

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ROADS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2020** 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

Ms K Black

Durlston Country Park

Also Present: -

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Administration & Communications Manager

Mrs E Evans

Management Support Officer

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services Manager (until 3 p.m.)

Mr I Styring

Community Highways Officer (CHO)

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

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised:-

- **Kings Road East, traffic flow reversal** - concerns regarding the long term proposal to reverse traffic flow in Kings Road East were expressed by a resident of that road. Although the resident had no objection to the reversal to traffic flow while works were carried out in Institute Road, objection was raised to the long term proposal to reverse flow. Concerns were also raised over the increase in traffic, particularly along the stretch of road between Town Hall Lane and the High Street. Further safety concerns were raised due to the regular instances seen of Blue Badge Holders parking on double yellow lines on the opposite side of the road to the property, which made it necessary for vehicles to pass closer to the front door of the property, where no footway was present. In response, attention was drawn to the fact that the Traffic Regulation Order was experimental and may not remain in place for the full 18 months. Dorset Council would constantly monitor the situation and a consideration of safety matters would form future decision making.
- **Commercial Road, resurfacing** - concerns regarding the condition of the road surface in Commercial Road, and a request made for advertisement signs to be erected on buildings in adjacent roads to promote this area. Further concerns were raised over the number of rubbish bins on the pavements in the area, and the general appearance of the street scene. The Community Highways Officer suggested that the concern regarding the road condition be raised through Dorset Council's website, which would enable the road defects to be investigated. Committee members agreed that the wider issues around Commercial Road would be added to a future agenda item for further discussion.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Harris and Rogers, Mr David Rawsthorn (Swanage Railway) and Mr Peter Sykes (Swanage Railway).

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.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 27th November 2019

There were no matters raised.

Further to Standing Order No. 12) a) viii, it was AGREED:-

That Item 8) a) be brought forward to Item 4.

4) Public Transport matters – Durlston Bus Service – update

Further to Minute No.7 a) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2019, consideration was given to a briefing note dated February 2020 prepared by the Visitor Services Manager.

The proposed costs for running the Durlston Bus service for 2020 were presented to the Committee which showed the various costs for different time periods. It was noted that there would be a £530 increase in costs from 2019, as the proposed bus route for 2020 would include a bus stop at the hospital. The proposed time period for the service would be between 23rd May and 19th September at a cost of £14,500.

Durlston Country Park advised that £8,000 had been allocated within its budget and therefore a deficit of £4,500 currently existed.

A discussion was held around the difficulties that could be faced by buses accessing the hospital due to vehicles parking near to junctions and on double yellow lines. The fitting of kerb lips was discussed and that communication with Dorset Highways should take place to investigate available options to improve parking in the area surrounding the hospital.

Further discussion was held over the potential funding for the service and it was agreed that various options would be explored and brought back to a future Committee Meeting.

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

That the Town Council recommends to Dorset Council that it further investigates an amendment to the Traffic Regulation Orders on roads surrounding Swanage Hospital, including the installation of kerb lips.

It was further RESOLVED:-

That if after alternative funding options have been explored a shortfall still remains for the 2020 season, then an application for a grant could be made to the Town Council, which would then be considered by full Council at a future Council Meeting.

5) Shore Road – public consultation on the potential pedestrianisation of southern section between the Mowlem and Victoria Avenue – update

Further to Minute No. 4 of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2019, it was reported that the online survey regarding the potential pedestrianisation of the southern section of Shore Road had received 552 responses to date and the Swanage Matters newsletter which included a paper version of the survey would soon be delivered to all homes in the parish.

It was stated that the deadline to respond was 20th March 2020 and that feedback from responses to the survey would be reported back to a future Committee Meeting.

6) Coastal Defence Improvements, Lower High Street - potential pedestrianisation of the Pier Approach area

Further to Minute Nos. 91 a) and 91 b) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 16th September 2019, a discussion was held surrounding the potential for pedestrianisation of the Lower High Street in connection with the development of plans for flood defence improvement. During the discussion the potential option of flood gate installation was raised together with the enhancement of the pedestrian experience in the Pier Approach area. The development of these proposals was subject to it being allocated Local Transport Plan funding by Dorset Council.

