

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **WEDNESDAY 21st JANUARY 2015** 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 S Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Mrs C Finch

Swanage & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce

Mr P Sykes

Swanage Railway

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Management Support Officer

Public Participation Time

There was one member of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Thanks were given to the Town Council for keeping the town's car park charges at the same level for the year 2015/16. Concerns were raised however regarding the possible loss of income when free and reduced fee parking periods were permitted and it was felt that the Town Council should be looking to increase income from this source, not decrease it.
- Concerns were raised regarding the request for overnight campervan parking in the town and the issues experienced when this had previously been accommodated, abused and then revoked.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Patrick, Ms Harris, Brown, Pratt and Trite and PC Kyle Hickman (Dorset Police).

2) Declarations Of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interest under the Code of Conduct as defined by regulations made under section 30 (3) 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 22nd October 2014

X43 Bus Service – further to the comments raised in Public Participation Time, and a subsequent letter received detailing difficulties experienced with the late changes to the 2014 service, it was reported that a letter of support had been sent to Dorset County Council regarding possible future services.

4) Morebus bus services – Update on the 40 and 50 services winter timetables - it was reported that the Purbeck Transport Action Group

Minutes and flyer had been circulated to the local Parish Councils, Swanage & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce and the Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association for their information, and details would also be included in the next edition of the Swanage Matters newsletter.

5) Bike Night – proposal for ‘Bike Night’ on closed section of Shore Road during the summer season – it was reported that research was ongoing.

6) Sandbanks Ferry

b) Public Local Inquiry – it was reported that the Chairman and Town Clerk had attended the Public Local Inquiry held on 11th November 2014 regarding the proposed increase in ferry fares. The outcome had yet to be announced. Concerns were raised as to the timing of the ferry refits, which are usually held in November and December, on the run up to the Christmas period, and the adverse effect that this could be having on trade in the town.

7) Highway Matters

a) Steer Road Green – consideration of potential solutions to residents’ parking difficulties - it was reported that a meeting had been held with Dorset County Council Highways and that discussions were ongoing. No conclusion had been reached as yet.

b) Traffic management in vicinity of Swanage Station – parking and traffic flow – it was reported that discussions were ongoing. Guidance was being sought and a Risk Assessment had now been instructed.

c) Updates from Dorset County Council Highways Department

ii) St Marks School – Speed limit request – it was reported that the request for ‘20 mph while lights are flashing’ signs had now been agreed by Dorset County Council Highways. These would be installed at the entrances to both of the new schools (St Mark’s School and the Swanage School) along with new road markings. Full traffic regulations were not required as these were ‘advisory’ signs.

d) Lower High Street – consideration of concerns regarding parking issues – a brief overview was given of a meeting which had been held with the Senior Technician from Dorset County Council Highways. It was reported that it would be highly unlikely that a ‘blanket’ no loading, no parking zone could be approved and implemented on the north side of Lower High Street. If only one objection was received to such proposals then a Public Inquiry would have to be undertaken. It was also advised that until there was a waiting restriction order, including loading bays, which also covered Blue Badge Holders there was nothing further which could be done to stop the parking on the double yellow lines. It was confirmed however that Dorset Police and Dorset County Council Enforcement Officers could take enforcement action where appropriate if any Disabled Badge Holder/illegal parking was likely to cause obstruction or danger. A suggestion was made that leaflets could be produced and placed on cars to warn drivers that enforcement notices would be issued if they continued to park illegally/irresponsibly.

4) Introduction to proposed Dorset Parking Partnership

A brief overview was given of a meeting which had been held with Dorset County Council Parking Services regarding a countrywide review of the Civil Enforcement Parking Service. The current arrangements in Dorset are split between the District, Borough, Town and County Councils and the possibility of merging on street/off street parking services in the County was being

discussed. The review was still in its early stages with a business case currently being drawn up by consultants. It was AGREED:

That the Town Clerk be authorised to attend relevant meetings regarding this proposal, the outcome to be reported back to a future meeting.

5) **Swanage Local Plan – to discuss potential improvements to traffic management in the town**

It was reported that Dorset County Council had set aside funds to undertake a feasibility study looking at improving walking and cycling provision in the town and at traffic management issues, particularly around the new school sites. This would be a comprehensive review, however, there would not be a significant budget for any improvements; the County Council would be looking to update and improve existing networks, with some reliance on funds and donations from developers.

