

Notes of an Informal meeting of the Roads and Transport Committee held via Zoom video conference platform on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 2.15 p.m.

In Attendance:

Councillor M Whitwam – Chair

Councillor T Foster

Councillor A Harris

Councillor D Monkhouse

Ms K Black – Durlston Country Park

Mr S Mephram – Dorset Council, Community Highways Senior Team Leader

Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk

Mrs E Evans – Management Support Officer

Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services Manager

Mrs G Percival – Operations Manager

Miss A Spencer – Finance Manager

There were nine members of the public and one member of the local press present.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised:-

Queens Road and Mount Scar – concerns were raised regarding the proposed parking restrictions in Mount Scar, Swanage which included:

- That DYL's or alternative parking restrictions may not dissuade inconsiderate parking or reduce hazards around the school.
- Concerns were also raised over the removal of residents' parking spaces and the detrimental effect this would have on the immediate roads, and those roads in the surrounding area without parking restrictions.
- Comments were made over the inconsiderate parking of commercial vehicles, sometimes on the footpath, causing an obstruction to mobility scooter users and pushchairs.
- It was stated that the current parking arrangements were sufficient.

High Street – concerns were raised regarding the time limit in the parking bays in the High Street, Swanage, near to the Methodist Church and Day Centre:

- Comments were raised over the one-hour limit for parking in the High Street, especially over the winter months, and a suggestion was made to remove the timed parking restriction in the winter months, or to allow parking for two hours.

Meeting notifications –

- It was suggested that Town Council meeting agenda items be communicated to the wider community.

In response it was noted that meeting agendas are available on the Town Council's website, Facebook page and the Town Hall noticeboard.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Bishop and Moreton.

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. Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest by being a school governor at Swanage Primary School, Mount Scar.

3) **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Roads and Transport Committee meeting, held on 22nd September 2021**

There were no matters raised.

It was proposed by the Chairman and AGREED:-

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

4) **Dorset Council – Highway Matters**

a) **Priests Road, junction with High Street – consideration of request for a review of signage**

A briefing paper had been circulated prior to the meeting, which raised concerns over vehicles driving in the wrong direction in the High Street, near to the Black Swan Inn. It was noted that this was hazardous to other motorists, pedestrians and cyclists and it was suggested that additional signage be installed at the junction of Priests Road and the High Street.

Further to discussion, the Community Highways Senior Team Leader stated that the signage at the junction of Manwell Lane and the High Street would be reviewed and an update provided to a future meeting. He felt that the signage was adequate at the junction of Priests Road and the High Street, and would require further evidence of vehicles turning right at that junction prior to any further action being taken

b) **Queens Road and Mount Scar – consideration of request for new parking restrictions adjacent to Swanage Primary School**

Further to comments raised during public participation time, the Community Highways Senior Team Leader explained the process involved in the consideration of new parking restrictions. It was stated that Dorset Council's Road Safety Team would be consulted and that factors such as safety, property access, emergency service access and resident opinion would form part of the process. The next steps were noted as follows:

- The Road Safety Officer to review the Zig-zag lines, near to the patrol crossing, to ensure the restriction was enforceable.
- A site meeting to be held with Dorset Council Community Highways Officer and the Road Safety Officer to discuss parking restrictions.
- Any comments to be forwarded to the Management Support Officer, Swanage Town Council, to collate responses for the Community Highways Senior Team Leader to review.

- Several solutions would be formulated and an update provided to a future meeting.

c) Report and updates from Community Highways Senior Team Leader

An update was provided by the Community Highways Senior Team Leader, which included:

- Institute Road – drainage issues adjacent to the new build out have been reported to the engineer and site agent responsible for the original scheme and an update will be provided in due course.
- Mount Scar - as reported under item 4 b), the Road Safety officer will progress the work required to ensure the existing zig-zag lines, near the patrol crossing, would be enforceable. The TRO request for Mount Scar would be scored and ranked following due process.
- Cauldron Barn Road – it was reported that a site meeting had been held to discuss a request for parking restrictions. The clause imposed by Berkeleyparks, stating only one car could be parked on the Cauldron Barn Park site, had impacted nearby roads and the situation would continue to be escalated with the park owners.

i) Update regarding potential parking review of Swanage

It was anticipated that the whole town parking review would commence early in the next financial year and that the Strategic Parking Project Manager, the Community Highways Senior Team Leader and members of the Town Council would oversee the project.

