

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 26 June 2014 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman D.G. Rickard
C.M. Ray Ms S.J. Williams (ex-officio)

Also in attendance: Cllrs: Ms R.C. Kayes and Mrs M.J. Ray.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr G.J. Ackerman be elected Chairman of the Sub Committee for the municipal year 2014/2015.

Councillor G.J. Ackerman in the Chair

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr John Lane spoke about traffic congestion in St Michael's Lane, problems caused by cars parked on yellow lines and the lack of signage. He also mentioned Gundry Lane and felt that there should be better signage and speed humps.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr K.G. Wallace.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2014, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Min 46 (c) - an update was requested on Wellfields Drive. It was asked if more residents in the road could be surveyed for their view on additional waiting restrictions. It was also asked if the procedure could be confirmed for the County Council considering such requests, where there may be differing views from residents on waiting restrictions. The Town Clerk said that he would report back on the procedure.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

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

Concessionary fares (concessionary fare passengers paying a voluntary flat fare) – this was now to be discussed with the bus companies, as there had been no

interest from the Department of the Environment. It was something that was to be discussed with bus companies, in relation to routes 44 and 10.

Route 47 – sadly it had not proved possible to provide the peak hour service for July, due to difficulty in obtaining support from the County Council. WATAG had been told they had to approach the bus companies direct, rather than through the County Council. Damory were the only company interested, and there was insufficient time to formalise the arrangements. WATAG could not therefore proceed with the planned contribution to safeguard the peak time service for July. This service was therefore to be discontinued.

X31 – the service seemed to be running worse now than it was last year and not meeting its transport connections, as planned.

X57 – Summer service now running, although generally buses were running late.

Audio description – had been updated, although still wrong in some places.

Real Time Information – suffered a lot of problems and still not working at the current time outside the Nationwide.

WATAG was aware of a problem for buses passing in Station Road, West Bay and there was a need for more lay bys. WATAG would raise this matter with the County Councillor.

Members thanked Alan for his update.

Members discussed the current issues concerning bus routes, particularly in rural areas and referred to the problems both of the 47 route and also the X31 no longer serving Martinstown. It was reported that the changes to these services impacted greatly on people in Bridport and members expressed serious concerns. It was considered that the lack of support for rural services was contrary to the County's stated intent in its Transport Plan and sustainability policies. The changes were having a major impact on people who relied on buses in Bridport and other areas.

It was felt that the Town Council should seek to show support for other communities, such as Martinstown, affected by changes in bus services and seek to arrange a high level meeting with Dorset County Council and invite other affected communities to attend, to show the level of concern about the future of bus services in the area.

RECOMMEND: that a high level meeting be convened with Dorset County Council, to discuss the future of bus services in the area. Other affected towns and villages in the area to be invited to attend.

6. PARK AND RIDE 2014

The Town Clerk reported, for information, that the 2014 Park and Ride service from West Bay to Bridport would run from 19 July to 6 September 2014 and the contract had been awarded to Sovereign Coaches.

7. WEST BAY ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

West Dorset District Council's Policy Scrutiny Committee had agreed to recommend that funding be identified this year to enable the pinch point to be removed, as soon as possible. It was understood that this would go to the Executive in July. The right turn priority needed further work and it was understood that the re-surfacing with a different colour in front of Haddon House was not supported.

The Sub Committee welcomed the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee and it was asked that the Town Council issue a press release on this matter.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Council make representations to the District Council's Executive, welcoming the recommendation of that Council's Policy Scrutiny Committee on the removal of the pinch point and asking that the recommendation be supported by the Executive.

8. HIGHWAYS AGENCY – ROUTE STRATEGY EVIDENCE REPORTS RE A35

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2845.

RESOLVED: that this be noted and be discussed further with the A35 Roundabout Working Group.

9. CAR PARKS – INCLUDING SIGNAGE

The Town Clerk reported on the ongoing work looking at car park signage with West Dorset District Council. It was also reported that the District Council was looking at resurfacing West Bay Road Car Park and new signage would also be installed in that car park. The West Bay Community Forum was involved in the discussions on the new signage.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

10. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – HIGHWAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Programme was circulated.

It was asked if the overgrown hedges on the Sea Road South cycle path and outside the County Primary School Playing Fields could be raised again with Dorset County Council.

RESOLVED: that the Highway Vegetation Management Programme be noted.

11. OPTIONS FOR SOUTH STREET

The Town Clerk reported that Dorset County Council had agreed to undertake the feasibility work, at a cost of £6,750. They would meet £3,500 of the costs and the Town Council would be asked to meet the remainder.

Members supported the need for this work and preparation of the feasibility information prior to going out for consultation.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

12. **NEW HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

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

(a) St Michael's Lane - Traffic Congestion

The Sub Committee discussed the issues raised. Members felt that there was a need to review where blue badge holders were parking, to ensure that this was not causing difficulties for access. The signage also needed to be looked at.

RECOMMEND:

- (1) that the District Council be asked if it was possible to identify additional spaces for people with disabilities to park in Rope Walks Car Park.
- (2) that the need for improved road signage in this area be raised with Dorset County Council.
- (3) that the Sub Committee should survey where blue badge holders parked throughout the town and identify where this could be causing a problem for traffic and seek to identify alternative provision.

(b) West Allington - Road Surfacing

RECOMMEND: that the request to Dorset County Council for the road to be re-surfaced, following the recent gas works, be supported.

(c) West Allington - Pinch Point Signage

The Sub Committee noted the comments received about the potential difficulties for drivers and the need for signage.

RECOMMEND: that Dorset County Council be asked to install signage at each approach, asking drivers to take care and be aware of the reduced road width.

(d) Traffic Management - Victoria Grove

The Sub Committee discussed the recent comments in the Public Forum at the recent full Council meeting, on the need to look at further traffic restrictions in the road. Members felt that the speeds had been reduced to 20 mph and that the layout and parked vehicles in the road helped reduce speeds. It was not felt that it would be possible to do anything further at this time.

RECOMMEND: that there be no further action at this time.

(e) Osbourne Road - Parking Problems

It was reported that this issue had been looked at before, but members felt that the situation had not improved and should be raised again with Dorset County Council.

RECOMMEND: that the County Council be asked to look at the possibility of waiting restrictions on the corners of Osbourne Road, at the entrance to Rawles Way.

(f) Hanson's Yard – Parking

RESOLVED: that investigations be undertaken and reported back on the current ownership of this land, with a view to consideration of its potential use as overflow car parking.

(g) Court Orchard - "No Ball Games" signage

The Sub Committee asked for more information on this request.

Other matters raised by members, not on the agenda, included:

Coneygar Road – Pot Holes in the road and cracks in the pavements.

George Street, Harbour House, West Bay – potholes need to be filled.

St Andrews Road – potholes and hole between the road and pavement – near no.6.

RECOMMEND – that these three matters be reported to the Dorset County Council for action.

13. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS

Councillors considered ENCL: 2846.

The following issues were raised:

West Bay – Parking near Pier Terrace – it was reported that this was being looked at by West Dorset District Council's Head of Parking and Traffic.

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

14. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no issues raised.

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 16 October 2014