

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2019** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor A Harris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor D Monkhouse

Swanage Town Council

Councillor C Moreton

Swanage Town Council

Also Present: -

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Administration & Communications Manager

Mrs G Barry

Highways Engineer

Mr A Bradley

Highways

Mr S Mephram

Community Highways Team Leader (CHTL)

There were four members of the public present.

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised:-

- **Northbrook Road** – a query raised as to whether the new pedestrian crossing works, outside St Mary's RC Primary School, would still be going ahead during the summer holidays as originally planned.
- **Shore Road** – a request made for consideration to be given to the permanent closure/pedestrianisation of the southern section of Shore Road at a future Council Meeting.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Bonfield and Rogers, and Mr D Rawsthorn (Swanage Railway).

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 29th November 2018**

There were no matters raised.

4) **Transport Committee**

a) **Consideration of possible change of name**

Further to Minute No. 5 d) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2019, consideration was given to the possible change of name of the Committee. A number of suggestions had been put forward, and the general consensus of Members was that it would be important to retain the word 'Transport' in any new name.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the title 'Roads and Transport Committee' accurately reflected the matters/issues considered by the Committee, and it was therefore proposed by Councillor Moreton, seconded by Councillor Harris, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

TO RECOMMEND:-

That the title of the Transport Committee be changed to Roads and Transport Committee with immediate effect.

b) Consideration of number of meetings per annum

Further to Minute No. 5 e) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2019, consideration was given to the number of Committee Meetings held per annum. There were currently three meetings, usually held in February, June, and November, and Committee Members felt that there was too big a 'gap' in between these meetings. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to hold an additional meeting in September each year (the November meeting historically being the 'Scale of Charges' meeting).

It was therefore **AGREED:**

That the Roads and Transport Committee holds four meetings per annum in future, in February, June, September, and November.

It was noted that the next Committee Meeting would now be held on Wednesday 16th September 2019.

6) Dorset County Council (DCC) - Highway Matters

a) Requests for improved traffic management in the following locations:

i) Washpond Lane, and near to its junctions with Northbrook Road and Ulwell Road

Further to Minute No. 4 a) i) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2019, and Minute No. 182 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 25th February 2019, the following updates were considered:

• Update following meeting with representatives from Barratt Homes to discuss proposed footpath/cycleway

It was reported that the Town Council, Dorset Council, and St Mary's RC Primary School, had met with representatives from Barratt Homes, to explore possibilities for a new footpath linking Northbrook Road and Ulwell Road, and funding for this proposal.

It was explained that whilst Barratt Homes was supportive of the scheme in principle, the company felt unable to offer any direct financial assistance at this stage.

Dorset Council had compiled a pre-feasibility report on the options, including estimated costings, and it had been recommended that a further meeting should be held to consider the report and next steps.

It was therefore **AGREED:-**

That a meeting would be arranged between representatives of the Town Council, Dorset Council, and St Mary's RC Primary School, to discuss all options in greater detail.

• Review of speed survey results and confirmation of request for a reduction in the speed limit in Washpond Lane from 60mph to 30mph

Consideration was given to the results of the speed survey which had been undertaken in Washpond Lane from 4th March to 10th March 2019. The headline figures were that over a seven day period (24 hours per day, during term time), average mean speed north-eastbound was 27.5mph (85% of all vehicles travelling at under 31.9mph), and average mean speed south-westbound was 27.8mph (85% of all vehicles travelling at under 32.7mph).

During the ensuing discussion comments were made that these figures supported a previous point raised that if vehicles were already driving at this speed then 30mph would be an appropriate speed for this road (rather than the 60mph national speed limit currently in place).

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

That the Town Council reiterates its recommendation to Dorset Council to consider a reduction in the speed limit in Washpond Lane from 60mph to 30mph, as soon as possible and in the interests of safety.

ii) Institute Road proposed improvements – update and consideration of funding requirements

Further to Minute No. 137 of the Council Meeting held on 17th December 2018, and Minute No. 4 c) i) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2019, it was reported that the application for grant funding to the Coastal Communities Fund had been unsuccessful and therefore a review of the scheme had been carried out to identify cost savings.

