

Minutes of the Meeting of the CARPARKS
BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP held at the
Town Hall on Tuesday, 11th November 2003 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor A.H. Miller – Chair
Councillor C. Bright
Councillor Mrs J. Farrow
Councillor Mrs H. O'Donovan
Councillor M. Tyrer

Also in attendance:-

Mr A.J. Leeson Town Clerk
Mr G. Brookes Operations Manager

1) Apologies

There were no apologies reported for inability to attend the Meeting.

2) Review of the Minutes of the Meeting held 4th August 2003

With reference to minute 2a) it was noted that the possibility of creating a permanent kiosk on Broad Road should be stalled until the plans from the Sea Rowing Club have been finalised.

It was noted that with reference to Minute 2c) that the wording for the signage boards in the car parks has not yet been finalised. It was recognised that this could not be finalised until a decision had been made upon the purchase of new machines.

The Clerk reported that the Tourism Working Group had not met since the last Meeting of the Car Parks Review Working Group, therefore as requested in Minute 2f) the issue of improving the provision of visitor information at car parks had yet to be referred to this Group.

With reference to the short to medium action points in Minute 2, it was noted that the action points with reference to Peveril Point had not yet been actioned. It was recognised that the Working Group would not be able to move forward without the co-opting of a Peveril Point resident onto the Group.

ACTION: The Clerk will move to co-opt a resident of Peveril Point onto the Working Group.

The proposed demolition of the garage block was discussed. The Working Group recognised the need for a survey to be carried out on the road to assess the width for emergency vehicle access.

ACTION: The Operations Manager will arrange for a survey of Peveril Point Road to be carried out.

The issue of getting the best value out of the presently let garage was discussed. After a brief discussion:

It was AGREED:

That the Clerk writes to the tenant to inform them that a rental increase of 100% will be applied.

With reference to Minute 2c) short term to medium term action points, the Operations Manager outlined quotes that had been received from Metric. A machine to accept coins and credit cards was costed at £3470, and the Operations Manager stated that Metric had offered a discount on this machine, costing £2725 per machine. A note reader could be included for an additional £1357 per machine. It was noted that the note reader had not been recommended by Metric and the need for further maintenance costs if this is included was noted.

The Operations Manager reported that the machines would be on a GSM mobile phone connection and that these costs were included in the cost of the machine. It was noted that 3-5% of takings from credit cards plus the cost of liner rental would be received by the company. It was also noted that maintenance of the machines would be carried out by a separate company.

Councillor Bright suggested that the machines be consolidated, resulting in the need to purchase less machines. It was stated by the Clerk that at least two machines were required in each car park. It was mooted that two new machines be purchased for Broad Road, North Beach, Mermond and Main Beach car parks, with the Co-op financing the installation of the two machines in Central car park. The best of the older machines could be placed at the Residents car park, the disabled parking at Station Approach, the overflow car park in King George's Field and at the Boat Park.

A further discussion ensued as to the budget allocation for the replacement of the car park machines. It was noted that the budget allocation for the replacement of machines and new signage totalled £19,000; however the need for signage will decrease as the new machines have adequate signage on them. After a lengthy discussion:

It was AGREED:

That the Operations Manager obtains a quote for the purchase of six and ten machines from Metric.

It was reported that the introduction of the seasonal Enforcement Officer had been very successful, especially for the market days. A lengthy discussion arose as to the continued employment of a full-time seasonal Enforcement Officer. It was recognised that the peak days of need were Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday from April to September with an additional need being recognised during the peak months of July and August. After a lengthy debate:

It was AGREED:

That an Enforcement Officer be employed from April to September on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, with the post becoming full-time during the peak months of July and August. A further car park attendant should also be employed during July and August to cover Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

3) **Design and Layout Proposals – Main Beach and North Beach Car Parks**

The Chair reported that the layout of the car park at Main Beach car park had been agreed at the last meeting of the King George's Field, Swanage Charitable Trust. The Wetlands and Environmental Working Group expressed concern that the back line of the coach bays are not painted but that are marked with stones. It was therefore PROPOSED by Councillor Bright, SECONDED by Councillor Tyer and AGREED:

That the contractor undertake the remarking of Main Beach car park with the exception of the back line to the coach bays.

The Clerk reported problems encountered with the current positioning of the 12 Railway reserved spaces.

It was AGREED:

That the Railway reserved spaces are relocated by the cemetery wall.

The location of the recycling bins at North Beach was discussed. Councillor Tyrer questioned the non-acton of the repainting of the bins at this site. The Chair stated that PDC contractors have a programme underway to repaint these bins and that it would be completed as soon as they can do it. After further discussion and consideration of all other options:

It was AGREED:

That the recycling bins remain at their present location.

The issue of using North Beach car park as the sole car park for campervans was discussed. The possibility of consultation with local residents was raised by the Clerk. Members felt, however, that this should not be necessary as all other possible locations for campervans have been tried and with the size being no greater than the coaches that already use the car park, no further problems were foreseen. It was also noted that no overnight parking would be allowed in the car park. Therefore, after further discussion:

It was AGREED:

That the contractor undertake the remarking of North Beach car park and that the campervan spaces at Broad Road be burned off and be replaced with car bays.

The issue of the inadequate fencing surrounding the flats adjoining the car park was raised. After a brief discussion:

It was AGREED:

That the suggestion to plant a Leyland hedge as a more effective screen be actioned by the Operations Manager.

4) **Policy Review and Performance Monitoring**

It was reported that the visitor usage numbers were not accurate and therefore the policy was reviewed on income. It was noted that all car park expenditure had exceeded the estimated income, with the exception of the Resident's car park.

It was stated by the Clerk that 612 ECT's had been issued so far this year in comparison to 434 in 2002/03. It was also noted that 82% of the ECT's were paid or pending compared to 77% in 2002/03.

5) **Any Other Matters**

Councillor Tyrer questioned the effectiveness of the policing of parking restrictions in Station Approach. It was felt that this area was generally adequately policed. The need for the co-operation from the Health Centre was recognised.

Councillor Tyrer highlighted the perceived inadequate signage on Gilbert Road to inform drivers of coaches to switch off their engines and once passengers had been dropped off, to move onto Main Beach car park. Councillor Tyrer also questioned the adequacy of signage from Studland for directions for coach dropping off and parking.

ACTION: The Operations Manager will obtain the costing for adequate signs in Gilbert Road and that Dorset County Council be advised of the need for advance signs directing coaches entering Swanage from Studland.

The work by the TIC to inform coach companies of the regulations in the town was recognised. The need for better facilities for coach drivers at the car parks was highlighted

Councillor Tyre enquired as to the prohibiting of parking of coaches in Main Beach on market day. It was noted that if coaches are allowed to park in the winter that this may become habitual and create problems for the summer season on enforcement of this regulation. Upon further discussion:

It was AGREED:

That the issue would be taken forward to the next meeting of the Market Committee.

6) **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Meeting was set for Thursday 4th December 2003 at 2.00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

The Meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.
