

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 24 January 2013 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Mrs M.J. Ray

K.G. Wallace

Ms S.J. Williams

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Mike Harvey, from the Chamber of Trade and Commerce, spoke about the proposed review of future town centre traffic arrangements and South Street and noted that the Chamber and the town traders would be fully consulted as part of the review.

24. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of the Leader of the Council, Councillor C.M. Ray.

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2012, 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 the following ongoing matters:

Bus Route 31 seemed to be settling down, with its new timetable.

X53 Sunday Service – this had been withdrawn for the winter and WATAG had sought to get some interest in running a single bus every two to three hours, but was unsuccessful. It had also put some suggestions forward, for alternative ways to run the service and for bus services as a whole, which it was felt could reduce costs whilst safeguarding services, but at this time had not received a response.

Audio description on buses and real time indication on bus stops - there were some issues and discrepancies with the information being provided and the concerns would be passed to the County Council.

Finally, the pre-9.30am concessionary travel had been removed but there was a need to clarify with Dorset County Council the implications of this decision and ensure that there was no confusion as to when passes could be used.

Members thanked Alan for raising these matters.

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had been invited to take part in a workshop on bus services in the area, as part of the County Council's review of its support of bus services. This is to be held on 13 February at 10.00am at the Dorford Centre in Dorchester.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the Plans Committee be asked to confirm the Council's representatives to the workshop on bus services.

28. GAS WORKS

The Town Surveyor reported on the next phase of the works, which were due to start on Monday 28 January in East Street, between the junctions of South Street and King Street. He would be keeping in contact with Southern Gas Networks, regarding progress on the works.

The update was noted.

29. REVIEW OF TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC CHANGES AND OPTIONS FOR SOUTH STREET – PROCESS REPORT

Councillor K.G. Wallace read a letter from Mr Richard Batten from South Street, objecting to any proposal to close the road.

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2647.

It was recommended that the potential options for South Street and the impact of the recent town centre traffic changes be discussed firstly with Dorset County Council. A report setting out the options, with proposals for full consultation, would then be presented to members during the Summer.

RECOMMEND: that a detailed report on the process for a review of the town centre traffic management changes, including the options for South Street and consultation proposals, be considered in the Summer of 2013.

30. A35 MILES CROSS – PUBLIC MEETING 25 JANUARY 2013

The Town Clerk reminded members that the meeting, to discuss road safety issues at this junction and the Town Council's call for a roundabout, was to take place on Friday 25 January 2013 at 7pm in the Town Hall. The meeting was to be chaired by Oliver Letwin.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

31. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

(a) Information Signage

This matter was still being looked at by the Town Surveyor and proposals would then be reported to members.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(b) Knightstone Rise Crossing

Dorset County Council had undertaken a survey and the traffic figures did not meet the criteria for a crossing at this location. Therefore, this matter could not at this stage be taken any further.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

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

As reported previously, 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.

(d) Roundabouts

This matter was ongoing and continued to be discussed with the Highways Agency.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

(e) Green Ring Route

RESOLVED: that this matter be considered at the Open Spaces Working Group.

(f) Cycle Racks

Members welcomed the proposals for more cycle racks to be provided in the town.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

(g) Lay By – Burton Road

The work to reinstate the grass verge was due to be undertaken soon.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

(h) St Swithins Road/Court – Double Yellow Lines

The Town Surveyor reported that comments had been received from a local resident stating that there was still a problem with parked cars creating difficulties for cars leaving St Swithins Court. It was asked if the yellow lines could be extended.

Members noted that the scheme in this area had been agreed by Dorset County Council and been through the statutory order making process, including public consultation. It was unlikely therefore that there could be any further changes at this time.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted and no further action be taken at this time.

**32. WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL
PARKING CHARGES CONSULTATION 2013/14**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2646.

RECOMMEND: that there be no objections to the following proposals from West Dorset District Council:

- to freeze the scale of charges in West Dorset District Council car parks for a further twelve months.
- to withdraw the 3-8 day permit scheme.

33. CAR PARKS – GENERAL ISSUES

The Town Surveyor had recently met the District Council's new Head of Parking and Traffic and had looked at all the car parks in the town. They discussed a number of issues, including:

- Football Club Car Park – looked at the surface of the car park and options for management of the land, when it was transferred to the Town Council.
- Bus Station – motorcycle parking, cycle racks and allowing use of the car park for the Sunday vintage market. Also use of the car park for the fairground attraction at the Christmas Festival.
- Signage – proposed to upgrade West Dorset signage in all car parks.
- Magistrates' Court – consideration of reinstating usage for Magna Housing car park permit holders.

- Motorcycle parking generally.

Members suggested the following should also be considered:

- Improved signage for vehicles leaving East Street Car Park.
- Possibility of additional bus shelters in town.
- Look at the detail of event signage used for temporary closures of South Street, to indicate that South Street car park remained open.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the Sub Committee receive further reports on car parking as the issues were progressed.

34. WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN

The Town Clerk reported that, as well as additional grit bins being in place, the Town Council was on standby for the recent weather and undertook gritting as required. It was also grateful for the assistance of West Dorset District Council in helping to grit town centre pavements.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

35. PARK AND RIDE 2013

RESOLVED: that the Sub Committee receive a report to its next meeting on the arrangements for the service in 2013.

36. NEW HIGHWAYS ISSUES

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

(a) Alexandra Road

The Town Surveyor reported concerns about the traffic calming in this road and cars parking in the lay bys.

RESOLVED: that this matter be discussed with Dorset County Council and any options reported back.

The Town Surveyor also reported the following issues:

Traffic over the bridge at the sluice gates at West Bay – the problems of traffic visibility for vehicles over the bridge had been raised and would be discussed with Dorset County Council.

North Allington – it was suggested that a lay by could be designated for the refuse/recycling vehicles to prevent traffic hold ups. However, members felt that this would not be feasible.

37. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items to report.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 28 March 2013