

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2016** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council - from 2.30 p.m.

Councillor G Green

Swanage Town Council

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Poultney

Swanage Town Council

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Mr D Rawsthorn

Swanage Railway

Also Present: -

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mr G Brookes

Operations Manager

Miss N Clark

Management Support Officer

Mr C Dragon

Enforcement Officer

### **Public Participation Time**

There were six members of the public present.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns again raised regarding problems experienced with overnight and long-term parking of campervans/motorhomes in Gilbert Road, which had continued, and a request made for the consideration of parking restrictions to be implemented.
- Reference made to DCC signage in other residential areas in the town, which stated 'Cars and motorcycles only, no camping/overnight sleeping'.
- A question raised as to whether an area of Main Beach car park could be allocated for overnight parking of campervans/motorhomes.
- Whether consideration could be given to 'rapid' electric vehicle charging points (which took 30 minutes to charge), instead of 'fast' charging points (which took four hours).

#### **1) Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bishop and Lejeune, and 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.

**Agenda Item No. 4 a)** – Councillor Green declared a pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of having an interest in a nearby property, and would not take part in any discussion, decision or vote regarding this item.

There were no other declarations to record on this occasion.

**3) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**4) a) i) Shore Road and Institute Road – potential enhancements and related matters**

As previously reported, draft proposals for improvements to Institute Road were being drawn up, and would be presented at a public drop-in event being held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. HSBC Bank had announced that its branch in Institute Road would be closing in 2017, and concerns were raised that this closure could affect DCC's proposals for Institute Road. It was agreed that this information should be brought to the attention of the County Council's Transport Planners as soon as possible.

**4) c) Gilbert Road – consideration of parking restrictions**

Attention was drawn to the fact that, in the interests of clarity, the wording of Minute No. 4) c), should have read:

- Motorhomes obscuring one-way signage, and vehicles seen turning the wrong way into Gilbert Road, and then out onto Rempstone Road

Councillor Bonfield joined the meeting at 2.30 p.m.

**4) Dorset County Council - Highway Matters**

Further to her declaration of interest under Minute No. 2), Councillor Green left the room during consideration of the following item.

**a) Gilbert Road – consideration of parking restrictions**

Further to Minute No. 4) c) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016, advice and guidance had been sought from DCC's Regulation Team regarding the possibility of STC erecting advisory signage in Gilbert Road, as an alternative option to the Town Council making a formal approach for a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

It was confirmed that the Town Council did not have legal powers to erect highway signage, but it had been confirmed that DCC would not prevent STC from erecting appropriately worded advisory signage. DCC had cautioned against changes that would have the effect of moving the problem to another road in the town, and had suggested that any changes to Gilbert Road, being very much a tourist hotspot, could possibly be considered at the same time as the potential changes to Shore Road.

A discussion ensued, during which a query was raised as to whether overnight parking facilities for motorhomes/campervans could be considered in one of the Town Council's car parks. It was explained that STC had previously experimented with offering such facilities, however, once put in place these facilities were regularly abused and, after due consideration, subsequently removed. The general consensus was that there was a variety of local camping/caravan sites available that provided suitable pitches.

Committee Members were therefore in agreement that advisory signage should be installed as a temporary measure/deterrent, with the suggested wording 'Out of respect for local residents, please do not park motorhomes or campervans here', and that the signs should include STC's logo, making it clear that they were not DCC signs. However, it was felt that a formal request should also be made to DCC for the consideration of a new TRO.

During item 4) a) the Chairman invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting a number of times so as to allow members of the public to address the Committee and respond to questions regarding/relevant to the item.

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

That agreement be given to the installation of new advisory signage in Gilbert Road, subject to satisfactory costings being obtained.

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

That the Town Council write a letter to Dorset County Council fully supporting the introduction Of 'Cars and motorcycle parking only, no overnight camping/sleeping' restrictions in Gilbert Road.

## **5) Car Parks**

### **a) Proposed installation of electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) in Town Council car parks**

Further to Minute No. 5) a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016, further research had been undertaken by Members of the Working Party, and a detailed briefing note on their findings had been prepared and provided to Committee Members for further consideration. Two quotes had been received to date, with both companies recommending a dual-posted 7kW Fast Charging Point, which only required a single phase electricity supply. The cost of hardware and ongoing fees were in the region of £2.5k.

It was reported that two bays in the Mermond Place car park had been identified for the possible installation of an EVCP post, however, this would require a revision to the Council's Parking Order to allow for the four hour charging period. A debate ensued, during which concerns were raised regarding the potential ongoing costs to STC, as electricity was usually provided free of charge, and parking charges were generally waived, for vehicles that were charging. However, comments were made that other towns were promoting EVCPs as part of their 'tourism offering', and that this should be seen as providing an important service, and not as an income generating activity. It was also noted that by 2020 one in five vehicles would be able to be powered by electric, and that this type of vehicle was becoming extremely popular with commuters in view of the fact that they did not attract a congestion charge.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Morris and RESOLVED:

That this matter be taken forward to the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016, to be considered further during the budget setting process.

Thanks were given to the Finance Officer for compiling the detailed report.

## **6) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2017/18**

A good summer season was reported, there had been an increase seen in visitors and revenue this year, and it was felt that the good weather had been a contributory factor to these results.

Consideration was given to the draft scale of charges for 2017/18. It was reported that only a small increase of 2% had been proposed to the Annual Taxi Permit charge. All other charges remained the same.

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

That the Draft Scale of Charges 2017/18 be taken forward to the meeting of the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016, to be considered further during the budget setting process for 2017/18.

Further to Minute No. 6) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the contract with BemroseMobile for the pay by phone/app had been extended for one year to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. However, the anticipated countywide procurement process had still not progressed (although it was hoped that this would now commence in March 2017), and consideration was therefore given to a further extension of the contract for another year, on the same terms and conditions, pending the outcome of the proposed tender process.

It was reported that the convenience fee of 8p charged by BemroseMobile continued to be absorbed by the Town Council to encourage use of the facility, and that usage was still increasing.

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

That the contract with BemroseMobile be extended for a further period of one year, and that the convenience fee of 8p continue to be absorbed by the Town Council, to be reviewed again when the outcome of the proposed tender process is known.

Committee Members gave thanks to the Finance Officer for preparing the detailed briefing notes and summaries which accompanied the draft scale of charges.

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

- a) **Dorset County Council – public drop-in event, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Swanage, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 6.00 p.m.** – a reminder was given about the forthcoming public drop-in event, at which revised scheme proposals for Shore Road and draft proposals for improvements to Institute Road would be presented. A question was raised as to whether a copy of the revised plans would be available before 30<sup>th</sup> November, however, this was considered unlikely.
- b) **Sandbanks Ferry refit 2016** – a reminder was given that the refit had commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> November, and would take two to three weeks to complete.
- c) **Town Council car parks – consideration of review of tariffs, and purchase of new ticket/payment machines** - a request was made for these matters to be added as agenda items for a future meeting of the Transport Committee. Queries had been raised as to whether the car park tariffs could be made simpler, and whether consideration could be given to the procurement of new ticket machines, to include debit/credit card payment facilities.

**8) Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

---