

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ROADS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held via Zoom video conferencing platform on **WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2020** 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

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Ms K Black

Durlston Country Park

Ms N Clark

Administration and Communications Manager

Mr S Mepham

Senior Team Leader, Highways, Dorset Council

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services Manager

Mrs G Percival

Operations Manager

Mrs A Spencer

Finance Manager

Mrs S Spurling

Sustainable Swanage and Litter Free Coast and Sea

Mr N Ward

Purbeck Transport Action Group

There were two members of the press present at the meeting but no members of the public.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Rogers and Mr P Sykes.

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 23rd September 2020**

Further to Minute No. 7) b) it was reported that a site visit was taking place tomorrow regarding the pavement tree in Burlington Rd.

4) **Sustainable Swanage Active Travel Plan – presentation from Sarah Spurling, Sustainable Swanage and Litter Free Coast and Sea Project Officer**

Sarah Spurling provided the Committee with an update regarding transport-related discussions at recent Sustainable Swanage meetings. Relevant topics included the need for additional cycle paths, improved walking to school schemes and transport links to neighbouring villages. The government's support for active travel schemes was noted, and it was hoped that a working party would be formed to take these measures forward. The Chairman thanked Mrs Spurling for a thought-provoking presentation.

5) Purbeck Transport Action Group – consultation on draft Purbeck Transport Strategy

The Committee were invited to contribute to a draft Purbeck Transport Strategy which was being co-ordinated by the Purbeck Transport Action Group (PTAG) in response to widespread concern regarding local traffic management problems. Once completed the strategy would be submitted to Dorset Council for consideration, as the strategic transport authority.

During the discussion the following were identified as matters of concern: congestion, pedestrian and cyclist safety, public transport provision, pavement parking, overhanging hedgerows, and lack of parking enforcement.

Committee members were asked to send in their comments to officers using the template response form provided by PTAG by 4th December 2020. These would be used to compile a Council response for submission by 11th December.

6) Community Speed Indicator Device – update

Further to Minute No. 6) of the Roads and Transport Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2020, it was reported that the Town Council had, at its meeting held on 19th October 2020, approved a budget of £600 for speed surveys to be undertaken in order to determine the two optimum locations for the installation of poles for a speed indicator device. The budget for the installation of the device would be considered as part of the 2021/22 budget setting process.

7) Dorset Council – Highway Matters

a) Consultation on proposed amendment to Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, High Street, Swanage

Consideration was given to an e-mail received from Andrew Bradley of Dorset Council seeking the Committee's views on proposed changes to the experimental parking order introduced earlier in the year in relation to parking spaces in the High Street between Kings Road East and Town Hall Lane. It was noted that parking bays opposite the end of Mount Pleasant Lane needed to be removed due to difficulties experienced by refuse vehicles needing to reverse up the lane.

Members were supportive of this, but also felt that the parking spaces that had been removed near to the Town Hall could also be reinstated. Therefore, it was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by the Chairman:-

To request that the parking arrangements on the northern side of the High Street between Mount Pleasant Lane and Town Hall Lane be reinstated as they were prior to the introduction of the experimental parking order.

Upon being put to the Meeting, FOUR Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition, and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

b) Updates from previous meetings:

i) Northbrook Road/Washpond Lane/St Mary's School – update on proposed footpath

It was reported, via an email received from Helen Jackson, Transport Policy Manager, Dorset Council, that the improved pedestrian crossings on Ulwell Road had been included in the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme for 2021/22. Pathway improvements across Journey's End and Days Park had been included in the Town Council's draft capital programme for the same year.

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

i) Update regarding potential parking review of Swanage

It was reported that a parking review officer had been appointed by Dorset Council, who would work jointly with the CHTL and Swanage Town Council representatives to take this project forward.

ii) Miscellaneous items

- Dropped kerbs had recently been installed near to the Information Centre on Shore Road and at Pier Approach at the entrance to Prince Albert Gardens.
- The delivery of winter grit to the Depot was discussed.
- In respect of identifying solutions to the traffic management problems at Station Approach, Helen Jackson was preparing a pre-feasibility brief. She was also working with Dorset Coast Forum in respect of the potential pedestrianisation of the Lower High Street and southern section of Shore Road as part of the coastal flood defence improvement project.
- The problems identified with waste bins in Commercial Road had been referred to Dorset Waste Services and their enforcement team had been alerted.

8) Public Transport matters

a) Durlston Bus Service - update

Further to Minute 8) a) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 23rd September 2020, the Visitor Services Manager provided an update on recent discussions around the likely return of the Durlston Bus service in 2021. It was noted that the route could only incorporate Swanage Hospital if on-street parking was prohibited on the corner of the junction between Queens Road and Bon Accord Road. It was, therefore, proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Dorset Council be requested to introduce double yellow kerb markings on the corner of Bon Accord Road and Queens Road in order to prevent loading and unloading in this location at all times.

Katie Black, Senior Ranger at Durlston Country Park, reported that there was a funding shortfall of approximately £10,000 that would need to be met from external contributions if the Durlston Bus service was to operate again next year.

During the debate other measures to improve on-street parking in the vicinity of the hospital were discussed, but it was agreed that the hospital management should be consulted prior to any changes being considered.

The possibility of an alternative community bus service was also raised, and it was noted that it was under discussion by the Council's Environmental Policy working party. Any recommendation about taking this forward could be brought forward by that working party directly to the Town Council. It was noted that this matter would also be on the agenda for the Town and Community Partnership meeting in December.

9) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2021/22

Consideration was given to a detailed report prepared by the Finance Manager setting out an analysis of the usage of the Town Council's car parks in the current financial year, and setting out the draft scale of charges for 2021/22. During the discussion, it was noted that it was proposed to instal a new electric vehicle charging point and an enquiry was raised as to whether this should be increased to two. It was noted that at the present there was spare capacity and there might be benefits in not

rolling out installation too quickly as there may be improvements in technology over recent years.

It was noted that the draft scale of charges set out a price freeze for the forthcoming year. After careful consideration, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Harris and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the draft scale of charges and estimates for car parking be taken forward to the next meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee, to be considered further during the budget setting process for 2021/22.

10) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Swanage Town Council Parking Order Review

It was reported that the Town Clerk and Finance Manager were continuing to revise the draft Off-Street Parking Order and that the Car Park Working Party would be convened in the near future to review the document.

b) Dorset Council – Dorset Shopper Permit Consultation

Attention was drawn to a consultation exercise currently being undertaken by Dorset Council regarding the future of its shoppers' parking permit scheme which was extant in the west of the county. A question was asked as to whether this scheme applied to on-street parking as well as off-street. The CHTL agreed to find an answer and officers agreed to share that information with committee members.

**c) Bournemouth-Swanage Motor Road and Ferry Company Toll Review
Application – Public Inquiry - update**

It was reported that the Public Inquiry had opened on Monday 16th November, but owing to the presentation of counter proposals had been adjourned until Tuesday 5th January 2021.

11) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.
