

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TRANSPORT COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019** at **2.15 p.m.**

Chairman: -

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor J Bishop

Swanage Town Council

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Councillor T Morris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor S Poultney

Swanage Town Council - from 2.25 p.m.

Councillor W Trite

Swanage Town Council

Mr D Rawsthorn

Swanage Railway

Also Present: -

Councillor C Finch

Swanage Town Council

Dr M Ayres

Town Clerk

Miss N Clark

Administration & Communications Manager

Mr S Mephram

Community Highways Team Leader (CHTL)

Mr I Styring

Community Highways Officer (CHO)

There were four members of the public present.

**Public Participation Time**

- **Washpond Lane, junction with Northbrook Road, and approved planning application 6/2017/0713 for a development of 90 new homes on land to the west of Northbrook Road** – concerns again raised regarding traffic generation and road/pedestrian safety, in particular outside St Mary's RC Primary School, and in Washpond Lane, and a request made for the Town Council to provide its support to the following:
  - A reduction in the speed limit in Washpond Lane from 60mph to 30mph.
  - To recommend that the County Council undertakes a speed survey in Washpond Lane.
  - A joint approach, with St Mary's Primary School, to Barratt Homes regarding the possibility of a financial contribution towards a new footpath on land adjacent to Washpond Lane, in order to provide a safe pedestrian route/access for children attending St Mary's Primary School.
  - Whether an appeal could be lodged against approved planning application 6/2017/0713. An explanation was provided regarding the planning approval process, and the Chairman recommended that this matter was taken up with the town's District Councillors who could liaise with the District Council's legal adviser if appropriate.

It was noted that the proposed new pedestrian crossing works in Northbrook Road would now not be going ahead during the Easter holiday as originally planned.

- **Shore Road parking bays** – concerns raised regarding the proposal for individually marked bays, and reference made to the potential enhancements and traffic flow improvement proposals for Shore Road which had currently been placed on hold.
- **Iminster Road and Cranborne Road** – a request made for the removal of summer parking restrictions.

1) **Apologies**

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Green.

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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**5 a) i) and iii) Priests Road and Seymer Road** – it was confirmed that the CHTL would be undertaking site visits with Town Councillors on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to discuss potential highway/footway improvements for consideration under DCC's Local Transport Plan programme.

**6) Cow Lane – update** – there was no further update to be given at this time. It was reported that the new Operations Manager was now in situ and would be progressing matters in due course.

**7 a) Consideration of request for parking permits for ex-Mayors of Swanage** – Members wished it to be noted that this request had been emphatically turned down and would not be revisited.

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

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

**i) Washpond Lane, near to junction with Northbrook Road – request for improvements and further consideration of road safety concerns relating to approved planning application 6/2017/0713, development of 90 new homes on land west of Northbrook Road**

Further to Minute No. 5 c) iv) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the CHTL reported that he had met with representatives from St Mary's RC Primary School to review the Washpond Lane/Northbrook Road area, and to discuss the road/pedestrian safety concerns which had been raised.

It was noted that this location did not meet Dorset Highway's criteria for reducing the speed limit. However, DCC would be prepared to undertake a speed survey to gather further evidence, subject to the Town Council funding the cost.

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

**TO RECOMMEND:**

That a request be made to Dorset County Council for a speed survey to be undertaken in Washpond Lane as soon as possible, and in the interests of safety, and to approve a budget of £250 towards the cost of the survey.

During the discussion the following items were raised:

- Proposed footpath adjacent to Washpond Lane, and the possibility of a financial contribution from Barratt Homes.
- Illegal parking in the vicinity of St Mary's Primary school, and the potential for Police monitoring.
- Potential for Community Infrastructure Levy monies to fund improvements.

At 2.55 p.m. and 3.05 p.m. the Chairman invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow a member of the public to address the Committee, and respond to/ask questions regarding/relevant to Agenda Item 4 a) i).

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

**TO RECOMMEND:**

That the Town Council agrees to approach Barratt Homes, along with representatives from St Mary's Primary School, regarding the possibility of a financial contribution towards a new footpath.

It was reported by the CHTL that new 'pedestrians in road' and 'school warning' signage had been agreed for Washpond Lane, and that he would be monitoring/reviewing the success of the proposed new pedestrian crossing in Northbrook Road, near to St Mary's Primary School, once completed. It was anticipated that these works would now be undertaken during the school summer holidays.

**ii) Shore Road parking bays**

Further to Minute No. 5 a) vi) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, further consideration was given to a request received for the continuous marked parking bay along Shore Road to be separated into individual bays.

The CHTL had contacted DCC's Head of Parking Services for advice regarding this request, and it was reported that bays would have to be created to accommodate the largest cars, and that the Shore Road TRO would need to be amended. It was noted that, as there was no evidence to suggest that more cars would be able to park in Shore Road if the bays were installed, the County Council would not be able to support this request, therefore it was agreed that no further action would be taken.

