

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ROADS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor A Harris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Councillor N Rogers

Swanage Town Council

Mr D Rawsthorn

Swanage Railway

Also Present: -

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Miss N Clark

Administration & Communications Manager

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services Manager & Business Development Manager

There were six members of the public present.

**Public Participation Time**

The following matters were raised:-

- **Broad Road Car Park** – comments regarding the parking difficulties experienced at times by local residents in lower High Street, and a request made for the Town Council to give favourable consideration to the request for an extension to the overnight parking period.
- **Shore Road** – comments in support of the permanent closure/pedestrianisation of the southern section of Shore Road.
- Further comments made as to whether consideration could also be given to the removal of parking in the northern section of Shore Road.

**1) Apologies**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Miss K Black (Durlston Country Park).

**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 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

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

**c) Inconsiderate parking on the eastern section of Kings Road West** – it was reported that the Community Highways Team Leader (CHTL) had confirmed that it would be possible for Dorset Council to install 'advisory' signage at this location. An update would be given at a future Committee Meeting.

Further to Standing Order No. 12) a) viii, it was proposed by the Chairman and AGREED:-

That Item 6 a) i) on the Agenda be brought forward to Item 4).

4) **Broad Road Car Park - to consider request for extension to the overnight parking period**

Further to Minute No. 5 a) iv) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, and the comments raised during Public Participation Time, consideration was given to a request received to extend the overnight parking period in Broad Road car park to 10.00 a.m. each morning (instead of 8.00 a.m.).

It was reported that a meeting had been held between two members of the Roads and Transport Committee and the Directors of the Royal Victoria Residents' Association on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to discuss possible solutions to the parking difficulties currently experienced by residents in the lower High Street area, and this had been the preferred option.

During the ensuing discussion comments were made that this would appear to be a sensible compromise, however, Committee Members agreed that further details regarding car park usage/financial information would be required from the Council's Finance Manager prior to being able to make a decision on this request.

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

That support in principle be given to the request to extend the overnight parking period in Broad Road car park to 10.00 a.m. each morning, subject to further information regarding car park usage/financial information being obtained, to be taken forward to a future meeting of a relevant committee to be considered further during the budget setting process for 2020/21.

5) **Shore Road – to consider potential pedestrianisation of southern section between Victoria Avenue and Institute Road**

Further to a request made during Public Participation Time prior to the Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, and comments raised during Public Participation Time today, consideration was given to a letter, and supporting photographs, received from a local resident regarding the potential pedestrianisation of the southern section of Shore Road, between Victoria Avenue and Institute Road. The photographs had been taken during the Easter 2019 holiday period, when the town and beach had been extremely busy due to the good weather, and depicted many pedestrians walking in the road, and stepping out from between parked cars through oncoming traffic. It was felt that when Shore Road was open and busy, it was difficult for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs to navigate the area safely.

During the ensuing discussion previous concerns were reiterated regarding pedestrian and beach/beach hut user safety when the road was open, and comments made regarding recent incidents, and the number of cyclists who cycled along Shore Road when it was closed. Further comments were made that opening and closing this part of the road was often confusing for local residents and visitors alike. However, Members were in agreement that greater consideration needed to be given to this request as there were a number of other factors to consider, including access for delivery vehicles, and Dorset Council's parking meters. It was therefore felt that a working party should be established to explore possible options in greater detail.

It was noted that Members felt that the area could also be enhanced to make it more attractive, including outdoor seating and planting, and could potentially be used all year

round for additional purposes, e.g. events, markets and craft fairs. It was felt, however, that a two-stage approach should be taken with this request, stage one being the possible permanent closure in the interests of safety and, if implemented, stage two, the possible redevelopment of the area.

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

That a working party be formed consisting of Councillors Bonfield, Harris, Monkhouse, and Whitwam to explore options for the potential pedestrianisation of the southern section of Shore Road, between Victoria Avenue and Institute Road, in the interests of pedestrian safety, and to bring its findings and recommendations back to a future Committee Meeting.

**6) Dorset Council (DC) - Highway Matters**

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

**i) Northbrook Road, junction with Victoria Avenue – to consider extension of double yellow lines**

Further to Minute No. 4) c) ii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019, a further request had been received regarding inconsiderate and illegal parking in Northbrook Road, near to the junction with Victoria Avenue, particularly by high-sided vehicles.

It was reported that the CHTL had provided a further update regarding this matter and would be meeting with the local resident who had originally raised these concerns at this location to review the situation again.

During the ensuing discussion Committee Members felt that the most appropriate solution was to educate drivers and that enforcement activities were vital in the interests of safety. Comments were made that Dorset Council's Parking Services should be requested to liaise with the local Police accordingly, and a request was made for a Member of the Committee to accompany the CHTL when he met with the local resident.

**ii) High Street – to consider requests received for the removal of parking restrictions in the winter months**

Consideration was given to two emails received from local residents requesting the removal of parking restrictions in the High Street in the winter months, between the Methodist Church and the junction with Townsend Road. Comments were made that similar arrangements were already in place in Victoria Avenue and Rempstone Road during the winter period.

A brief discussion ensued during which comments were made that a number of similar requests/concerns had been raised regarding various roads around the town.

Further to Minute No. 4) a) iii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Members were in support of the CHTL's suggestion that that Dorset Council would be prepared to consider an overall parking review of the town, instead of looking at individual requests on a 'piecemeal' basis, which would take into account the views of local residents, businesses, stakeholders, and the emergency services.

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

That representatives from Dorset Highways be invited to a future Committee Meeting to undertake a presentation regarding Dorset Council's parking review process, the details of which to be considered further at a future Committee Meeting.

