

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **WEDNESDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2014** 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 Mrs A Patrick

Swanage Town Council

Mrs C Finch

Swanage & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce

PC K Hickman

Dorset Police

Mr P Sykes

Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mr G Brookes

Operations Manager

Councillor I Brown

Swanage Town Council

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:-

- Concerns raised regarding residents' parking difficulties in Steer Road and request for support to refer to Dorset County Council for consideration of a solution to the issues raised.
- Comments raised regarding the X43 bus service which had previously been routed from Swanage via Lulworth Cove to Weymouth. It was reported that this service had been amended at short notice, and after the production of the timetable booklet, to run direct from Poole causing difficulties for local residents. A request was made for consideration of a letter of support regarding possible future services to Dorset County Council.

PC K Hickman joined the meeting at 2.23 p.m.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Poultney and Trite, Mr A Power (S&PHA) and Mr R Jones (Swanage Railway).

Councillor Brown joined the meeting at 2.25 p.m.

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 21st May 2014**

- 3) 8a) **Removal of Bus Stop – Argyle Road/Kings Road** – it was reported that the new post and sign had both been installed.
- 3) 8b) **Re-naming of Court Hill** – letters being issued to all residents of Court Road requesting their opinion as to the proposed change of name back to Court Hill. If no objections to this change were received then a request would be sent to Purbeck District Council accordingly.
- 4) **Highway Matters**
- a) **Consideration of removal of yellow lines to provide parking bays in Seymer Road** – letters being issued to all residents of Seymer Road advising them of the potential consequences of removing the yellow lines and raising the possibility of introducing Residents' Parking Permits for Broad Road Car Park. Residents' opinions to the proposals were invited.
- b) **Dropped Kerb parking issues – Rempstone Road** – it was reported that a letter had been sent to Dorset County Council in support of removing the dropped kerb in Rempstone Road.
- c) **Shore Road resurfacing** – it was reported that a letter had been sent to Dorset County Council in support of resurfacing Shore Road as a matter of urgency. It was further reported that the County Council had now confirmed that they would be resurfacing the entire length of Shore Road, potentially in January 2015.
- 5) **Panorama Road – heavy plant and vehicle problems** – it was reported that road markings and a 20 mph speed limit sign had been put in place and a Risk Assessment was under preparation.

4) **Morebus bus services – Update on the 40 and 50 services winter timetables**

Copies of the winter timetables were provided and the following details were noted:

- **40 Service** – No change to Monday to Saturday timetables, however, Sunday service reduced to two-hourly service. Mon-Sat last bus to Poole 9.45 p.m. and last bus from Poole 11.00 p.m. Sunday last bus to Poole 5.30 p.m. and last bus from Poole 6.50 p.m.
- **50 Service** – Monday to Saturday hourly service and two-hourly Sunday service reintroduced. Each day, last bus to Bournemouth 6.25 p.m. Last bus from Bournemouth (Railway Station) 7.38 p.m. (7.40 p.m. on a Sunday).

Meeting Minutes and a flyer produced by the Purbeck Transport Action Group were also provided which stated that the bus company could change the timetables with only eight weeks' notice, and used the slogan 'use it or lose it'.

A discussion ensued regarding County Council funding, the importance of the bus services, not just for the residents of Swanage but also the surrounding towns and villages. It was reported that the bus company only had to give six weeks' notice of any change to timetables. It was therefore AGREED:-

That the Purbeck Transport Action Group Minutes and flyer should be shared with other local Parish Councils, the Swanage & District Chamber of Trade & Commerce and the Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association.

It was further AGREED:

That an article regarding the bus services would be included in the next edition of the Town Council's Swanage Matters newsletter.

5) Bike Night – proposal for ‘Bike Night’ on closed section of Shore Road during the summer season

Consideration was given to a request received for a ‘Bike Night’ on the closed section of Shore Road during the summer months, similar to the events held at Poole Quay and in Weymouth. Details of the Poole Quay event were provided for information purposes.

A discussion ensued during which a number of concerns were raised, including the safety of pedestrians, the amenity of beach hut/beach users, the management of traffic flow in and out of Swanage, concerns if other events were being held at the same time and provision of adequately trained event marshals. Queries were also raised regarding the Dorset County Council Highways Road Closure Notice for Shore Road and whether there were any restrictions in place which could prevent motorbikes from entering the road whilst it is closed.

It was noted that any such event would be subject to a full risk assessment and would most likely be considered by a Safety Advisory Group. In initial discussions the local police had not raised any objection to such an event and the potential for such an event to attract visitors to the town and raise funds for local charities were highlighted. It was therefore AGREED:

To support the further exploration of this proposal and that Councillor Mrs Patrick would investigate the idea further and report back to a future meeting, at which the organisers of the Poole/Weymouth event could be invited along to answer any questions from committee members.

6) Sandbanks Ferry
a) Refit 2014

It was reported that there would be a refit to the ferry this year which was planned to start on Monday 3rd November 2014. The ferry was expected to be out of service for four to six weeks. The ferry operator had advised that they would do their best to keep the inevitable disruption to a minimum and return to service as soon as possible. It was noted that the ferry website, Facebook and Twitter would post up to date information during the works.

b) Public Local Inquiry

It was reported that a public local inquiry was being held at Studland Village Hall at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 11th November 2014 regarding the proposed increase in ferry fares. Copies of the application could be inspected free of charge on the ferry website and also at:

- The Ferry Office, Shell Bay
- Swanage Library, High Street
- Canford Cliffs Library, Western Road, Canford Cliffs

Any person wishing to make a representation about the proposed revision could do so in writing to the Secretary of State, Department for Transport marked for the attention of Julian Smith, or could attend or be represented at the Public Inquiry. The Chairman confirmed that he would be attending the Inquiry and would report back to a future Committee

Meeting.

