

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 27 March 2014 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Cllr P.J. Lathey D.G. Rickard
Ms S.J. Williams (ex-officio)

Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs E.A. Rickard.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr M. Nicks, spoke on behalf of the West Bay Forum on two points:

1. Would it be possible for the Park and Ride bus service to pick up passengers outside the George in West Bay?
2. There was some concern about the process and timetable to implement the decision of West Dorset District Council in respect of the changes to the enhancement works, particularly the removal of the pinch point but also the reversal of the priority right turn and re-surfacing (for pedestrians to cross) of the area of road between St John's Church and the shops.

36. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllrs C.M. Ray and K.G. Wallace.

37. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment as follows:

Min 27 stated that a leaflet had been issued by South West Trains, highlighting the through ticketing options for buses and trains. This should read "issued by WATAG" not South West Trains.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

39. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

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

- Bus Route 47 was to continue operating until June to allow options to be considered for the future of the service.
- The Saturday service on routes 73 and 42 were to end in April and the Tuesday services on the 44 and 210 would also end.
- X53 Sunday service was due to start again on 6 April.
- There were no updates on the audio description but it did appear that the real time information at bus stops had settled down.
- The possibility of concessionary pass holders paying a contribution towards a fare – possibly £1 – to safeguard a service, had been raised with Oliver Letwin, MP. Mr Letwin was supportive of the idea and it was hoped that a pilot system could be tried, once the arrangements had been agreed.
- A new fares leaflet had been issued by First Bus and the fares were now based on zones, with a flat rate for travel within a zone.

Alan was thanked for his update.

Members discussed the new fares system and felt that more information should be provided, particularly as to how it affected Bridport passengers and what the zones meant.

RECOMMEND: that a letter be sent to First Bus asking for clarification on the implications of the fares for Bridport passengers and whether further information and publicity could be issued.

40. OPTIONS FOR SOUTH STREET

At the last meeting, it was agreed that Dorset County Council be asked to draw up options for South Street and report back to the Town Council prior to consultation.

The Town Surveyor reported that he had produced a brief with background information for the County Council, including potential options, although it would be for Dorset County Council, as the Highway Authority, to provide the technical detail. The resulting County Council report would be presented to the Town Council for discussion prior to embarking on consultation.

RESOLVED: that the brief be circulated for information to all councillors, prior to submission to the County Council.

41. WEST BAY ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

It was reported that West Dorset District Council was working with Dorset County Council, to prepare an alternative design for the pinch point, to allow two-way traffic. It was also looking into other aspects of the scheme, where concerns had been raised. The County Council will then be asked to provide an estimate of the costs for implementing the changes. Subject to funding being identified, it was understood that the works could be carried out in the Autumn/Winter 2014.

Members expressed concerns about the timescales, particularly in respect of changes to the pinch point. It was felt that this should be prioritised and addressed as soon as possible.

RECOMMEND: that West Dorset District Council be asked if the enhancement works could be progressed as soon as possible, particularly the changes to the pinch point.

42. RESIDENTIAL PARKING

The Town Surveyor reported that previous requests for residents' parking on sections of St Andrews Road and St Swithins Road had not progressed, as the County Council said it could not support schemes in one section of a road. It was suggested, therefore, that a more extensive scheme for each of these roads be discussed with the County Council and reported back. There would be full consultation with all residents prior to any scheme coming forward.

RECOMMEND: that options for residents' parking schemes in St Andrews Road and St Swithins Road be discussed with Dorset County Council and reported back.

43. PARK AND RIDE

RECOMMEND: that the Town Surveyor be given authority to seek expressions of interest from bus operators for the Park and Ride service in 2014.

44. CYCLE ROUTES

The Town Surveyor reported on plans from Dorset County Council for additional cycle routes including:

Sea Road North to Riverside Gardens and then across to Asker Meadows.

Sea Road South – upgrade crossing at northern end and improve access at the green gate entrance to Asker Meadows, down to Crown Roundabout, across the island at Burton Road and along West Bay old railway line.

It was also hoped next year to introduce a new route to West Bay from the back of Palmers.

Members welcomed the information. In discussion, it was asked if the details of the crossing changes could be checked and whether it would be possible to

arrange a straight route up from Sea Road South to North. It was also asked if dropped kerbs could be provided at Barrack Street and Flood Lane.

RESOLVED: that the provision of new cycle routes be supported with the comments above.

45. BRIDPORT FOOTBALL CLUB CAR PARK

The Town Surveyor updated on the proposals to “tidy up” the car park and increase the number of spaces, to be funded through a S106 contribution.

RESOLVED: that the updated be noted

46. NEW HIGHWAYS ISSUES

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

(a) Nursery Gardens

The parking of cars was blocking a driveway.

RESOLVED: that the request for white lining in front of a driveway be supported and referred to Dorset County Council.

(b) Roundhams Gardens

RESOLVED: that the request for double yellow lines be looked at and reported back.

(c) Wellfields Drive

A request had been received for additional double yellow lines around the bend in the road. The Sub Committee had previously received letters from other residents asking that no further yellow lines be put in. It was therefore important that residents be consulted, to ask if they would support further lining. Without that support, the relevant traffic order was unlikely to be agreed.

RESOLVED: that local residents be asked if they would support additional lines in Wellfields Drive and the outcome be reported back to this SubCommittee.

47. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS

Councillors considered ENCL: 2817.

The following issues were raised:

Parking Restriction opposite the Dorset County Council depot, on the west side of South Street – it was understood that this was a winter restriction to allow access to the depot for grit lorries.

Possible review of the parking provision for people with disabilities and parking on double yellow lines – it was suggested that it might be helpful for members to put forward particular areas for review.

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

48. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 26 June 2014