

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ROADS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held via Zoom video conferencing platform on **WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 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 (from 2.30 p.m.)

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Councillor C Finch

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Tomes

Swanage Town Council (from 2.30 p.m.)

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Mr R Camp

Road Safety Officer, Community Highways Safety Team, Dorset Council

Mrs E Evans

Management Support Officer

Ms R Jones

Dorset Coast Forum Coordinator

Mr S Mephram

Senior Team Leader, Highways, Dorset Council

Mr C Milmer

Visitor Services Manager

Mrs G Percival

Operations Manager

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised:-

- **Proposed Traffic Regulation Order, High Street (Pier Approach)** - concerns regarding the proposal to pedestrianise the Lower High Street, Swanage, were expressed by a resident living in close proximity to the area. Concern was raised over the loss of parking for residents living in the surrounding roads, and further clarity of the proposed plans was requested. The resident was advised the matter would be raised and discussed under agenda item 7a).

1) Apologies

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Rogers.

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 7 a) Proposed Traffic Regulation Order, High Street (Pier Approach), Swanage - to consider proposal from Dorset Highways -
Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct

by reason of being a Trustee of Swanage Pier Trust.

There were no further declarations to record on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport Committee held on 5th February 2020

There were no matters raised.

4) Coastal Defence Improvements, Lower High Street – potential pedestrianisation of the Pier Approach area – presentation from Rhiannon Jones, Dorset Coast Forum Coordinator

Further to Minute No.6) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2020, a presentation was made by Rhiannon Jones, Dorset Coast Forum Coordinator, in relation to plans for enhanced flood defences, and improvements to public spaces.

It was reported that the proposals had been developed by Swanage Coastal Change Forum, a partnership of organisations which included Dorset Council and BCP coastal engineers, the Environment Agency, and Swanage Town Council.

The various plans highlighted the options for flood alleviation, which included flood gate positions and extensions to the sea wall. It was emphasised that the proposed plans would be sympathetic to the conservation of the heritage of the local area.

One option would see the pedestrianisation of the Pier Approach area of the Lower High Street and it was noted that the potential pedestrianisation of the southern section of Shore Road could also be considered as part of the scheme.

It was envisaged that the community would be involved at key points to ensure members of the public had the opportunity to engage with the proposed plans. Further to the public consultation, a stakeholder consultation would be initiated, followed by a feasibility study. The initial stage of a public consultation was envisaged to take place before the end of 2020, and the results would be shared at a future meeting.

Further to the presentation and subsequent discussion, it was AGREED:-

That no objection be raised to the inclusion of the potential pedestrianisation of the Pier Approach section of the lower High Street within the proposals for the forthcoming public consultation.

5) Shore Road – report on responses to public consultation on the potential pedestrianisation of southern section between the Mowlem and Victoria Avenue and update

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2020, consideration was given to a briefing note prepared by the Management Support Officer. It was reported that the Shore Road Closure working party had met prior to the Committee meeting to discuss the response to the public consultation undertaken earlier in the year in detail.

It was noted that the total number of responses to the survey had been 847 with 61.6% of respondents in favour of the southern section of the road being closed permanently. The main reasons given for support were noted as improving safety and confusion over the seasonal road closure and re-opening of the gates.

In addition to the permanent closure of the road, a discussion was held surrounding a temporary extension to the closure period, considering the current pandemic, in order to enable greater social distancing. Members felt this would be beneficial, and the CHTL suggested this could be taken to Dorset Highways for consideration.

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

That the Town Council recommends to Dorset Council that the seasonal closure period for the

southern section of Shore Road be extended until January 2021.

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

TO RECOMMEND:

That a formal request be made to Dorset Council for the southern section of Shore Road, between The Mowlem and Victoria Avenue, to be closed on a permanent basis to improve public safety.

6) Community Speed Indicator Device – presentation from Rob Camp, Road Safety Officer, Community Highways Safety Team, Dorset Council

Further to Minute No. 10)b) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2020, a presentation was provided by Rob Camp, Road Safety Officer, Dorset Council, regarding the potential installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).

The advantages of SIDs were explained, including the visual impact of the device on speed levels and the benefit of moving it to different locations to retain drivers' speed awareness.

The process to obtain a Speed Indicator Device was explained, and it was specified that a speed survey would be required on suggested roads, conducted by Dorset Council, to assess the suitability of the location. It was recommended that poles be installed in two locations, the SID being located at each site for a period of approximately six weeks.

Three locations were suggested for the initial speed survey which included the High Street, Ulwell Road and Northbrook Road.

