

## PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 19 March 2015 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Cllrs C.M. Ray D.G. Rickard

Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs M.J. Ray.

## PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

### **41. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllrs Mrs E.A. Rickard and Ms S.J. Williams.

### **42. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2015, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **44. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG**

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

**Reimbursement of Concessionary Bus Pass use in the National Concessionary Travel Scheme** - a copy of Alan's paper on this issue had been circulated to members. The paper set out further information on the scheme and presented options for changes to the system, to generate additional revenue for bus services.

The Town Clerk reported that in response to comments from members at the last meeting, the County Council had stated that its Environment Overview Committee had an extensive debate about the reimbursement levels for concessionary fares and at the end of it, made it clear that they could not consider any other method of reimbursement. It had been stressed that it was felt unlikely the Committee would change its mind unless there a significant amount of evidence to justify it.

The Sub-Committee felt that there should be further discussion with WATAG to on this matter, to consider making further representations direct to the Committee.

**Real Time Information** – there had been a meeting between WATAG and the County Council and the County Council had agreed to look at the system although it currently did not show real time information in terms of when a bus was due to arrive. Rather the timings were based on the time buses departed. Improvements were being made and it was hoped that this would continue.

**Timetables** – Alan reported on changes to the timetable in May including the introduction of a later service on the X31. In general though, it appeared that the service had been timed to enable buses to meet trains at Axminster not at Dorchester. Longer term there remained concerns about what might happen to the service timetables next winter, which was why it was important to look at options to increase revenue.

**Trains** - changes to the service between Barnstaple and Axminster were reported.

Members thanked Alan for his report and for all his work in advising the Sub Committee.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the Town Clerk discuss with WATAG further representations to the County Council on concessionary fares.

**45. PARK AND RIDE 2015**

The Town Surveyor confirmed the arrangements for this year's summer Park and Ride.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**46. WEST BAY ENHANCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk reported that the District Council had confirmed that the work on traffic enhancement scheme would start in April. The pinch point was to be widened and a new crossing point will be put in at St John's Church.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**47. NEW HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

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

(a) Bullens Mead Parking

A request had been received for parking restrictions outside a house in Bullens Mead owned by Mencap. It was currently difficult to access the property, due to vehicles parked outside the drive.

It was reported that it understood that the County Council were already be looking at this location, with a view to putting white lines down.

RESOLVED: that the request for parking restrictions be supported and it be confirmed whether Dorset County Council was already implementing white lines at this location.

(b) Tourist Bus Service

A tourist bus company wished to run a service along the Jurassic Coast stopping off in Bridport and West Bay. It would not be a rival to the park and Ride but it would be a 75 minute hop on hop off round trip. If numbers were short, they might introduce a direct Bridport to West Bay return fare, to fill any empty full tour seats, but this would be priced not to compete with established bus routes. The period of operation would be weekends in July and September with daily journeys through the school holidays.

Members felt that as long as it did not compete with existing services including the park and ride, then, based on the information provided and subject to appropriate permissions, they had no particular concerns.

RESOLVED: that the proposed tourist bus service be noted.

(c) Motor Homes Overnight Parking in Station Road Car Park

A letter had been received regarding occupied motor homes parking overnight at Station Road Car Park even though the signage stated “No overnight parking”.

The need for parking restrictions on Marsh Barn Road was also raised in the letter. This issue was already on the list of ongoing highway matters.

RESOLVED: that the enforcement of the “no overnight parking” restriction at Station Road Car Park be raised with West Dorset District Council.

(d) 'A' Boards

A letter had been received regarding the numbers of “A” boards and other restrictions on the pavements.

It was reported that this issue was to be discussed with Dorset County Council in the light of its recently adopted policy on “A” boards.

RESOLVED: that it be noted that this matter was to be discussed with Dorset County Council.

Although not on the agenda, it was reported that the bus shelter near the King's Head on St Andrew's Road was looking very bad. Whilst it was understood that this was the responsibility of the County Council, it was asked if this could be looked at.

**48. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS AND ISSUES BEING PROGRESSED**

Councillors considered ENCL: 2962.

Members felt that this should be looked at by the new Council, with a view to identifying priority schemes.

In respect of the South Street and West Bay Road Pedestrian and Cycleway issues, it was asked if the condition of the verges near the Crown roundabout could also be looked at, in the discussions with Dorset County Council.

RESOLVED: that the list of ongoing highways matters be noted and be discussed with Dorset County Council and recommended priorities for implementation be brought back to the Sub Committee.

**49. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no issues raised.

**The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.**

**The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 25 June 2015**