

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **Wednesday 30th November 2010 at 2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor S. Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor B. Audley

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C. Bright

Swanage Town Council

Councillor M. Hadley

Swanage Town Council

Councillor Mrs A. Patrick

Swanage Town Council

Councillor W. Trite

Swanage Town Council

Councillor M. Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Dr M. Ayres

Town Clerk

Mrs C. Anstey

Administration Assistant

Mr G. Brookes

Operations Manager

Miss A. Spencer

Acting Finance Officer

Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1) Apologies

No apologies were received for inability to attend the Meeting.

2) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2011/12

Detailed and lengthy consideration was given to the scale of car parking charges for 2011/12. It was reported that income from car parking was the largest single source of revenue for Swanage Town Council and was vitally important in funding the services provided for both residents and visitors to the town, including public conveniences, parks and gardens, the main beach and tourist information centre. The impact of VAT increasing from 17.5 to 20 per cent from 4th January 2011 was highlighted, and the possibility of amending the tariff structure, increasing summer and/or winter charges and lengthening the summer season were all debated.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Bright and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

TO RECOMMEND:

That the following matters be considered further during the budget setting for the 2011/12 financial year.

All charges to increase in line with the 2.5 per cent increase in VAT.

Increase the summer tariffs in the Council's long-stay car parks as follows:

Tariff	2010/11	2011/12
1 hour	£1.70	£1.80
2 hours	£3.20	£3.40

4 hours	£6.00	£6.40
24 hours	£8.00	£9.00

Apply the peak season charges, currently in force from 1st April to 30th September, to the period between mid-March and 31st October.

Amend the tariff structure and increase the charges at North Beach Car Park to bring them in line with the long-stay car parks at Main Beach and Broad Road.

Install signage at car parks to thank users for helping to fund facilities provided by the Town Council.

Withdraw the discounted evening tariff from Broad Road car park.

Introduce one tariff for coach parking in Council car parks charged at £12 per day.

Withdraw the opportunity for overnight parking of campervans in Main Beach and North Beach car parks as a result of mis-use of the Council's facilities.

Introduce a 1 hour, 2 hour, 4 hour and 24 hour tariff structure for the winter period in Main Beach and Broad Road car parks.

It was noted that the charges for season tickets should be reviewed at the next meeting to consider budget-setting for 2011/12.

3) Exclusion of Press and Public

It was proposed by Councillor Tritte, seconded by Councillor Mrs Patrick and RESOLVED:

That, under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matter.

4) Car Park Operational Costs

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Bright declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a friend of one of the Council's enforcement officers, and his interest was prejudicial, he left the meeting during the relevant part of the debate.

Arising from Minute No. 3) above, detailed consideration was given to the operational costs of the car parks and areas for potential savings. It was AGREED:

That the Operations Manager discuss opportunities for cost-savings with the Council's enforcement officers.

Following further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Patrick, seconded by the Chairman and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the following measures be considered further by the General Operations Manager:

The contract for car park cash collection and counting services for the winter period be brought to an end for 2011/12.

The role of the seasonal enforcement officer be expanded to improve management of the boat park and collection of launch fees.

5) Proposed payment of Car Parking Charges by Mobile Phone

Consideration was given to information provided by suppliers of systems for the payment of car parking charges by mobile phone. It was reported that Dorset County Council were currently trialling the scheme and that it had been welcomed by motorists. Similar schemes had also been introduced by West Dorset District Council and Poole Borough Council. It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by the Chairman and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

TO RECOMMEND:

That a facility for the payment of car parking charges by mobile phone be introduced in the Town Council's car parks for a trial period of up to 18 months from the commencement of the 2011/12 peak-season, and that negotiations be entered into with RingGo due to their service being deployed in neighbouring towns and districts.

6) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

Further to item 6)a) of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 20th October 2010 further consideration was given to the free pre-Christmas parking to be offered by the Town Council. Clarification was provided in respect of the concessions provided in past years, and it was noted that in recent years free parking had been restricted to Broad Road car park, in order to attract visitors to shops in the lower High Street. It was noted that local residents could park in the residents' car park for two hours free of charge in the winter season. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Patrick, seconded by the Chairman and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That in line with practice in recent years free car parking be offered only in Broad Road car park each Saturday prior to Christmas, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

7) **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 12th January 2011.

The meeting closed at 5.05 p.m.