Attention was drawn to the possibility of using imprinted asphalt as a more durable and cost-effective option for paving. However, it was noted that a funding shortfall of approximately £40,000 remained. Members reiterated their views that this scheme was vital for pedestrian safety and improved traffic flow through the town centre.

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

TO RECOMMEND:-

That the Town Council confirms its support to Dorset Council for the revised highway improvement proposals for Institute Road, and agrees to increase its financial contribution to the scheme by £40,000 to a total of £100,000.

iii) Service road off Jubilee Road, adjacent to the former St Mark's Primary School Playing Field (unadopted road) - consideration of request for additional disabled parking bay

Consideration was given to an email received from a local resident regarding problems being experienced in the service road off Jubilee Road due to inconsiderate parking, and enquiring whether an additional disabled bay could be installed.

During the ensuing discussion it was explained that this was an 'unadopted' road, and that the Committee would need to ascertain exactly what steps had previously been taken to install the existing disabled bay in the service road before it could make a decision or recommendation on this request.

The CHTL agreed to make enquiries on behalf of the Committee and would report his findings back to a future meeting for further consideration.

c) Updates from previous meetings:-

i) Station Road and Institute Road – update regarding A-boards, displays, and tables and chairs, in the town centre

Further to Minute No. 4 b) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2019, it was reported that the CHTL had provided the Town Council with a copy of Dorset Council's policy on A-Boards, and that this matter would be given further consideration at a future Council Meeting.

The CHO had not been able to attend the meeting, however, it was reported that he was in the process of speaking to business owners in the town regarding Dorset Council's policy on signage and advertising, and an update on actions taken would be given at a future meeting.

During the ensuing discussion concerns were again raised regarding the problems experienced at times by pedestrians, parents with pushchairs, and wheelchair users in the town centre. A reminder was given that members of the public could report any such concerns to Dorset Highways via its online reporting tool so that any issues could be brought to the attention of the CHO. The reporting tool provided the user with a reference number so that they could track the progress of their report, and photographs could be uploaded/attached to the report form. The link to this would be provided to Committee Members for their information:
<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Report-other-highways-issue>

ii) Report and updates from Community Highways Team Leader

The CHTL, Mr Steve Mephram, reported on a number of matters, including the following:

- **Shore Road, hatched markings adjacent to Ocean Bay Slipway** – concerns had been raised by a local resident regarding inconsiderate/illegal parking and passing issues at this location. A request was made for these markings to be refreshed, and that enhanced enforcement action be taken.

Ms G Barry and Mr A Bradley left the Meeting at 3.20 p.m.

- **Lower High Street – parking outside of Royal Victoria Apartments** – it was confirmed that enforcement would not be undertaken by DC's Parking Services unless complaints were forthcoming.
- **Sandbanks Ferry Service** – further to Minute 5 c) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 6th February 2019, it was reported that Highways England had confirmed that it would not allow signage/advertising of this type, unless there would be 'major disruption', and that it was the responsibility of the ferry company to alert members of the public regarding any suspension of its service. The ferry company did so via its website and Social Media, and Dorset Council would share/publicise this information and also alert local radio stations, if it was made aware of any future problems. The CHTL would make contact with the ferry company accordingly.

6) Car Parks – consideration of request for parking permit for North Beach car park

Consideration was given to a request received from a local resident for parking permits for use in the Council's North Beach car park. It was reported that the Council currently only offered permits in its Main Beach car park, at a cost of £180 for the summer season (1st May to 31st October) or £270 per annum.

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

TO RECOMMEND:-

That approval be given to parking permits for North Beach car park for the period 1st April to 31st October each year, at a sum of £135 (being three quarters of the Main Beach summer season permit fee).

7) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- a) **Dorset Highways** – the latest performance update dated January 2019 was provided to Committee Members for information purposes.
- b) **Dorset Highways** – latest Travel and Transport newsletter May 2019 - please visit: <https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/may-2019>
- c) **Inconsiderate parking on the eastern section of Kings Road West** – concerns were raised regarding the parking of high-sided vehicles at this location, and whether consideration could be given to the installation of ‘advisory’ signage asking the owners of these vehicles not to do so in the interests of road and pedestrian safety. The CHTL agreed to make enquiries on behalf of the Committee.

8) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.
