

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ROADS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2019** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor N Rogers

Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Administration & Communications Manager

Mrs E Evans

Management Support Officer

Mr S Mephram

Community Highways Team Leader (CHTL)

Mrs A Spencer

Finance Manager

There were four members of the public present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matter was raised:-

- **High Street, between its junctions with Townsend Road and Priests Road** - concerns regarding regular instances seen of the parking of vehicles on the double yellow lines and pavements along this stretch of the High Street, which was narrow and created passing difficulties for vehicles, which had to mount the pavements. Further concerns were raised regarding pedestrian safety, in particular people with pushchairs and wheelchair users who frequently had to enter the road to pass the illegally parked vehicles. It was noted that these concerns had previously been reported to Dorset Council and Dorset Police. The CHTL agreed to undertake a site visit with the member of public to investigate this matter further, and would also make a request that Dorset Council's Parking Services Team reviewed the area.

1) **Apologies**

There were no apologies to record on this occasion.

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 8) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2020/21 (Appendix C - Annual Taxi Permits) - Councillor Bonfield declared a pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a driver for a taxi permit holder.

There were no further declarations to record on this occasion.

3) **Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 24th September 2019**

There were no matters raised.

4) Shore Road Working Party – potential pedestrianisation of southern section between Victoria Avenue and Institute Road – update from meeting held on 4th November 2019

Further to Minute No. 5) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 24th September 2019, it was reported that the Shore Road Working Party had met on 4th November 2019 to further discussions and explore options regarding the potential pedestrianisation of the southern section of Shore Road, between Victoria Avenue and Institute Road.

During discussions working party members had been in agreement that public consultation regarding these proposals should be undertaken to gather residents' views, and a newsletter/survey was being drawn up which would be delivered to homes and businesses in Swanage in late December 2019/early January 2020. Details would also be posted on the Town Council's website and Facebook page, and feedback from responses to the survey would be reported back to a future Committee Meeting.

5) Dorset Council - Highway Matters

a) Requests for improved traffic management in the following locations:

i) Northbrook Road/Washpond Lane/St Mary's School – consideration of preferred route for proposed footway

Further to Minute No. 6) b) ii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 24th September 2019, it was reported that representatives of the Town Council, Dorset Council, and St Mary's RC Primary School, had met on Monday 18th November 2019 to further discussions regarding Dorset Council's pre-feasibility report, scheme options, and costings for the proposed footpath. A copy of the report and option plans had been circulated to Committee Members with the agenda.

The options had been discussed in turn at the meeting and, following these discussions, it had been agreed that Option 5, which included new safe crossing points across the eastern end of Ulwell Road, and promoted the use of the existing route through Days Park, would be the preferred route for the footpath, as previously confirmed by Dorset Council's Safer Travel Officer's Walked Route Assessment. However, it was felt that improvements needed to be made to the footpath through Days Park, including the installation of new lighting and resurfacing, and that consideration should also be given to a new footpath across Journey's End to/from North Beach car park to encourage more use of the car park by parents when taking their children to/from St Mary's School.

During the ensuing discussion Committee Members were in agreement that Option 5 would provide the wider community benefit to local residents and pupils of the school alike, and comments were made that new residents had also started moving in to the housing development (of 90 new homes) in Northbrook Road. This option would also mean that there would be no safeguarding issues for the school.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council recommends to Dorset Council that it proceeds with footpath Option 5 as set out in the Northbrook Road to Ulwell Road Link Cycleway Pre-Feasibility Report dated March 2019.

It was further RESOLVED:-

That the proposals for improvements to the footpath in Days Park, and new footpath across Journey's End, be taken forward to the next meeting of the Policy, Finance, and Performance Management Committee being held on 11th December 2019 for further consideration during the budget setting process for 2020/21.

It was noted that it might be possible for the Town Council to utilise Community Infrastructure Levy monies it held towards the improvements to Days Park.

b) Updates from previous meetings:

i) Institute Road improvements – update

Further to Minute No. 6) b) i) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 24th September 2019, it was reported that representatives from the Town Council and Dorset Council had met on Monday 18th November 2019 to discuss progress made with the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation process. It was noted that, due to comments received from statutory consultees, minor amendments had been made to the design of proposed traffic calming humps, which would now be created using a surface dressing only. If there were no further comments or objections received during the consultation period then the improvement works would commence in early January 2020 as planned.

