

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 27 October 2011 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

C.M. Ray (ex officio)

Ms S.J. Williams

K.G. Wallace (until 3.15pm)

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Malcolm Leighton spoke in support of the previously raised issues about motor cycle parking provision in car parks and the items on the agenda in respect of road hatchings outside Grove Nurseries and signage outside The George in West Bay.

Mr Alan Williams from WATAG spoke about the current concerns on the bus services following the re-tendering exercise. This included complaints received about buses not running or being late and it proving difficult for members of the public to contact the new bus provider, Damory, by telephone. Specific issues of concern were also mentioned as follows:

- The difficulties of different companies operating on the some routes (Damory and First Bus) and the inter-availability of tickets (whether tickets for the same route would be accepted by different operators). This has implications for increased fares if return tickets will not be accepted by a different operator.
- There is no bus service to West Bay and Burton Bradstock for three and a half hours on a Saturday morning. This makes it very difficult for people to travel to Bridport for shopping, if they then find that they cannot get back.
- Route 40 is now going the wrong way to the hospital, which means that local people, many of whom will be elderly, wishing to travel to the hospital now have to come into town first.
- The X53 was to be retained in Dorset on a Sunday during the winter, which will increase the frequency of services on a Sunday between Bridport and Lyme Regis. However, it was reported that there had been no publicity on the changed timetable, or that the service did not now go beyond Lyme Regis on Saturday. It was important that information on changed routes and new timetables was made widely available and it was hoped that more publicity could be given to the changes.

15. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr E.T. Colfox and Mr Mike Farrar- Hockley from WATAG.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2011, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. LOCAL BUS SERVICES

The Sub Committee considered the comments on the bus services, made in the Public Forum. It noted that the County Council was conducting an Inquiry into the changes and was aware that the changed contracts had caused difficulties throughout the County. The Town Council had written previously on this matter and had also asked if it would be possible for a County representative to attend a Town Council meeting, to update on the changes. It had received no response to these communications.

The Town Clerk was asked to write again to the County Council to raise the concerns about the bus services and also to ask for an officer to attend a future meeting, to discuss the changes.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk make further representations to Dorset County Council regarding the ongoing concerns relating to the changes to bus services in the area.

19. LONG TERM PARKING OF MOTOR CARAVANS ETC IN WEST BAY

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2445.

RESOLVED: that, subject to the endorsement of the Plans Committee, the proposal from Dorset County Council to restrict on street parking along Station Road, West Bay, to prevent camping or overnight sleeping, be approved. (Cars, motorcycles and invalid carriages would still be able to park on this section of road).

20. WINTER MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2446.

The Town Clerk outlined the following action being taken by the Town Council to respond to the winter weather. Whilst Dorset County Council

would be clearing strategic roads, it would be for local councils to decide what could be done locally and to co-ordinate action:

- additional grit bins had been provided in locations agreed with the County Council.
- communication arrangements would be put in place to ensure the Town Council received information from the County Council on expected bad weather.
- the Town Council would undertake some gritting of priority footways and other priority areas within the resources available and look to co-ordinate responses with the other principal authorities.
- local shop keepers would be encouraged to clear the footway in front of their shops.

RESOLVED: that the preparations being made to respond to extreme winter weather be endorsed.

21. PARK AND RIDE REPORT BACK

The Town Surveyor reported that the passenger numbers using the service had increased again this year, even without taking account of the additional two weeks of the service. West Dorset District Council was thanked for its ongoing support of the service, which enabled the Town Council's costs to remain within the agreed budget.

RESOLVED: that the report back be noted.

22. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT HUB

The Town Clerk reported that discussions had taken place with representatives of the local Environment Group and the Western Area Transport Action Group on this matter.

It did seem that the Community Transport Exchange (CTE) scheme was aimed at smaller, rural communities and an application form would not therefore be submitted at this time. However, overall, it was considered that Bridport was well placed to be a transport exchange. If a suitable community did not come forward through the application process, it was hoped that further discussions could take place with the County Council to support the existing initiatives in the town (park and ride, cycle routes etc) and develop other related projects, bearing in mind the existing services and infrastructure in the town.

