

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 25 October 2012 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

P.J. Lathey

C.M. Ray (ex officio)

Mrs M.J. Ray

Ms S.J. Williams

Also in attendance: Cllrs: D.G. Rickard.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr D. Nayland said that during the power cut the previous week in the Skilling area, he filmed the traffic at the junction of Skilling Hill Road and West Bay Road. It was interesting to see how the traffic worked without signage or directions (the traffic lights were not working) and this might be of interest to the Council, bearing in mind previous discussions on shared space and less traffic controls. The video was on You Tube and was called "No Traffic Lights, Bridport".

Mr J. McHugh spoke in support of the proposals on the agenda, in respect of the Miles Cross Junction. He felt that this was a dangerous junction and he referred to the previous occasions when he had raised the matter with the Highways Agency.

12. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr K.G. Wallace.

Cllr D.R. Tett, who had raised the item on the agenda relating to Miles Cross, had also submitted his apologies.

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2012, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

Mr Alan Williams, representing WATAG, updated members on the following ongoing matters:

Bus Service 31 - there had been some revisions to the previous timetable, although there were still a number of concerns, including the deletion of the later service from Dorchester to Bridport and various changes in timings.

Bus Service X53 – the Sunday Service had been reinstated until the end of the calendar year and Dorset County Council was to meet on 7 November to decide whether to continue this service for the remainder of the winter. WATAG felt that the current system of running two buses on Sunday in the winter could be looked at, as there might be a possibility of just running part of the service with one bus and connecting with the 31 service.

The new timetables would not be available until the end of November, or early December.

The position to be taken by West Dorset District Council after next March, on concessionary passes being used before 9.30am, was still not known.

Members thanked Alan for raising these matters and noted that the Council's previous concerns regarding bus services had been raised with Dorset County Council.

It was agreed that there were still a number of ongoing issues with bus services and it was noted that there was due to be a review of local services, undertaken by the County Council. It was felt that the Town Council should ask that it and WATAG be involved in that consultation. It was felt also that there needed to be an ongoing dialogue between the County Council and WATAG.

RECOMMEND:

- (1) that Dorset County Council be asked to agree that the Town Council and WATAG be involved in the forthcoming review of local bus services.
- (2) that West Dorset District Council be asked to confirm its support for the continued operation of the current concessionary passes scheme, to include allowing use prior to 9.30am.
- (3) that Dorset County Council be notified of the Town Council's support for the continuation of the Sunday service for the X53.

16. GAS WORKS

The Town Surveyor reported that the works were proceeding well and were currently ahead of schedule. They should be finished by December and he was in regular contact with the contractors.

The update was noted.

17. WEST BAY ENHANCEMENTS HIGHWAYS SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2598.

It was noted that the scheme was due for implementation later this year. The Sub Committee noted that there was some concern regarding potential delays to buses, due to the changed priorities in the scheme and it was suggested that this could be monitored when the scheme was introduced.

RECOMMEND: that the scheme be noted, with the comment as above.

18. A35 MILES CROSS - ACCIDENTS

Councillors considered a letter from Cllr D.R. Tett, ENCL: 2596.

In discussion of the report, members felt strongly that the proposed actions to raise the safety concerns at the Miles Cross Junction should be supported. The need to look at the A35 in this area had also been raised by the Town Council, as part of its consideration of the draft Local Plan and the proposed new allocation at Vearse Farm.

RECOMMEND:

- (1) that, bearing in mind continued road safety concerns, the Town Clerk write to local parish councils - Symondsburry, Bothenhampton and Walditch, Bradpole, Burton Bradstock, Morcombelake, Charmouth and Char Valley - seeking their support for representations to be made to the Highways Agency, asking that a roundabout (or traffic lights) be installed at the Miles Cross Junction of the A35.
- (2) that Oliver Letwin MP be asked to chair a public meeting, including the local parish councils listed above, the Town Council and the Highways Agency, to discuss this matter and agree a way forward.

19. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS

The Town Surveyor updated members on the following ongoing highway matters: -

(a) Information Signage

The new signage for Bucky Doo Square was on order by the District Council and that Council was to undertake a full review of signage next year.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(b) East Road Parking

RESOLVED: that it be noted that, whilst the Town Council had indicated its support for further discussion on the provision of residents' parking in this area, it was understood that this was not a scheme that could be supported by the County Council at this time. It would though remain on the Town Council's list of ongoing schemes, should the opportunity arise in future to take it forward.

(c) Garden Close

It was noted that a letter had been received raising the issue of parking in Garden Close. This matter had been looked at by this Sub Committee in 2010 and early 2011. At the time, there was a survey of residents of Garden Close but there was no consensus on a way forward.

Members emphasised that there needed to be wide support from the residents, before a possible scheme could go forward for consideration by the County Council. Bearing in mind the previous inconclusive survey undertaken by the Town Council, it was suggested that evidence of support for any scheme would need to come from the residents themselves.

RESOLVED: that the response to this request be agreed, as above.

(d) Knightstone Rise Crossing

RESOLVED: that it be noted that the Town Surveyor was to meet with Dorset County Council, to discuss the possible provision of a pedestrian refuge.

(e) St Andrews Road – Commercial Vehicles on the Sidings

It was reported that this matter had been discussed with Dorset County Council. Vehicles were able to park on the road, as long as they were not being advertised for sale. There were no parking restrictions in this area and if vehicles were not parking illegally, then there was no action that could be taken.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

(f) Asker Meadows

The Town Surveyor reported on the latest position on the scheme. Members welcomed the good progress being made and thanked Dorset County Council for their work and support on the project.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

(g) Roundabouts

It was noted that discussions were ongoing with the Highways Agency on the future maintenance of the roundabouts, but it was agreed also that this matter should be raised at any future meeting with the Highways Agency, to discuss a possible Miles Cross roundabout.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the matter be discussed further with the Highways Agency.

(h) Green Ring Route

The Town Surveyor reported that, with the imminent completion of the works at Asker Meadows, he would be looking at the signing and condition of the Green Ring Route, to ensure it was now fully accessible and clear.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

20. WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2597.

RECOMMEND: that the winter maintenance plan and arrangements set out in the report, to respond in the event of severe winter weather, be approved.

21. PARK AND RIDE 2012

The Town Clerk reported that the passenger numbers on this service were down on 2011 and like many other events in the area, it did appear to have been affected by the weather this summer. The full figures would be reported to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

22. NEW HIGHWAYS ISSUES

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

(a) Nursery Gardens

The Town Surveyor reported concerns about pavement parking in this area and it was felt that there was a need for yellow lines on one side of the road.

RECOMMEND: that the possibility of yellow lines on one side of the road be raised with Dorset County Council.

(b) Lay by – Burton Road

RESOLVED: that the grass verge be reinstated along a small section of the road.

(c) North Allington to Park Road

It was reported that rain water from an extension, built along the right of way, was running down the path and during the winter could cause potential problems.

RESOLVED: that the Town Surveyor raises this matter with the householder.

(d) Christmas Parking Arrangements

It was reported that the Chamber of Trade and Commerce had agreed to accept £1,500 from West Dorset District Council for Christmas lighting for shops, rather than concessionary parking.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

The Town Surveyor also raised the following matters:

(e) Plottingham Footpath – this had now been adopted by Dorset County Council.

(f) Sea Road North Speed Restrictions – the King Charles Estate Residents Association had asked if the 40mph section of Sea Road North, which runs approximately from the veterinary surgery to the roundabout at East Road, could be replaced with a 30mph limit.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to look at this with Dorset County Council and report back to the Sub Committee.

RESOLVED: that the potential change in speed limits on this stretch of Sea Road North be raised with Dorset County Council and reported back to this Sub Committee.

(g) Diversion Signs – in a discussion of diversion signs on the road, it was suggested that Dorset County Council could be asked to provide as much information as possible on the sign, to indicate where the diversion was going.

23. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items to report.

The meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 24 January 2013