Comments were made that concerns had been raised regarding the length of the proposed road closure and the possible adverse impact on pedestrians and businesses during the works. The CHTL agreed to liaise with Dorset Council's Communications Team regarding a possible press release and update to the Council's 'Swanage - town centre enhancements' webpage to provide local residents with greater clarification regarding the timescale of the works and the road closures to allay these concerns, which could also be posted on the Town Council's website and Facebook page.

c) Report and updates from Community Highways Team Leader

Mr Steve Mephram, CHTL, provided updates on a number of matters, which included the following:

- **Northbrook Road, junction with Victoria Avenue – to consider extension of double yellow lines** – further to Minute No. 6) a) i) of the Roads and Transport Meeting held on 24th September 2019, the CHTL reported that he had met with the resident to review the area and confirmed that he would be recommending the introduction of 'cars and motorcycles only' parking restrictions at this location in the interests of pedestrian safety. He would also be investigating the existing TRO and the possibility of extending the double yellow lines.
- **Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)** – it was noted that Dorset Council had processed 40 new TROs in the past 18 months.
- **Washpond Lane – request for reduction in speed limit from 60 mph to 30 mph** – further to Minute No. 6) b) ii) of the Roads and Transport Meeting held on 24th September 2019, and Minute No. 5 a) i) above, the CHTL reported that, in view of the results of the speed survey undertaken earlier in the year in Washpond Lane, which had recorded an average mean speed north-eastbound of 27.5mph (85% of all vehicles travelling at under 31.9mph), and an average mean speed south-westbound of 27.8mph (85% of all vehicles travelling at under 32.7mph), and as a safer pedestrian route to Northbrook Road had been identified, he would be unable to continue to support a reduction in speed limit.

A brief discussion ensued, after which it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Rogers, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Town Council should take no further action regarding the request to lower the speed limit in Washpond Lane.

- **Lower High Street/Pier Approach** – a site meeting would be held with a representative from the Town Council to review the area around the entrances to the Pier and Prince Albert Gardens. The area had a sizeable footfall throughout the year, and concerns had previously been raised regarding regular instances of illegal and indiscriminate parking seen in this area, particularly by high-sided vehicles and Blue-Badge-holders, which created visibility issues and raised safety concerns for pedestrians. A request had been made for improved signage and enforcement. The outcome of this review would be reported at a future Committee Meeting.
- **Pierhead development, Lower High Street** – it was reported that the site agent had requested a meeting to discuss the reinstatement of the pavement in front of the new development when the hoardings were removed in spring 2020. The CHTL was in support of the Purbeck stone flagstones being reinstated, and had asked the Council’s Operations Manager to accompany him to the meeting.
- **SE Purbeck Chairs and Clerks Meeting** – the CHTL had attended the Chairs and Clerks Meeting on 22nd November 2019 and had agreed at that meeting to undertake a trial ‘drop-in’ session once a month at the Town Hall, Swanage in order to meet with local residents to discuss any requests or concerns they had regarding highway matters. If the trial was successful then consideration would be given to continuing this service on a regular basis. Details of the first session would be posted on the Town Council’s website and Facebook page in due course.
- **A351 roadworks signage** – a section of the A351 between Harman’s Cross and Swanage was in a poor condition and would be resurfaced between 4th and 6th December 2019. This section of road would be closed overnight between 8.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. during the works, and a diversionary route would be signposted accordingly.
- **Institute Road improvement works** – it was noted that a Community Liaison Officer would be appointed to address questions from residents and other members of the public during the works.
- **Northbrook Road – request for new disabled parking bay** – Committee Members advised that a request had been received as to whether Dorset Council could give consideration to the installation of a new disabled parking bay outside St Mary’s School. The CHTL agreed to look into this matter. However, it was noted that the previously approved Section 278 infrastructure improvement works in Northbrook Road near to the school would be completed during February 2020 and it was likely that this request would not be considered until these were complete.
- **Lower High Street – consideration of parking issues** – further to Minute No. 6 a) iii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 22nd November 2017, concerns were again raised by Committee Members regarding parking issues still being experienced in the lower High Street, at the junction with Seymer Road and along to The Square, and had previously recommended to Dorset Council that it should consider the installation of kerb markings at this location in the interests of safety. The CHTL agreed to review this matter at the same time as the lower High Street/Pier Approach issue, as mentioned above.

6) Car Park matters

a) **Broad Road car park – further consideration of requests for extension to the overnight parking period, and extension of residents’ permit scheme to part of Broad Road car park**

Further to Minute No. 4) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 24th September 2019, consideration was given to a briefing note dated November 2019

prepared by the Finance Manager. It was explained that the overnight charge was a complex tariff, and that it would be very difficult to calculate the financial impact that changing the overnight period to 10.00 a.m. would have. However, it was noted that in the 2019 season 2,852 tickets had been purchased between 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. through the Pay and Display machines, which had contributed £15,245 to the total income of the car park.

