

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 23 January 2014 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Cllr	P.J. Lathey	D.G. Rickard
	C.M. Ray	K.G. Wallace

Also in attendance: Cllrs Mrs M.J. Ray and Mrs E.A. Rickard.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

24. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Sarah Williams, ex-officio member of the Sub Committee.

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2013, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

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

- a leaflet had been issued by South West Trains, highlighting the through ticketing options for buses and trains. South West Trains was also running an offer of a £10 return ticket to London over the next month.
- following the recent review of bus services, the Saturday service on routes 73 and 42 had been lost and the 47 would not run on college holidays and Sundays, as from 3 April. The rest of the 47 service would continue until June, although it was not known what would happen after that time.
- it was hoped that there would be an increase in the X53 and 31 services over the summer, but this had not been confirmed.
- there were reported complaints about route 40 and its service to the hospital. Route 44 was also having difficulties in Gundry Road, caused by cars parked on both sides of the road and there were reports that some new bus drivers

did not know the route.

- there were ongoing issues and concerns with the audio description on buses and the real time information at bus stops, which in both cases was not always providing the correct information.
- the possibility of concessionary payments and passengers possibly paying half fare had been discussed and would continue to be raised with the County Council.

Alan was thanked for his update and it was agreed that some of the issues raised, particularly the real time information and audio description, should be taken up again with Dorset County Council.

RECOMMEND: that a letter be sent to Dorset County Council raising the issues stated above and highlighting, in particular, the ongoing concerns relating to the real time information and audio description services. An officer from Dorset County Council to be invited to a future meeting of this Sub Committee, to discuss these matters.

28. A35 TRAFFIC ISSUES

The Town Clerk reported on the outcome of the Broomhills planning application, which included conditions relating to traffic speeds on the A35 (50 mph had been agreed). The Town Council had made representations to the County Council's Planning Committee considering Broomhills, to ask for a 40mph rather than a 50 mph speed limit, along the entire length of the bypass from Chideock Hill to just before the Fire Station. It was also stated that the issue of traffic speeds on this road was being discussed at the meetings of the Oliver Letwin convened A35 Working Group.

It was asked if, as well as raising this issue with the A35 Working Group, an officer from the Highways Agency should be invited to this Sub Committee. This Sub Committee could also look at the possibility of introducing 20 mph limits in parts of the town centre.

RECOMMEND:

- (a) that the Town Council's request for a 40mph rather than a 50mph speed limit, along the entire length of the bypass from Chideock Hill to just before the Fire Station, be raised with the A35 Working Group and also the Highways Agency be invited to a future meeting of the Sub Committee, to discuss this issue.
- (b) that the Sub Committee look at the possibility of introducing 20 mph limits in parts of the town centre.

29. OPTIONS FOR SOUTH STREET

The Town Surveyor reported that he had met with Dorset County Council to discuss options and the County Council was willing to undertake a feasibility study and report back. As previously agreed, it was necessary to have a full feasibility review of the options, undertaken by the County Council, prior to going out to consultation.

RECOMMEND: that Dorset County Council be asked to draw up options for South Street and report back to the Town Council prior to consultation.

30. WEST BAY ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported on the recent decision of West Dorset District Council to request design work from the County Council for the widening of the Haddon House pinch point, to allow two-way traffic and to ask Dorset County Council to resurface the area between St John's Church and the shops, to indicate that pedestrians have priority and to return the right of priority to the right hand turn at the junction of West Bay Road and Station Road.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

31. PARKING CONSULTATION – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Councillors considered ENCL: 2778.

This consultation was to close on 14 February 2014.

Members made the following comments:

- generally support the intention to reduce the over zealous use by local authorities of parking enforcement such as through CCTV etc.
- the discounts available for early payment of fines should be available for unsuccessful appeals, as otherwise people were deterred from appealing.
- a grace period should be allowed for people to return to their vehicles, although this would not be necessary if payment on exit was introduced into car parks.

Although not part of the consultation, it was felt that there should be a review by the Sub Committee of yellow lines in the town, as part of a wider traffic master plan.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the consultation, including the comments set out above.

32. RIGHTS OF WAY

The Town Surveyor reported on a recent meeting with the Countryside Rangers, who were keen to work with the Town Council on maintaining rights of way and had asked if the Town Council could prioritise rights of way in its area.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and Rights of Way be discussed further at the Open Spaces Working Group.

33. NEW HIGHWAYS ISSUES

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

(a) Bedford Place Residents' Parking

Dorset County Council had said that it could not support schemes that proposed residents' parking in one section of the road, as everyone could buy a ticket and park in that section. This would not therefore help the local residents.

RESOLVED: that the position of Dorset County Council be noted and residents informed that the scheme could not be progressed.

(b) Fulbrooks Lane yellow line outside shop

RESOLVED: that this proposal not be supported, as it could stop people visiting the shop.

(c) West Bay Parking near Harbour

Local residents were having problems parking in front of their properties in Pier Terrace. It was not known who owned the land and it was felt that, in the first instance, this should be raised with West Dorset District Council.

RESOLVED: that this matter be discussed with West Dorset District Council and reported back.

(d) Town Centre Traffic Lights

The phasing of the Town Hall traffic lights had been raised, as it appeared that, on some occasions, they were not letting enough traffic through before changing.

RESOLVED: that the phasing of the Town Hall traffic lights be raised with Dorset County Council.

(e) St Swithins Road Residents' Parking

As stated under (a) above, Dorset County Council had said that it could not support schemes that proposed residents' parking in one section of the road.

RESOLVED: that the position of Dorset County Council be noted and residents informed that the scheme could not be progressed.

Other matters raised, not on the agenda, included:

Parking Restriction opposite the Dorset County Council depot, on the west side of South Street

The County Council had asked for the Town Council's views on this seasonal restriction of parking – from November to March. It was not clear why the restriction was in place, but it was felt that it might be to do with access for grit lorries and therefore it would be difficult to say that it should be removed. The Town Surveyor said that he would discuss this further with the County Council.

34. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS

Councillors considered ENCL: 2779.

RESOLVED: that the list of ongoing highways matters be noted.

35. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 27 March 2014