A discussion ensued regarding the level of traffic flow, irresponsible parking and difficulties experienced in and around the town centre and Shore Road. It was reiterated that Dorset Police and the County Council Enforcement Officers could take enforcement action if any illegal parking was likely to cause obstruction or danger in these areas.

It was noted that representatives from the County Council would be invited to a meeting with the Transport Committee to discuss the above plans and concerns, and to answer any queries or questions raised by the Committee.

Concerns were also raised regarding the increase in A-boards, displays and tables and chairs in Station Road and Institute Road which were considered to be ‘trip hazards’. It was noted that a representative from Dorset County Council had been invited to the Council’s Policy & Planning Meeting in February.

6) **Highway Matters**

a) **Dis-used taxi rank, Lower High Street, request for removal for use as a parking bay for motorbikes**

It was reported that this matter had been discussed with the Senior Technician from Dorset County Council who had advised that the taxi rank was covered by a Legal Order and any plans for the removal of the rank would have to be discussed with local taxi operators; if no objection was received then removal could be a possibility.

The parking bay adjoining the taxi rank was also discussed and a question was raised as to whether part of this bay could also be converted to provide a further motorcycle parking bay.

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

That the Town Council write a letter to Dorset County Council Highways in support of consideration of removal of the disused taxi rank and conversion of part of the parking bay in Lower High Street to provide motorcycle parking bays.

It was further RESOLVED:

That the Town Council would contact local taxi operators to discuss the possible removal of the disused taxi rank.

b) Pavement/dropped kerb issues – Shore Road

Consideration was given to an email received regarding difficulties experienced with a mobility scooter on Shore Road, at the barrier near the Mowlem. A discussion ensued and concerns were raised regarding the classification and speed of some mobility scooters, beach hut/beach users' safety and incidents which had occurred with pedestrians.

It was reported that when the Road Closure Order was in force along Shore Road it was closed to motorised vehicles. Clarification would therefore be sought from Dorset County Council regarding use of the road by mobility scooters when it was closed.

During the discussion it was reported that there were various dropped kerbs on the Mowlem side of the barrier and it was suggested that the location of the dropped kerbs on the Shore Road side could be better highlighted.

c) Dropped kerbs – request for suggestions for new dropped kerbs from Dorset Highways, Dorset County Council

No further requests were reported. Other suggestions would however be sought from a local mobility scooter user, who has previously assisted the Town Council with disabled access and dropped kerb issues in and around the town. It would also be publicised in the next edition of the Town Council's Swanage Matters newsletter.

A query was raised regarding the previously discussed dropped kerb in Rempstone Road and whether it had been removed as yet. It was confirmed that a letter of support had been sent to Dorset County Council for its removal and this would be followed up. The dropped kerb was still in situ at the present time.

Arising from the discussion it was agreed that a strongly worded letter should be sent to Dorset County Council highlighting the difficulties experienced by pedestrians with illegal parking and overnight parking on pavements in and around the town.

7) Request received for overnight parking for campervans

Consideration was given to a request received for overnight parking for campervans during the Blues Festival, either along Shore Road or in one of the Town Council's car parks.

A discussion ensued during which a number of concerns were raised. The Town Council had previously experimented with offering such overnight facilities, however, once put in place these facilities were regularly abused and, after due consideration, subsequently removed. The number of different events held in the town each year was highlighted and the possible number of requests for overnight parking facilities which could therefore follow. The general consensus was that there was a variety of local camping and caravan sites available that provided pitches for campervans and motorhomes. It was agreed that no further action would be taken in this matter.

8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Christmas Parking – thanks were given to the Town Council by the Chamber of Trade for the free parking on Saturdays in December 2014 and on the first Saturday in January 2015 in the Broad Road and Main Beach Car Parks. It was confirmed that these arrangements had now been put in place for future years, along with the introduction of a parking fee of £1.00 per day in the Council's long-stay car parks from 1st to 31st December inclusive.

- b) **Town Council Enforcement Officers** – it was reported that comments had been received from a member of the public who had seen one of the Enforcement Officers removing dog mess from the pavement in the High Street recently and wanted to pass on their thanks to the Enforcement Officer and Operations Manager accordingly.
- c) **Transport Minister’s visit** – a reminder was given regarding the Transport Minister’s visit to the area on Thursday 5th February 2015.

9) **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.10 p.m.