It was further explained that the residents' parking permit scheme had been implemented to allow residents to park in the town, specifically in the Residents' car park in Horsecliffe Lane, at a cheaper rate for the purposes of shopping. Concessions had also later been agreed allowing a free period in the Co-op and Mermond Place car parks between 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m., and Main Beach car park on market days, to encourage shopping in the town. No other concessions were available during the summer period.

The Finance Manager had therefore recommended that no changes should be made at this time, and that further consideration could be given to these matters, or alternative solutions to the issues raised, by the Car Parks Working Party.

During the ensuing discussion Committee Members were in support of the Finance Manager's recommendation, and comments were made that similar issues existed for residents of the whole area around the Broad Road car park, and also more widely around the town. Members were in agreement that, in the interests of fairness to all residents, it would be prudent for the working party to undertake a review of all car park charges, and should gather detailed information and costings prior to a decision being made. It was therefore agreed that the working party would meet to review and consider all options and present its findings to a future Committee Meeting, with any recommended changes being considered during budget setting for 2021/22.

It was noted that the last review had been undertaken in 2016. It was further noted that from 1st November to 31st March the parking fee for overnight parking until 8.00 a.m. (24 hours) was only £1.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the Car Parks Working Party meets to review all car park charges and bring its findings and any recommendations for amendments to be made to the next Meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee being held on 5th February 2020.

Mr S Mepham left the Meeting at 3.30 p.m.

7) Public Transport matters

a) Durlston Bus Service – update

Further to Minute No. 8 a) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 24th September 2019, it was reported that the Durlston Bus Working Party had been meeting regularly to discuss and explore potential options for the future Durlston bus service. Costings were still awaited, and grant funding was being explored. A further update would be given at a future Committee Meeting.

b) Sandbanks Ferry – update

It was reported that the ferry had resumed normal service with effect from 31st October 2019, and it was noted that Councillor Suttle would be attending an update meeting with the ferry company on 29th November 2019.

8) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2020/21

Consideration was given to the draft scale of charges for 2020/21. It was reported that only two small increases had been proposed, an addition of £6.00 to the Annual

Private and Business Parking Permit charge, and £4.00 to the Summer Season Parking Ticket. All other charges remained the same.

The importance of car parking revenue to the Town Council was highlighted, and a good summer season was reported. However, a slight decline in short term car park usage had been seen and would continue to be monitored.

Attention was drawn to the main points detailed in the reports, which included:

- The daily tariff for motorhomes had been unable to be implemented as yet. The Council would be looking to introduce new parking bays when resurfacing works had been undertaken in Main Beach car park.
- Visitors had stayed in the town for longer, cash payments had reduced, and the most popular tariff had been four hours.
- The car park usage during the winter months had increased by 4% with the introduction of a £1.00 parking fee for 24 hours being implemented throughout the winter season (October to March).
- The electric vehicle charging points had been welcomed and well-used, 211 times in Main Beach car park and 290 times in Mermond Place car park, and the Council's long term plan was to install additional charging points during the financial year 2021/22.
- It had been recommended that the JustPark card payment transaction fee of 4.5p should continue to be absorbed by the Town Council.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the draft Scale of Charges 2020/21 (except for the Annual Taxi permit charge) be taken forward to the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee on 11th December 2019, to be considered further during the budget setting process for 2020/21.

Further to his declaration of interest under Minute No. 2) Councillor Bonfield left the meeting at 3.50 p.m., prior to consideration to the following item.

It was then proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Moreton, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Annual Taxi Permit charge as set out in the draft Scale of Charges 2020/21 be taken forward to the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee on 11th December 2019, to be considered further during the budget setting process for 2020/21.

Committee Members gave thanks and appreciation to the Finance Manager for the comprehensive reports which had accompanied the draft scale of charges.

9) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- a) Dorset Highways** – performance updates dated August and September 2019 were provided to Committee Members for information purposes.
- b) Community Speed Indicator Device (SID) Update – No. 5** – the latest SID update from Dorset Council was provided to Committee Members for information purposes.
- c) Morebus No. 40 Breezer Service** – a flyer had been received from the Purbeck Transport Action Group which reported that the Morebus No. 40 evening service would continue during the winter months, except on Sundays. However, the bus company

could change the timetable with only eight weeks' notice, and a reminder was given to 'please use it or lose it'.

10) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.