**iii) Ilminster Road and Cranborne Road – further consideration of request for removal of summer parking restrictions**

Further to Minute No. 5 a) vii) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, further consideration was given to a request received for the removal of summer parking restrictions in Ilminster Road and Cranborne Road.

During the ensuing discussion Members were in agreement that a two-hour parking period would be more useful to shoppers. However, the CHTL reported that the TROs would need to be amended, and that DCC would be prepared to consider an overall parking review of the town, instead of looking at individual requests on a 'piecemeal' basis, which would take into account the views of local residents, businesses, stakeholders, and the emergency services.

Members felt that further information would be required before the Committee could make an informed decision on whether or not to agree to such a review.

At 3.25 p.m. the Chair invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow a member of the public to address the Committee, and respond to/ask questions regarding/relevant to Agenda Item 4 a) iii).

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

That consideration be given to the possibility of a parking review in Swanage at a future meeting of the Transport Committee, subject to further information being received from the County Council.

It was noted that the CHTL would provide officers with a copy of DCC's parking review guidelines/procedures.

**b) Station Road and Institute Road – consideration of concerns raised regarding the increase in A-boards, displays, and tables and chairs, in the town centre**

Further to minute No. 5 b) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, consideration was given to concerns raised regarding the increase seen in A-boards and displays in the town centre. Many of these were considered to be untidy, 'trip hazards' and presented problems at times for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchair users. It was noted that some of the A-boards were sited at a significant distance from the businesses concerned, which was considered not to be acceptable.

During the ensuing discussion Members concurred that business owners should be made aware/reminded of the County Council's policy regarding signage and advertising, and the CHO agreed that he would speak to businesses on behalf of the Town Council.

Members were in agreement that they would not be in favour of removing A-boards altogether, and that it would be prudent to include the Chamber of Trade in any discussions on this matter. It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Bishop, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That a copy of DCC's policy on A-Boards be obtained, and that further consideration be given to this matter at a future Council Meeting.

**c) Updates from previous meetings**

**i) Institute Road improvements – update**

It was reported that, at the Monthly Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019, support had been given by the Town Council to the revised draft highway improvement proposals for Institute Road, which included a new dual taxi/loading bay in Lower High Street. It was further reported that the proposed design would take approximately 20 weeks to build, and was currently in the County Council's work schedule to commence in January 2020, subject to introduction of the appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders.

**ii) Report from Community Highways Team Leader**

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

- **DCC/STC partnership working in respect of coastal defence measures** – following wave over-topping at the weekend, gullies had been emptied and debris/stones cleared from the vicinity of the Stone Quay.
- **The Parade railings** – DCC's structures team to carry out survey pending issue of purchase order by STC.
- **Rempstone Road – removal of redundant dropped kerb** – it was reported that these works had now been completed by the County Council, at no cost to the Town Council.
- **Shore Road gates** – further to Minute No. 5 c) v) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, it was reported that DCC would be undertaking repair works to the gate panels, and discussions were ongoing with the Town Council regarding further proposed works to the gates.
- **Northbrook Road/junction with Victoria Avenue** – update given regarding a recommendation previously made to DCC for the extension of double yellow lines at this location, due to the inappropriate/long-term parking of motorhomes seen at times. It was suggested that this could be included as part of any future parking review.

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

- a) Bus Shelter- Installation of new shelter outside Costcutter, Herston – update -** further to Minute No. 8 a) of the Transport Committee Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, it was reported that DCC had confirmed that a new supplier had been found, the new shelter had been ordered, and that it would be installed within the next few weeks.
- b) Dorset Highways Monthly Update – November 2018 –** the latest update was provided to Committee Members for information purposes.
- c) Sandbanks Ferry Service – update –** it was reported that the ferry had resumed a reduced service from 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The ferry would run from 7.00 a.m. until 7.15 p.m. daily on a half-hourly service. However, the service would be suspended again in the near future whilst replacement parts were fitted. Full details could be found on the ferry’s website <http://www.sandbanksferry.co.uk/news.php>
- During the ensuing discussion concerns were expressed that the signage used by the ferry company to alert motorists of the suspended service had been inadequate, and that the lack of advanced signage warning of the ferry closure, along the main routes into Poole/Bournemouth, had generated a number of complaints. It was noted that the CHTL would review what obligation was placed on the company to advise the Highway Authority, customers and highway users of the cancellation or lack of ferry service, and how far reaching should advance warning signs be placed, e.g. A31, A338, or M3. The CHTL would report his findings back to a future meeting.
- d) Transport Committee - possible change of name –** suggestions were made, including Transport and Roads Committee, and it was noted that this would be reviewed in advance of the Annual Council Meeting in May 2019.
- e) Transport Committee – number of meetings per annum –** a suggestion was made that there should be four committee meetings per year, and it was noted that this would be reviewed in advance of the Annual Council Meeting in May 2019.
- f) Prospect Way, Swanage –** further to Minute No. 5 b) of the Planning and Consultation Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019, concerns were again raised regarding the long term parking of vehicles in this location, and it was noted that this matter was being dealt with by Purbeck District Council.

**6) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2019.

The meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.

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