The general consensus was that the proposal represented a considerable increase in fares and it was felt that the Ferry Company could do more to assist local residents who used the services regularly for work/college purposes.

7) Highway Matters

a) Steer Road Green – consideration of potential solutions to residents' parking difficulties

Further to correspondence received, which had also been submitted to Dorset County Council Highways and a subsequent site visit undertaken by them along with local residents, consideration was given to possible solutions to residents' parking difficulties. These included a deeper lay-by, an access road at the rear of the grass triangle and vehicle access between residents' properties and the highway allowing 'off-road' parking.

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

That the Town Council write a letter to Dorset County Council Highways in support of finding a solution to residents' parking difficulties.

It was further AGREED:

That an article highlighting the difficulties of on-street parking would be included in the next edition of the Swanage Matters newsletter.

b) Traffic management in vicinity of Swanage Station – parking and traffic flow

Brief details were provided of road traffic accidents which had occurred in the Station/Co-op Car Park area over the past two years, which included the recent serious injury collision outside the taxi office, investigation into which was still ongoing.

It was reported that a meeting had previously been held with the Dorset County Council Traffic Management Team in 2012, however, further action had been placed on hold at that time pending the outcome of the possible Health Centre relocation and supermarket expansion plans.

A discussion ensued regarding possible solutions, including change of direction to traffic flow, and it was felt that the area of most concern was outside the taxi office whilst buses were parked at the bus stops. All Members were in agreement that this situation needed to be reviewed and a site meeting arranged with the Dorset County Council Risk Assessment Team. It was felt that all parties should be included in the process, including the taxi company, bus company and Swanage Railway and it was further agreed that the Co-Op should be approached for possible assistance if improvements were identified. It was AGREED:

That the Town Council would discuss possible traffic management solutions at a planned meeting being held with Co-Op representatives on the 23rd October 2014.

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

That, subject to the outcome of the above meeting,

the Town Council carry out a formal risk assessment, possibly with the assistance of Dorset County Council's Highways risk assessment team.

c) Updates from Dorset County Council Highways Department

i) Cow Lane – Traffic Calming Measures

It was reported that slow markings had been installed on the 15th August 2014 and that the traffic survey had now been undertaken. On average, there were 900 vehicles per week, which was below the average of 1,200 vehicles per week for similar estate roads. 85% of all vehicles travelled at or below the speed limit of 30 mph.

The County Council had therefore confirmed that traffic volumes and speed were not high enough to warrant any type of restriction and no further action would be taken by them.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Patrick, seconded by Councillor Whitwam and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That no further action be taken in this matter.

ii) St Marks School – Speed limit request

It was reported that Dorset County Council had reiterated that it would be highly unlikely that the 30 mph speed limit would be expanded into the existing 40 mph speed limit section (on the approach to the bottom of Langton to the school) as engineers had put the existing speed limits in place many years ago when the school first opened and would therefore struggle to meet the criteria for any change. The County Council would, however, be agreeable to placing new '20 mph while lights are flashing' signs 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. A traffic survey would need to be completed and the above work would be scheduled for the new 2015/16 financial year.

It was reported that the Town Council had previously sent a letter to the County Council in support of this work going ahead.

The general consensus of Members was that the existing traffic lights did a good job of slowing traffic down at the entrance to St Marks. The new Puffin Crossing had now also been installed and it was felt that this would further assist traffic management when operational. It was **AGREED:**

That the Town Council write a letter to Dorset County Council to reiterate its support for the new flashing advisory signs to be put in place as soon as was practical.

d) Lower High Street – consideration of concerns regarding parking issues

A photograph of illegal parking recently seen in Lower High Street was provided and a discussion ensued regarding obstruction, bottle-necking, issues experienced by emergency services due to the narrowing of the road and Blue-Badge-holder parking.

Consideration was therefore given to a request from Dorset Police to explore the possibility of a 'no loading, no parking zone' from The Square down to the Stone Quay on the north side of the High Street, along with a proposal for a dedicated loading bay for deliveries to ensure that businesses would remain unaffected by the proposed restrictions. It was noted that Members were supportive of this request but required confirmation that the proposed restrictions would be subject to enforcement action.

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

That the Town Council will pursue the matter further and invite Dorset County Council Parking Services to a future Committee Meeting to discuss the proposal.

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

- a) **Christmas Parking** – request received for free parking on Saturdays in December and on the first Saturday in January every year. This to be included as an Agenda Item for the next Committee Meeting.
- b) **Number 5 Bus Stop sign in Main Beach Car Park** – it was reported that this had been removed. Durlston Country Park would be contacted before the next Committee Meeting to confirm that this was only a temporary measure.
- c) **Dis-used taxi rank, Lower High Street, request for removal for use as a parking bay for motorbikes** – it was reported that this subject had previously been raised in Public Participation at a recent Town Council Meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Patrick, seconded by Councillor Bonfield and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the matter be taken forward together with the above proposals to amend the traffic regulations in the Lower High Street.

- d) **Dorset County Council Highways Department** – recent issues highlighted regarding traffic and long delays seen due to various road works and repairs being undertaken at the same time in the town. Request received for the consideration of a letter of request to be sent to Dorset County Council to 'stagger' their schedule of works in future which would alleviate the problems experienced.
- e) **On Street/Off Street Parking Services** – it was reported that the Town Clerk would be attending a consultation meeting regarding the proposed merger of On Street/Off Street Parking Services across Dorset. A report on these proposals would be given at a future Committee Meeting.

9) **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been scheduled for: Scale of Charges Meeting Wednesday 12th November 2014 at 2.15 p.m., and next full Committee Meeting Wednesday 21st January 2015 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.