It was noted that the Town Council would have the opportunity to give consideration to all aspects of the project as and when proposals were developed further.

7) Dorset Council – Highway Matters

a) Proposed Traffic Regulation Order, High Street (Pier Approach), Swanage – to consider proposal from Dorset Highways

Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a Trustee of Swanage Pier Trust.

Consideration was given to Dorset Council's proposed change to the Traffic Regulation Order on Pier Approach in lower High Street. During the ensuing discussion Committee Members considered the potential benefits and disadvantages to the proposal, including the use of this area by Blue Badge Holders, and the safety of pedestrians and wheelchair users proceeding from Broad Road car park to the seafront.

After a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield and seconded by Councillor Moreton:-

That the Town Council supports Dorset Council's proposal to introduce 'No loading at any time' restrictions at Pier Approach, lower High Street, Swanage.

Upon being put to the meeting, TWO Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition, and there were TWO ABSTENTIONS, whereupon the Proposition was CARRIED.

b) Updates from previous meetings:

i) Ulwell Road/Northbrook Road/St Mary's School – proposed footway improvements – update

Further to Minute No. 5) a) i) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2019, the Chairman reported that Dorset Council had commenced the working up of a design brief and costings for the footway improvements. A further update would be reported back to a future Committee Meeting as plans progressed.

ii) Institute Road improvements – update

Further to Minute No. 166 of the Council Meeting held on 16th December 2019, it was reported that at Dorset Council's Eastern Area Planning Committee Meeting

held on the morning of 5th February 2020 the project had received the full support of Committee Members to proceed.

It was further reported that a Public Liaison Officer had been appointed and would be available on site daily should any members of the public have any queries or concerns during the improvement works. The Officer's contact details had been published on the Town Council's website and Facebook page.

c) Report and updates from Community Highways Officer

Mr Ian Styring, CHO, provided updates on a number of matters, which included the following:

- **Walked inspection** – the CHO reported that a walked inspection of several roads in the town would be undertaken during the following week to investigate potential safety defects. Committee Members highlighted a number of roads that they felt were in need of maintenance. It was suggested that if Committee Members or members of the public felt that certain roads were in need of attention, this should be reported via Dorset Council's website to be investigated, or included on future walked inspections. It was agreed that prior to the walked inspection the CHO would email a copy of the scheduled route to Committee Members for their information.
- **A-Boards** – it was noted that this had not been raised as an issue at this time, due to the time of year, but would be brought forward to a future Committee Meeting if required.

7) Cow Lane – consideration of proposal from Newton Grange Swanage Management Ltd to install a post and safety mirrors

Consideration was given to a proposal from Newton Grange Swanage Management Ltd regarding the installation of two convex mirrors to be attached to posts and installed on the grass verge in Cow Lane, which was owned by the Town Council, opposite the entrance to Newton Grange Close.

The CHO reported that Dorset Council's policy regarding the use of mirrors had been updated and Dorset Highways had been instructed not to install these types of mirrors due to motorists experiencing a false perception of the speed and location of moving vehicles.

During the ensuing discussion Committee Members also considered other potential issues including sun-glare and the position of the post on the verge, which had the potential to cause a road traffic incident.

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

That the proposal to install convex mirrors on the Town Council owned verge be refused due to concerns regarding the potential to cause further safety issues, but that consideration be given to alternative traffic calming solutions and a report brought forward to a future Committee Meeting.

9) Public Transport Matters

a) Sandbanks Ferry – launch of the Sandbanks Ferry Ticket Card on 4th February 2020

It was reported that the Sandbanks Ferry operators had launched a pre-payment card scheme, and that cards could be collected from the payment booths from 4th February 2020.

10) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- a) **Dorset Council – proposed resurfacing of various roads in Swanage** - a map showing the roads to be resurfaced during March 2020 was provided to Committee Members for information purposes.
- b) **Community Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – information sheet for local communities** - further to the receipt of information from Dorset Council regarding SIDs, a discussion ensued surrounding the benefits and disadvantages of using these devices. Committee Members were in agreement that further information would be beneficial and that the Road Safety Officer should be invited to attend a future Roads and Transport Committee Meeting to provide a presentation, which would provide Members with the opportunity for a Q&A session with the Officer.

11) **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2020.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.
