to be implemented more quickly and if it led to widespread objections, discontinued.

After further discussion the Town Mayor agreed to prepare further details on a number of potential options to bring before the next meeting of the Working Group.

b) Horsecliffe Lane

The Town Clerk noted that, following earlier consultation with the Town Council, Dorset County Council were progressing the making of Horsecliffe Lane one-way northbound. The Town Mayor noted that a cul-de-sac sign was also being erected, together with a notice stating 'No access to public car park'.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Tyrer and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Town Council supports the making of Horsecliffe Lane one-way northbound.

c) Loading Bay

It was agreed that this issue was entirely related to the enforcement of existing traffic regulations, discussed under item 3) below.

d) Reversal of Church Hill

The Town Mayor summarised the background to this proposal and the mixed nature of the feedback received by the Town Council. During discussion an alternative proposal was made to increase access to the southern half of Swanage by reversing the flow of traffic along the High Street from Court Hill, eastwards to the library.

After further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs Farrow and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Town Council take no further action in relation to Church Hill, but that it should consider more detailed proposals concerning the reversal of the traffic flow along the High Street between Court Hill and the library, to be drawn up by the Town Mayor.

3) Enforcement – Review of Services

Further to a meeting held between the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and officers from Swanage Town Council and Dorset County Council on 28th July 2006, the Town Mayor set out proposals for the future of car parking enforcement in Swanage. It was noted that the only way in which Dorset County Council could provide increased enforcement in Swanage would be if it could take over the enforcement of off-street parking from the Town Council. Under such a proposal the Town Council would retain the income from car parking, but would not receive the fines from excess charge tickets.

It was stressed that there should be no deterioration in the current level of service provided by the Town Council's employees in patrolling the car parks and maintaining the ticket machines. It was also hoped that on-street parking regulations would be enforced for the hours in which they are currently in place. It was hoped that local people could be employed as enforcement officers to

ensure that regulations were enforced with the background of extensive local knowledge.

The County Council officers stated that service level agreements in relation to off-street parking already exist with North Dorset and Purbeck District Councils. After further discussion it was AGREED:

That the Town Clerk will draw up the criteria that the Town Council would wish to see in a service level agreement and forward to Dorset County Council.

Prior to discussion of the following items the Town Mayor declared a personal interest by means of being an owner of a camper van, but remained in the meeting during the discussion.

4) Motor Homes and Campervans

a) Traffic Regulation Order

The Town Mayor stated that the introduction of restrictions on the parking of all types of motor homes and commercial vehicles on a number of streets in Swanage had proved unpopular. It was noted that the Town Council had only ever wanted to end the practice of overnight sleeping and cooking on these roads, and not deter visitors to the town who own motor homes. Ms Wallis stressed the difficulty of enforcing such detailed regulations.

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tyrer and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Dorset County Council be requested to revoke the Traffic Regulation Order restricting the parking of vans on a number of streets in Swanage.

Mr Mackle stated that if no objections were received then the order could be revoked before Easter 2007. It was agreed that the road markings indicating parking bays should remain in place.

b) Provision of off-street facilities

It was suggested that a number of car parking spaces could be allocated as stop-over points for motor homes and camper vans, to help prevent on-street parking. The Clerk noted that this would require an alteration to the off-street car parking order. The Town Mayor stressed that owners would be restricted to a one-night stop over and that there should be no alternation between different car parks. It was recommended that camper vans be enabled to use a number of spaces currently allocated for coaches. It was AGREED:

That further information should be attained in relation to charges and other implications, and brought before a future meeting of the Working Group.

5) Parking Permits

a) Provision of summer season permits in Main Beach Car Park

The Town Mayor stated that residents and others commuting to the town centre for work had great difficulty in parking their vehicles during the summer months. It was suggested that the Town Council could offer a number

of permits for Main Beach Car Park, as the overflow could be opened to increase the number of available spaces. It was noted that such permits should have a restriction stating 'no overnight parking'. After further discussion it was AGREED:

That the details of a summer permit scheme for business people and others working in the town be considered at a future meeting of the Working Group.

The Town Mayor, Ms B. Wallis and Mr T. Mackle left the meeting at 4.15 p.m.

It was proposed by Councillor Hadley, seconded by Councillor Mrs Farrow and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Councillor Bright assume the Chair.

Councillor Bright assumed the Chair.

b) Criteria for Residents' Car Park

It was reported that the existing documentation required to obtain a Residents' Car Park permit failed to link the ownership of the vehicle to the person making the application. It was, therefore, AGREED:

That applicants be requested to produce a vehicle registration document and Council Tax Bill to prove eligibility for a Residents' Car Park permit.

It was noted that those people with a company car may have difficulty in producing the vehicle registration document and that staff should be instructed to request alternative documentation where this was the case.

6. Car Parking Order 2006 Implementation – Update

The Town Clerk reported that all objections to the order had either been resolved or withdrawn and the Order will hopefully be in place by Christmas.

Some preference was expressed for future legal notices to be placed in the Swanage and Wareham Advertiser, rather than the Daily Echo.

7. Signage Review

Councillor Bright updated the meeting on his review of signage. He noted that it had been agreed that in future the car park regulations would be displayed on the sign boards and the ticket prices on the machines. Some concern was expressed over the cost of new signage and the Town Clerk reported that the income from car parks should meet the outlay required. It was AGREED:

That the Operations Manager be requested to cost up poles for the new signs and that the review should be extended to incorporate other areas, such as Peveril Point Road.

8. Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

A number of matters were raised for the Town Clerk to discuss with the representatives of Dorset County Council at their next officers' meeting. These

included the need for a pedestrian crossing on the High Street in the vicinity of the Anchor Inn, illegal parking at the bottom of Seymer Road and motorbikes being parked on the pavements.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 9.30 a.m. on Friday 13th October 2006.

The meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.