

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held in the Salt House, West Bay on Thursday, 15 October 2015 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Cllr	Ms S.A. Horniman	Mrs E.A. Rickard
	J.S.L. Jones	Ms S.J. Williams (ex-officio)
	C.M. Ray	

Also in attendance: Cllrs Mrs M.J. Ray and D.G. Rickard.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr G. Fryer spoke in support of the request for a 20 mph limit in West Allington.

Mr M. Nicks, on behalf of the West Bay Community Forum, spoke about the following issues:

- Dorset County Council's vehicle count in July had demonstrated that a Zebra Crossing may be justified near the Church.
- West Bay Road Car Park – it was understood that the District Council may have some funding to mark out the parking bays.
- Marsh Barn Road – double yellow lines were needed along this road.
- Flyposting – needed to be monitored and addressed.
- Mollie's Den – concerns at parking an advertising truck in the lay by on the A35.

Mrs M. Hymas spoke in support of the petition calling for the 20 mph speed limit in Victoria Grove to be enforced.

Mrs G. Summers also spoke in support of the need for enforcement of the 20 mph limit in Victoria Grove.

13. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2015, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

Mr Alan Williams, representing WATAG, updated members on a number of issues including:

WATAG had produced the new winter timetables for the X51 and X53 and it thanked the Town Council for its financial contribution towards the costs. The format used, including showing connecting train services, was now being used by First in their timetables.

First had made some changes in response to concerns raised by WATAG and this included applying to register the last bus from Dorchester to leave at 7.15pm rather than 7.00 pm, to allow time to meet the train from London, which arrived in Dorchester at 6.55pm.

If more people used the buses in the day, then First had said that it would consider putting back some of the evening services.

There were still some issues with the audio on buses, which were being raised.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and WATAG be thanked for its work in producing the winter timetables.

17. WEST BAY HIGHWAYS MATTERS

In response to the issues raised in the Public Forum, members supported the calls for a pedestrian crossing; marked bays in West Bay Road and the other car parks in West Bay and noted that yellow lines along Marsh Barn Road was being looked at by the County Council. Flyposting and Mollies Den advertising on the A35 layby were being addressed separately.

RECOMMEND: that the request for a pedestrian crossing in West Bay and car park improvements in West Bay be supported.

18. BRIDPORT TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC OPTIONS – FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Town Surveyor reported that there was still a need for further work on the feasibility study. In particular, other options need to be looked at in the study, including: do nothing, closure of South Street, partial closure of South Street and shared space. The current study concentrated mainly on one way options. It would also need to consider future developments in the town centre. As well as further discussion with the County Council, it was necessary to meet with the Highways Agency.

At this stage, it was proposed that further discussions take place with the County Council to ensure that the additional issues were covered and then the priority for this work would be included in the new Town Plan. It was emphasised that there would be full consultation, once the feasibility study was complete.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted and further discussion take place with Dorset County Council on the feasibility study and the updated study be reported back to a future meeting.

19. CYCLE ROUTES

The Town Surveyor reported that the County Council was still working up proposals for additional cycle routes, with options being discussed with the Highways Agency for the roundabouts.

It was proposed to bring the proposals to members when finalised and depending on the timing, this may be at a special meeting of this Sub Committee.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

20. VICTORIA GROVE SPEEDING TRAFFIC PETITION

Members considered a petition from local residents, calling on the Town Council to investigate measures to address speeding traffic.

In discussion of traffic speeds and bearing in mind the comments in respect of West Allington, members felt that it might be beneficial to start to look at the wider town centre being made a 20 mph zone. There were though, particular issues in Victoria Grove, which already had a 20 mph limit. Enforcement measures for this road, including a possible Speed Indicator Device, should be looked at as a priority. This matter should be raised with Dorset County Council.

RECOMMEND: that

- (1) options to enforce the speed limit at Victoria Grove, including the provision of a Speed Indicator Device, be discussed with Dorset County Council.
- (2) longer term proposals be brought forward, through the Town Plan and alongside the town centre traffic feasibility study, to consider options to make the whole of the town centre a 20 mph zone.

21. CAR PARKS

The Town Surveyor reported on proposals for car parking spaces on the hard standing next to Plottingham.

RECOMMEND: that proposals for additional parking next to Plottingham be supported, subject to future approval of the details.

22. ONGOING HIGHWAY SCHEMES

The Town Surveyor reported that discussions had taken place with the County Council and some schemes could be prioritised and brought forward, alongside costings for other schemes, if the Town Council wished to pursue them. The County Council had limited funding for this work.

Once the costings had been received, it was proposed to report back to members, to enable all the schemes to be reviewed.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

23. NEW HIGHWAYS REQUESTS

The following items had been received for consideration, since the last meeting:

(a) West Allington speed limit to 20 mph

The Sub Committee discussed the proposal and felt that it should be looked at in the context of future work on a possible wider 20 mph speed limit for the town centre.

RESOLVED: that this request be looked at in the context of the wider town centre traffic speeds.

(b) A35 diversions

RESOLVED: that the need for additional controls, when traffic was diverted off the A35, be discussed with the A35 Working Group. Oliver Letwin, MP to be asked if that Group could start to meet again and include Char Valley in its membership (Char Valley was looking at similar issues).

(c) Commercial waste bins in the town centre

The action taken, with Dorset County Council, to remove the waste bins from outside shops in the town centre was reported.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

(d) Walditch Road j/w East Road – pavement height

RESOLVED: that the request regarding pavement heights at this location and difficulties for mobility vehicles, be looked at and reported back.

(e) George Street, West Bay – request for yellow lines

It was felt that this was not something that was likely to be supported by Dorset County Council.

RESOLVED: that no further action be taken on this request.

24. COMMUNICATIONS

The Town Clerk reported a letter from Mr Lane of Priory Gardens asking for any progress with the obstructive parking and need for improved signage on the entrance to Priory Lane. It was reported that this was on the list of outstanding schemes being looked at with the County Council, to be reported back to a future meeting,

The meeting closed at 3:55p.m.

The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 21 January 2016