

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ROADS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage, on **WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL 2022** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chair:

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor T Foster

Swanage Town Council

Councillor J Bishop

Swanage Town Council

Mr G Johns

Swanage Railway

Also Present: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mrs E Evans

Management Support Officer

Mr S Mepham

Dorset Council, Community Highways Senior Team Leader (CHSTL)

Public Participation Time

There was one member of the local press present at the meeting.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from the Town Mayor, Councillor C Moreton and Mr P Sykes (Swanage Railway). Councillor Monkhouse attended remotely.

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with Section 9 and Appendix B of the Council's Code of Conduct.

Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 a) for reason of being a Governor at Swanage Primary School, Mount Scar.

3) Matters arising from the Notes of the Informal Meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee held on 24th November 2021

Item 4 a) Dorset Council – Highway Matters, Priests Road, junction with High Street – consideration of request for a review of signage – a query was raised regarding the level of additional evidence required to instigate further action, as it was felt that the volume of vehicles witnessed driving the wrong way on the High Street posed a significant risk to other road users/pedestrians.

In response, it was reported that a left-hand arrow had been painted on the road at the junction of Manwell Lane and the High Street, as previously the only junction without road markings. Further to discussion around the prominence of the signage at the Priests Road junction, it was agreed that a Dorset Council Highway Officer would revisit the location and report back to a future meeting.

There were no further matters raised.

4) Requests for improved traffic management in Northbrook Road/Washpond Lane/St Mary's School - update

Further to Minute No. 5) of the informal meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee meeting held on 24th November 2021, it was reported that Barratt Homes had included provision for pedestrian access to both the north and south of the former

Grammar School site in their plans for the housing development. However, a footpath link to the north would be subject to the approval of Dorset Council as freeholder of the land.

It was reported that during a meeting of the Lower Grammar School Field working party held on 2nd March 2022, a suggestion had been made for the installation of pedestrian refuges along Washpond Lane. In response, it was noted that as the road had been previously assessed, that DfE standards/criteria would need to be met, and that a safer footpath option had been established, it would be highly improbable that this proposal would be implemented by Dorset Council.

It was noted that the Lower Grammar School Field working party would reconvene to discuss the potential footpath link and a report would be provided to a future meeting. Furthermore, it was reported that the double yellow lines to the north of St Mary's school had worn and the CHSTL would investigate.

5) Requests for improved traffic management in St Aldhelm's Court rear service road - update

Further to Minute No. 6) of the informal meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee held on 24th November 2021, it was reported that a Dorset Council Technical Officer had suggested the introduction of 'SLOW' road markings and possible enhanced signage as an initial deterrent to inconsiderate drivers in this area. It was reported that a meeting would be held with Dorset Council's signposting department to agree signage and location, and should financial input be required from the Town Council this would be referred to a future committee/council meeting for consideration.

6) Dorset Council – Highway Matters

a) Queens Road and Mount Scar – consideration of request for new parking restrictions adjacent to Swanage Primary School - update

Further to his declaration under Minute No. 2) above, the Chair remained in the room during consideration of the following item, but did not take part in any discussion or vote.

Further to Minute No. 4 b) of the informal meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee held on 24th November 2021, it was reported that a Dorset Highways officer had visited the area on various occasions and at different times to assess the situation. It was reported that school drop off and pick up times were busy, and inconsiderate parking was noted. However, it was felt that the resolution to the issues raised would require enforcement rather than changes to current parking restrictions. As a first step, it was suggested that a public relations campaign around the impact of inconsiderate parking would be beneficial in raising awareness across this and other areas of the town.

b) Report and updates from Community Highways Senior Team Leader

i) Update regarding potential parking review of Swanage

In order to take this matter forward it was suggested that a meeting be arranged with Dorset Council's Parking Review officer, the CHSTL and nominated Members to provide an opportunity to examine parking reviews from other areas and inform the town parking review for Swanage.

The CHSTL provided an update which included:

- South Road – micro-surfacing to be undertaken
- Station Place/Rempstone Road – planned patching works, surface dressing after six months.
- Rabling Road/Cranborne Road/Horsecliffe Lane – resurfacing planned in next six months.

- Washpond Lane – culvert at the Ulwell Road end may need enlargement and refuse screen installed. Dorset Highways and Environment Agency currently assessing flow.
- Seymer Road – top of Seymer Road, work to be completed by SSE within a couple of weeks to rectify damage to pipes causing flooding.
- Coombe Corner – extension to the 30 m.p.h. speed limit from the Langton Matravers junction to the 30 m.p.h. limit near the Swanage School.

The CHSTL was thanked for his input.

7) Public Transport Matters

a) Durlston Bus Service – update

It was reported that it was unlikely that Dorset Council’s Durlston Bus service would operate this season due to a £5,000 shortfall. The application deadline was noted as 14th April and the Visitor Services Manager and Durlston Country Park would liaise further prior to the deadline.

8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Southern section of Shore Road closure - update

Further to Minute No. 5) of the Roads and Transport Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2020, the recommendation to close the southern section of Shore Road was currently in the process of allocation to a team member at Dorset Council and it was anticipated that an experimental traffic regulation order may be instigated for autumn 2022. It was noted that should financial input be required from the Town Council this would be referred to a committee/council meeting for consideration.

b) Dorset Council – Proposed Blue Badge Car Park Charging Policy – update

The information circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

c) Swanage Railway – Wareham trial train service postponed to Summer 2023

It was reported that the 90-day trial service to Wareham would not operate this year due to the current commercial environment. The impact of Covid-19 had affected previous seasons and there remained an unpredictability over passenger numbers for 2022. It was also reported that there had been a significant increase in the cost of coal and therefore the decision had been made that a cautious approach to Swanage Railway’s finances had to be taken at the current time. It was hoped that the trial would be commenced in 2023. It was noted that in 2022 the focus would remain on the Heritage service, the dining car and special events.

Thanks was given to the Chairman of Swanage Railway for the comprehensive update.

d) Purbeck Transport Action Group – update on Purbeck Transport Plan

The information circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

9) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting held in May 2022.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.
