

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 at 2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M. Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor Mrs C. Bartlett

Swanage Town Council

Councillor M. Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor I. Brown

Swanage Town Council

Councillor Miss C. Harris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor Mrs A. Patrick

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S. Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Councillor M. Pratt

Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Dr. M. Ayres

Town Clerk

Mrs C. Anstey

Administration Assistant

Mr G. Brookes

Operations Manager

Miss A. Spencer

Finance Officer

### **Public Participation Time**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **1) Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor W. Trite and Mr I. McKenzie (Purbeck Cycling Club).

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

Careful consideration was given to the scale of car parking charges for 2012/13. 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. It was noted that complaints had been received regarding the high car park charges, but with pressures on the Council's other sources of income it would be difficult to have a significant reduction in car parking income, without the need to cut services. Attention was drawn to the importance of encouraging visitors to get the full benefit of what Swanage has to offer in the day and evening. Concern was expressed regarding no longer offering the option of a 4 hour stay for coaches. It was reported that the majority of coaches have Swanage as just one of their destinations on their itinerary and appreciate the 4 hour charge.

It was noted that the following resolutions would be discussed further at the Finance & Performance Management Committee Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 during the budget setting for the 2012/13 financial year.

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

That the charge for 24 hours in the Council's long stay car parks be reduced from £9 to £8.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Miss Harris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the 4 hourly charge for coaches be retained.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Miss Harris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the charge for coaches in Main Beach Car Park be £8 for up to 4 hours and £12 for up to 24 hours.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That a £5 administration fee be applied for the resident's car parking scheme.

**3) Request for Reduced Fee for Event Car Parking Summer 2012**

Attention was drawn to a letter from Swanage Regatta & Carnival requesting that a reduced fee for event parking be introduced in Main Beach Car Park. It was reported that in 2009, a charge of £5 to park in Main Beach Car Park for carnival day had been trialled. However due to problems experienced on the day, a decision was made to withdraw the concession. It was noted that the proposed reduced daily rate (see minute 2) above) would in part address this concern and no further concession was proposed.

**4) Christmas Car Parking 2011**

**a) Review of Tariff Structure**

Consideration was given to a letter from Swanage & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce requesting that free parking in the Council's car parks be available from the 1<sup>st</sup> December to the 2<sup>nd</sup> January to encourage shoppers to the town. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Patrick, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bartlett and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That free parking be offered in Broad Road and Main Beach car parks on each Saturday in December 2011.

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

**a)** A request had been received for the enforcement in the Town Council's car parks to be suspended in serious weather conditions. It was noted that dangerous road conditions in the heavy snowfall in 2010 had prevented drivers being able to park near their properties and the Council's car parks could provide a safe alternative. It was acknowledged that enforcement would not be undertaken in such conditions, but that further discussion about snow clearance with the Council's Operations Manager was required, prior to any decision to advertise this facility in the town.

**b)** Thanks were received by e-mail for the rings that are provided outside the library enabling bikes secured with a lock.

**c)** It was reported that discussions were at an early stage, requesting that the surface of the footpath from the Haven for Heroes cabin be upgraded, to enable wheelchair users to have easy access to Victoria Avenue and the beach.

6) **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next ordinary meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

The meeting closed at 3.10 p.m.

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