Members agreed with the approach being taken and felt that the future of the bus station was something that also needed to be picked up, in the ongoing consultation on the Local Plan.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted as set out above and the proposed response be endorsed.

23. NEW HIGHWAY REQUESTS

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

(a) Coast Road

It was asked if the issue of signage for the route, at both ends of the B3157, could be taken up with Dorset County Council.

RESOLVED: that Dorset County Council be contacted regarding the need for signage at both ends of the B3157.

(b) School Crossing Patrols

It was noted that the local patrols were to continue to be supported by the County Council. This was welcomed by members.

The update was noted.

(c)/(d) Traffic and need for notice leading into Priory Gardens

Items (c) and (d) were taken together.

RESOLVED: that the need for road signage at this location be supported and discussed with Dorset County Council.

(e) Road Signage and Markings near Sluice Gate – West Bay

RESOLVED: that the proposal for road signage and markings at this location be supported and discussed with Dorset County Council.

(f) Parking on West Bay Road, next to car park.

It was noted that there was an issue with parking at this location on a Sunday and it was:

RESOLVED: that proposals to stop unauthorised parking at this location be supported and taken forward with Dorset County Council.

(g) Road hatchings outside Groves Nurseries

RESOLVED: that the provision of hatching at this location be supported and discussed with Dorset County Council.

(h) Motor Cycle Parking – signage outside The George

It was noted that the signage at this location in West Bay needed to be reviewed as it said “Buses only” and access was needed by motor cycles.

RESOLVED: that Dorset County Council be asked to review the signage at this location.

(i) Mabel Gale Bungalow, Victoria Grove – Parking Space

It was reported for information that Dorset County Council was looking at the lay by at this location, to ascertain if it was public highway.

The update was noted.

(j) Resident’s Parking, 68-104, St Andrews Road

It was reported that the possibility of residents parking elsewhere in this road was already being looked at with Dorset County Council.

RESOLVED: that this matter be included in ongoing discussions with Dorset County Council and reported back before any decisions were recommended.

The following additional matters were also raised for further consideration:

(k) The footpath between King Charles Public House and Central Motors was often blocked. It was agreed that this would be raised with Dorset County Council.

(l) Dreadnought Estate and Alexandra Road – the need for yellow lines would be raised with Dorset County Council.

24. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

It was reported that the TIC had run out of bus timetables and it was hoped that the County Council would be able to provide additional publicity and information on the bus services.

RESOLVED: that the need for additional information should be raised with Dorset County Council, as part of the representations on the bus service changes agreed under the earlier item on Local Bus Services (minute 18).

25. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

(a) Updates on parking restrictions

There was a new engineering team in place at Dorset County Council and discussions were taking place on what could be progressed from the list of restrictions put forward by this Sub Committee.

The update was noted.

(b) A35 East Road Crossing

This matter was ongoing.

The update was noted.

(c) East Road pavement parking

This matter was ongoing.

The update was noted.

(d) Signage

The entrance signs into town were to be looked at with the County Council, now that the new teams were in place.

The update was noted.

Updates were also provided on the following items:

(e) Drop kerb requests – these were all with the County Council for consideration.

(f) Gas Works – Southern Gas Networks was keeping the Town Council updated on progress on the works in the town. It was not anticipated that there would be any major changes prior to the temporary cessation of the works in December.

(g) Wanderwell – the mirror at this location had been broken off and would be put back.

(h) Motorcycles in Car Parks – in response to comments made in the Public Forum, it was noted that the matters that had previously been agreed had been forwarded to West Dorset District Council. The requested works would be programmed in, although it was not at this stage known when the work would take place

(i) Knightstone Rise Pedestrian Refuge – this was still being looked at by Dorset County Council.

The above updates were noted.

26. DOCUMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

27. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no matters reported.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee will be held on 26 January 2012