

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 17 March 2016 at 2.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Cllr J.S.L. Jones Mrs E.A. Rickard
C.M. Ray

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

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

36. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Ms S.A. Horniman and Ms S.J. Williams (ex-officio).

37. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2016, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

39. CYCLE ROUTES, SEA ROAD NORTH AND EAST ROAD ROUNDABOUT

A presentation was given by Dorset County Council Officers: Kevin Humphreys, Simon Butler and Michael Paulley.

They presented the plans for alterations to East Road roundabout, to create a north/south link for the cycle route, coming down from Bradpole, to join up with the route on Sea Road South opposite the fire station. The changes were intended to provide a safe crossing off the roundabout and were supported by Highways England.

The proposed scheme involved a new toucan crossing on East Road, next to Riverside Gardens, to cross into Asker Meadows and upgrade the pelican crossing outside the fire station on Sea Road South to a toucan crossing (also move a bit closer to the roundabout) so that both crossings can be used by pedestrians and cyclists.

As part of the scheme, it was proposed to look to retain the parking area on the south side of East Road, just prior to the roundabout and to take the railings down from the entrance on to the roundabout from Sea Road South and to generally tidy up the approach.

At this stage, as part of the order making process, the Town Council was being asked to only agree support for the order to be made for the toucan crossings on East Road and Sea Road South.

Members generally welcomed the proposals and recognised that there was an opportunity to tidy up the roundabout, as this work had the support of Highways England. It was hoped that the East Road crossing could be in place by the Autumn.

Other aspects of the cycle route scheme, including changes to the crossings at Sea Road North, south of the co-op, were also mentioned and it was agreed that this should be looked at as part of the next stages. The final stage would then be looking at changes to the Crown roundabout.

RECOMMEND: that the proposals for two proposed toucan crossings on the A35 Sea Road South and East Road be supported, as part of the wider cycle network proposal to link Bradpole with the town centre and West Bay. The proposals to then be subject to public notice, as part of the statutory order making process.

40. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

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

Route 44 – there were still issues with accessing Coopers Drive.

Concessionary travel – still no clarity on which services would accept concessionary passes before 9.30am.

In line with the County Council's decision, the weekly services were being withdrawn on 11 April. Locally, this would affect service 253 and particularly routes 42 and 76. In terms of the 42, WATAG was trying to negotiate to keep a service on this route, until the school term ends. Route 76 was not used by so many people and it might be possible to cover this in other ways, as is the case with route 253. The County Council had to make more savings next year and it was possible that there could be no subsidised services running, including the possible loss of route 40.

Meetings have been taking place looking at community transport, using buses not currently in use during the day. This was a longer term solution, if feasible.

Alan also reported on the New Bus timetables for First Bus that are coming in from 9 May to 17 September. It was unlikely that the new timetables would be available in time and if WATAG was willing and able to produce them, then the Town Council could possibly contribute towards some of the production costs, which were estimated to be £50.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the Town Council consider funding support for producing new timetables, if WATAG are able to undertake this work.

41. PARK AND RIDE 2016

The Town Surveyor confirmed the arrangements for Park and Ride this Summer. He added that the service could have an additional pick up at Asker Meadows, if temporary parking was allowed on the show ground.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

42. CAR PARKS

The Town Surveyor reported that at a recent meeting with the Head of Parking, it was confirmed that the District Council could continue to manage the Town Council's car parks under licence, including the new parking at Plottingham. Planning had been granted for that car park. He would also be involved with the District Council on their survey of local car parks.

Members commented on the condition of East Street Car Park and the layout of the St Michael's Lane Car Park, next to the Hope and Anchor.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

43. DORSET HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17

The Town Clerk reported on the Bridport schemes in the Programme:

- West Allington – Signal scheme
- Sea Road North cycleway Bridport (2 schemes) Construction and Walk, Talk and Build Schemes
- B3162 West Allington – Surface Dressing

RESOLVED: that the schemes be noted

44. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MAINTENANCE PLAN

It was reported that the County Council was to consult with local councils on those minor highway functions they would no longer be able to carry out and discuss if the town and parish councils would like to take them on. This would include managing 'A' boards and sitting out licences.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

45. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS AND ISSUES BEING PROGRESSED

The Town Clerk reported that further representations had been received on the following issues raised before:

Rope Walks – an alternative entrance into St Michael's could be looked at as part of the car park audit. This would be raised with West Dorset District Council.

St Michael's Lane/Priory Lane – the issue of parking on double lines in this vicinity was on the list of schemes to be looked at by the County Council. Other issues raised relating to road closures would also be looked at.

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

46. FUTURE COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

The Town Clerk reported on the proposed changes and it was noted that this could be the last meeting of the Sub Committee and that, if agreed by Council, highway matters would in future be raised with the Plans Committee and looked at in detail by a Working Group. This was on the agenda for the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: that the proposals be noted.

47. COMMUNICATIONS

The proposed road closure at Salway Ash on the B3162, between 31 May and 3 June, was noted

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Sub Committee will be on a date to be agreed at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.