It was agreed that further information regarding the costs of the survey, and subsequent SID installation be provided to the Town Council for further consideration. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Whitwam and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

TO RECOMMEND:

That support in principle be given to the installation of two poles and one Speed Indicator Device, the cost to be considered further during the forthcoming budget setting process.

Mr Camp left the meeting at 3.20 p.m.

7) Dorset Council – Highway Matters

a) Proposed Traffic Regulation Order, High Street (Pier Approach), Swanage – update on responses to public consultation

Further to Minute No. 7) a) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2020, consideration was given to the results of the public consultation regarding Dorset Council's proposed Traffic Regulation Order, Pier Approach.

The public consultation results had revealed significant opposition to Dorset Council's proposed restriction of 'No loading at any time', with the majority of respondents concerned about the potential inability to unload water sport equipment.

The CHTL proposed an alternative Traffic Regulation Order which involved the installation of 'high profile' dropped kerbs, directly opposite, on both sides of the road. It was proposed that the highway would have white access protection lines installed to highlight the dropped kerb area and would indicate 'no parking' in front of the dropped kerb. The dropped footway area would be constructed from tactile

material.

After a lengthy discussion, there was no objection raised to Dorset Council's revised Proposed Traffic Regulation Order and it was AGREED:-

That the Town Council raises no objection to the proposed revision to the scheme agreed under Minute No.7) a) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2020, to introduce dropped kerbs, tactile paving slabs and white access protection road markings at Pier Approach, lower High Street, Swanage.

b) Burlington Road – consideration of request for Town Council's support in applying to Dorset Council to remove tree from pavement in front of property.

Consideration was given to correspondence between a homeowner of Burlington Road and Dorset Council's Arboricultural Team regarding a tree obstructing access to and egress from the homeowner's driveway.

A discussion ensued regarding the balance to be struck between the retention of healthy trees and the access difficulties experienced by the homeowner. The potential cost to Dorset Council associated with tree removal was also raised. It was suggested that if the tree were to be removed the homeowner should fund the planting of two trees in another location.

The CHTL recommended a site visit to assess the situation, and that liaison with the homeowner, Dorset Council's Arboricultural Team and Dorset Highways would be beneficial. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

After a thorough discussion, it was AGREED:-

That the Town Council is sympathetic to the homeowner's concerns and requests Dorset Council to explore potential solutions to the issue.

c) Updates from previous meetings:

i) Commercial Road – road condition, bins on pavements and advertising on building walls.

Further to matters raised during public participation time prior to the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2020, the CHTL reported that the issues mentioned with regards to the road condition had been investigated and repairs had subsequently been instigated. He added that further walked inspections had been scheduled for the following week. The advertising signage was reported as an area for the Planning Department and would need to be discussed with businesses as required. With regards to the concern of bins obstructing the pavement, the CHTL stated that he would report this to Dorset Waste Partnership to investigate alternative arrangements should it be assessed as necessary.

d) Report and updates from Community Highways Team Leader

i) Update regarding potential on-street parking review of Swanage

The CHTL reported that an officer had been newly appointed to the Dorset Council's Highways Team and that parking reviews would form part of their role. It was noted that the officer would seek involvement from Swanage Town Council and would liaise with the Roads and Transport Committee in due course. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

The CHTL added that the current temporary TRO in effect on Shore Road would be extended and remain in place until the end of October. The TRO allowed the temporary suspension of five parking spaces which permitted additional space for social distancing at pinch points on the footway.

ii) Institute Road – A boards and sitting out - update

- **A boards** - It was reported by the CHTL that the problems that had been previously raised regarding pavement clutter along Institute Road had been greatly improved. Nevertheless, some Members raised concerns over the continued use of A-boards and the impact on social distancing. Further to discussion it was decided that it would be beneficial to hold a separate meeting between Dorset Council Highways team, Swanage Town Council and Swanage Chamber of Trade to discuss this item in further detail and agree a way forward regarding enforcement. An update would be provided at a future meeting.
- **Sitting out** – The CHTL reported that a walked inspection in Swanage was scheduled for the following day and investigation would ensue should any business have exceeded the pre-approved area stipulated in their sitting out licence. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

8) Public Transport matters

a) Durlston Bus Service - update

Further to Minute 4) of the Roads and Transport Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2020, it was reported that further information was required and it was AGREED:-

That this matter be deferred to a future Committee Meeting for further consideration, once information is received from Durlston Country Park and Morebus accordingly.

9) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Swanage Town Council Parking Order Review

It was reported that the Car Park Working Party would be convened in the near future to review the draft Off-Street Parking Order.

10) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 2.15 p.m.

The chair thanked Rhiannon Jones, Rob Camp and Stephen Mepham for their contribution to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.