It was suggested that any current or future parking concerns/comments should be emailed to the Management Support Officer to be included in the parking review.

ii) Update on Dorset Council's process regarding requests for new traffic management measures

This item would be deferred to a future meeting.

Mr Mepham left the meeting at 3 p.m.

It was noted that Dorset Council were responsible for Highways and had the authority to make changes, however, the Town Council's views are sought. The Town Council provides assistance to Dorset Council in the liaison with local residents and the management of expectations.

5) Northbrook Road/Washpond Lane/St Mary's RC Primary School – update on request for improved traffic management

Further to Minute No. 4) of the Roads and Transport Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2021, it was reported that a meeting had been held with the headteacher of St Mary's RC Primary School and, as noted in the briefing paper, the following actions agreed:

- Contact Dorset Highways to investigate whether it would be possible to extend the Zig-Zag lines outside of the school, on the northern section of Northbrook Road.
- Councillors to engage with Barratt Homes to discuss the possibility of installing a new footpath from the proposed new housing development east of Northbrook Road, across to the north corner of the field behind the development.

- Proposals for a new pond/wildlife area to be considered in conjunction with the new footpath proposal.
- The current number of primary and pre-school children living in the north Swanage area who attend St Mary's Primary School to be established.

Furthermore, it was noted that the Town Council had financed the cost for the hedges to be cut back along Washpond Lane and the work had recently been completed. A further update regarding action points would be provided to a future meeting.

6) St Aldhelm's Court rear service road – consideration of request for improved traffic management

A briefing paper had been circulated, prior to the meeting, which contained a letter from the Chairman of St Aldhelm's Court Resident's Association sent following a meeting held on 11th October between Town Councillors and residents of St Aldhelm's Court, in De Moulham Rd. Further to the meeting and discussions held over safety concerns, it was suggested that an external traffic surveyor be employed to assess the traffic management situation in St Aldhelm's Court service road.

It was suggested that the Operations Manager make some preliminary investigations into the availability and cost of an external contractor in order for the matter to be given further consideration. It was estimated that the cost would be in the region of £3,000. A further suggestion had been made by the Residents' Association that the Town Council wrote to the residents of Gannetts Park requesting them to exercise extreme caution if they drove through St Aldhelm's Court rear service road, however, members felt that the agreed approach of investigating traffic management of the area be employed in the first instance.

7) Car Park Estimates and Scale of Charges 2022/23

A comprehensive briefing paper, prepared by the Finance Manager, had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was reported that there had been an increase in non-cash payments for car parking and an increase in use of Electric Vehicle charging points. No increase to car park charges was recommended in the briefing note, although it was noted that the level of parking charges warranted further consideration at an appropriate point in time. It was also noted that no increase was proposed for annual or season car park tickets, but that the dates for a summer season ticket in Main Beach and North Beach car park be aligned with seasonal dates in other car parks, 1st April to 31st October as opposed to the current dates 1st May to 31st October.

Further to discussion it was proposed by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Monkhouse and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Scale of Fees and Charges and car parking estimates, as set out in the briefing paper, be brought forward to the Policy, Finance and Performance Management Committee for further consideration as part of the budget setting process for 2022/23.

The chair thanked the Finance Manager for the thorough report.

8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) High Street – request for change to existing parking restrictions

Further to discussion during public participation time, and item 4 c) i) above, it was noted that any current traffic regulation requests should be emailed to the Management Support Officer in order to be included in the parking review.

b) Dorset Council – review of car parking charges – update

The agenda papers and draft minutes of Dorset Council's Place and Resources Overview Committee were noted. It was stated that the comments raised by the Town Council had been acknowledged prior to the meeting.

c) Dorset Council – Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Installation Programme – update

It was noted that Durlston Country Park would have an Electric Charging point installed as part of Dorset Council's installation programme.

d) Dorset Council – Blue Badge Car Park Charging Policy – invitation to discussion group

The information was noted.

9) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 2nd February 2022 @ 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4 p.m.