

## PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 26 January 2012 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

P.J. Lathey

C.M. Ray (ex officio)

Ms S.J. Williams

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

## PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Alan Williams from WATAG spoke regarding bus services in the area. He highlighted the ongoing issue of the inter availability of tickets (tickets not being accepted on the return journey with a different operator) and the impact of the reduced services between West Bay and Burton Bradstock.

Mrs Valerie Baldwin raised the concerns of people living in Beaminster and the surrounding area, following the changes to bus routes.

### **28. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs E.T. Colfox and K.G. Wallace.

### **29. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2011, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **31. LOCAL BUS SERVICES**

Mr David Coates, Public Transport Manager, Dorset County Council, was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr Coates responded to comments made in the public session and emphasised that decisions on the interavailability of tickets were ones for the operators, as these were commercial services. The County Council's ability to act in these cases was limited. However, it was hoped soon to introduce smart card ticketing, which could be used on services provided by all operators.

He referred to changes to the individual services which had been raised, including between Burton Bradstock and West Bay and stressed that these were the result of commercial decisions. The County Council did not have the resources to supplement these services. In terms of consultation before changes were made, this was important, but the time available in these cases was limited, as the County only had two months notice of the withdrawal by First Bus.

It was hoped that there would be a new community bus service provided in Bothenhampton, following the diversion of route 44. This community service could run on Monday and Fridays.

Members expressed concerns about the impact of the changes and emphasised the importance of maintaining the long term sustainability of bus services in the area and ensuring that information on services was made widely available. Members asked a number of questions relating to service issues, the background to the changes, the need to support young people for whom public transport was very important, and potential support for the Town Council's Park and Ride service.

The following comments were made by the Public Transport Manager in response:

- The overall network was beginning to settle down, following the initial difficulties.
- The smart card ticketing system was very close to introduction and should be of real benefit. It was hoped that this would be of particular benefit for young people.
- The new timetable booklet was available, although this did not include train timetables. The booklet had received some positive comments.
- The Traveline web site was also popular for bus times and "real time" information would be available soon.
- The X53 was to be re-tendered in March 2013.
- Sadly, the County Council did not have any funding to support the Town Council/West Dorset District Council Park and Ride summer service.
- It was recognised that it was important to ensure that information on changes to services was made available.

The update was noted and members stressed that they would continue to monitor the situation. Mr Coates was thanked for attending the meeting.

**32. COUNTY COUNCIL CAPITAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

Councillors considered the provisional programme from Dorset County Council, ENCL: 2497.

RESOLVED: that the programme be noted.

**33. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG**

It was reported that Mike Farrar-Hockley had retired from WATAG and members asked that their thanks and best wishes be passed to Mike. It was understood that Alan Williams would be the WATAG representative on this Sub Committee.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

**34. NEW HIGHWAY REQUESTS**

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

(a) Loading Bays

It was reported that a request had been received for a loading bay outside "This and That" in West Street.

RESOLVED: that this matter be looked at and reported back to the Sub Committee, prior to submission to the County Council.

(b) Roundabouts

This matter had been raised by Councillor D.R. Tett, who had asked that it be raised again with the Highways Agency. A letter from Councillor Tett was circulated to all members of the Sub Committee.

RECOMMEND: that further representations be made to the Highways Agency, on the need to be allowed to do work to improve the town roundabouts, bearing in mind that this was an important year for the town.

In addition, it was mentioned that a triangle of tarmac between 100 and 87 St Swithins Road had split and it was agreed that this should be looked at.

**35. GAS WORKS**

The Town Surveyor reported that he had a meeting later that week, to discuss the timetable for the works and the need to avoid disruption during the summer.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

**36. UPDATE ON PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

The Town Surveyor reported that the following parking restrictions, supported by the Town Council, were being progressed by Dorset County Council: Jessop Avenue, Rendalls Walk, Park Road, Castle Square, Roundham Gardens and St Swithins Court. The proposed restrictions on parking on West Bay Road, next to the car park and the “keep clear” hatching on the Crown Roundabout, were also both being progressed.

The following schemes would not be progressed - East Road Residents' Parking, and two St Andrews Road Residents' Parking proposals.

**37. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS**

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

(a) East Road pavement parking

It was reported that the County Council had advised that it was not able to support this scheme at this stage. It was reported that the County Councillor would be continuing to pursue this matter.

The update was noted.

**38. DOCUMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE**

The list of Highway Defects, reported to Dorset County Council, ENCL: 2498, was noted.

**39. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town Clerk reported that the Food Festival had asked if they could use Asker Meadows for car parking for the Festival.

The Sub Committee supported the request, but noted that this would require the approval of the Highways Agency and it was asked that this matter be raised with the Agency.

**The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.**

**The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 29 March 2012**