**b) Updates from previous meetings:**

**i) Institute Road proposed improvements – update**

Further to Minute No. 5) a) ii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019, and Minute No. 39 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019, it was reported that the Town Council had confirmed its support to Dorset Council for the revised highway improvement proposals for Institute Road, and had agreed to increase its financial contribution to the scheme to £100,000.

It was reported that Dorset Council was now in the process of formal primary consultation with statutory consultees regarding the proposed changes to Traffic Regulation Orders in Institute Road, Station Road, Shore Road, Kings Road East and the High Street. Once complete, public consultation, and formal advertising of the proposals by Public Notice, would be undertaken.

**ii) Washpond Lane, and near to its junctions with Northbrook Road and Ulwell Road – update regarding proposed footpath**

Further to Minute No. 5 a) i) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019, it was reported that representatives of the Town Council, Dorset Council, and St Mary's RC Primary School, had met on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to further consider Dorset Council's pre-feasibility report and scheme options for the proposed footpath. Next steps would include a decision on the preferred scheme, and a more detailed design and costings would then follow. A further meeting was therefore planned, following which a final decision would be made at a future Council Meeting.

It was noted that the CHTL had confirmed that the recommendation for a reduction in the speed limit from 60 to 30 mph in Washpond Lane, had been submitted to Dorset Council's Regulation Team, which would be considered at its next team meeting being held in October 2019.

**c) Report and updates from Community Highways Team Leader (CHTL)**

The CHTL, Mr Steve Mephram, had been unable to attend the meeting, however, updates had been received by email on a number of matters, which had been reported at the meeting as set out in the Minutes above, and also included the following:

- **Service road, off Jubilee Road, adjacent to the former St Mark's Primary School Playing Field (unadopted road) - consideration of request for additional disabled parking bay** - further to Minute No. 5) a) iii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the CHTL had confirmed that the existing disabled bays had been created using the TRO process. However, advice had now been sought from Dorset Council's Senior Estate Surveyor as to what the legal status of the service road would be once the Council had leased the land to the Town Council, and whether a new disabled bay could be installed in the road without 'regulation'.

Further to Minute No. 5) a) i) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, an update was requested from the CHTL regarding the recommendation made to Dorset Council to consider footway improvement works in Priests Road under its Local Transport Plan programme.

**7) Car Park matters**

**a) Broad Road car park – to consider extension of residents' permit scheme to part of Broad Road car park**

Consideration was given to the extension of the residents' permit scheme to part of Broad Road car park. During a brief discussion Members were in agreement that further details regarding car park usage/financial information would be required prior to being able to make a decision on this request, and that it would therefore be prudent for the relevant committee to consider this matter at the same time as the request for an

extension to the overnight parking period in the car park during the budget setting process, as set out in Minute No. 4) above.

**b) Councillor car park permits – to consider amendment to terms and conditions to enable permits to be transferred between vehicles**

Consideration was given to a request received to amend the terms and conditions of Councillors' car park permits. It was explained that a number of Councillors had more than one vehicle and the amendment was being requested to enable permits to be transferred between vehicles accordingly.

During the ensuing discussion Committee Members were in support of this change, subject to all vehicle details being included on one permit only, and not on separate permits.

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

That the terms and conditions of Councillors' car park permits be amended to enable permits to be transferred between vehicles.

**8) Public Transport matters**

**a) Durlston Bus Service – update and consideration of future options**

It was reported by the Town Council's Visitor Services Manager that the Head Ranger, Durlston Country Park, had met with interested parties on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 to consider possible future options for the Durlston bus service. It was noted that the existing service currently ran from Main Beach car park, through the town centre to Durlston Country Park, and then returned along the same route, during May to September only. At the meeting it was felt that the service could be enhanced by operating a 'circular' service all year round, to include Swanage Hospital, which would be more beneficial to visitors and the local community.

A further meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019, and three options were now proposed for further consideration/exploration of costs:

- Continue as is - May to September, Durlston Bus with no changes, with continued funding by partners;
- 'Community Bus' - to include Swanage Hospital (May to September only, all year round, or perhaps something in between);
- 'Tourism/Community Bus' - to include Swanage Hospital (May to September only, all year round, or perhaps something in between).

It was noted that the Visitor Services Manager had attended both meetings, and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Monkhouse, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That delegated authority be given to the VSM to work with partners to develop detailed proposals for the three options and bring more information back to a future Committee Meeting for further consideration.

Councillor Bonfield left the Meeting at 3.45 p.m.

**b) Sandbanks Ferry – update**

It was reported that Councillor Suttle had attended an update meeting with the Ferry Company at which it was advised that the replacement parts for the ferry were scheduled to arrive in Southampton by mid-October 2019. The Company was committed to bringing the ferry back into service as soon as possible, and reassembly

works would commence immediately with the objective, weather permitting, to return ferry to Poole by the end of October 2019.

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

- a) **Dorset Highways** – performance updates dated June and July 2019 were provided to Committee Members for information purposes.
- b) **Morebus Breezer 40 Service** – it was reported that the evening service would continue during the winter months, except on Sundays. For full details of the current timetable please visit: <https://www.morebus.co.uk/services/SQ/40>.
- c) **Overgrown weeds/foilage growing on the highways and pavements** – concerns were raised regarding the sizeable amount of weeds growing on highways and pavements around the town. It was reported that the Litter Free Purbeck volunteers had been undertaking some weed clearance, and Councillor Trite, as Dorset Councillor, agreed to make enquiries on behalf of the Committee regarding Dorset Council's future weeding schedule for Swanage.

**8) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

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