

PLANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday, 28 March 2013 at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Mrs M.J. Ray

Ms S.J. Williams

Also in attendance: Cllrs: Ms R.C. Kayes, C.M. Ray and D.G. Rickard.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ms Jenny Connelly from the newly formed West Bay Business Forum addressed the Sub Committee and raised a number of concerns that local businesses and residents had with regard to the traffic scheme in West Bay, including parking, need to encourage people to come into the harbour area, the potential for accidents and the need for improved signage.

In response, it was stated that the scheme was to be audited over the Easter period and that this was a District and County Council scheme. However, the Town Council would be happy to work with the new forum, to look to see where it could help. In particular, the Town Council had been looking at signage in the area, including in the District Council car parks. It would be happy to discuss this matter further and take up any particular concerns regarding West Bay.

38. APOLOGIES

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

39. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2013, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41. ISSUES RAISED BY WATAG

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

1. Dorset County Council had indicated that they would no longer be able to attend WATAG meetings.
2. He had attended the consultation meeting in Dorchester to launch the public consultation on bus services.

3. WATAG had again raised the possible re-routing of bus service 40, to go through Court Orchard, to the hospital.
4. New timetables on some services as from 28 March. There had been a reduction in service for the X53.
5. Real Time information was working on the stop outside Frosts, but not across the road outside Nationwide and there were still issues with the audio descriptions on the buses.
6. The changes to concessionary travel were likely to cause problems for people. Information on the services affected, was available in the TIC.
7. There were concerns about the impact of the A35 road closures on bus services.

Members thanked Alan for raising these matters and the Sub Committee discussed the impact of the concessionary travel changes and the need for information to be made available. In respect of road closures, it was agreed that there needed to be increased signage to indicate where the closure was, and the alternative route, and it needed to be borne in mind that the proposed closures could have an impact on parents taking their children to school for important exams.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the issues regarding the A35 road closures be taken up with the Highways Agency.

42. GAS WORKS

The Town Clerk confirmed that these works were now complete.

Members welcomed the completion on schedule and agreed that the contractors should be thanked for their work and for keeping the Town Council informed of progress.

The update was noted.

43. A35 MILES CROSS MEETINGS - UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that the follow up meeting on Miles Cross had been rearranged by Oliver Letwin's office and would now take place at the Town Hall on 19 April. Attendance was by invitation only and the Town Council will be represented by Cllr Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

44. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAY VEGETATION PROGRAMME 2013-2014

Councillors considered the letter from Dorset County Council, ENCL: 2675, regarding their programme for the coming year.

Members made the following comments:

Complaints had been received last year regarding the condition of highway verges and it was suggested that the County Council should establish a contingency fund, to enable emergency work to be undertaken.

Members expressed concerns about the frequency of cuts and felt that the County Council should consider discussing with the Town Council whether it wished to take on some of the work. However, this could only happen if the funding to do the work followed the function.

RECOMMEND: that concerns be raised with the County Council regarding the Highways Vegetation Programme for 2013/14, as set out above.

45. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

Councillors considered a letter from Dorset County Council, ENCL: 2674.

Members expressed concern that it appeared traffic regulation orders would not be processed during 2013/14 and asked if the County Council would consider a reduction in that timescale. The Town Council had achieved a large number of orders and new schemes, thanks to good partnership working with the County Council and it was concerned that this proposal would greatly delay much needed schemes.

RECOMMEND: that concerns be raised with Dorset County Council regarding their proposal not to process any traffic regulation orders during 2013/14.

46. ONGOING HIGHWAY MATTERS

It was reported that the Town Surveyor would be meeting with Dorset County Council to review the ongoing highways issues and would report back to the next meeting of this Sub Committee with an update on the status of schemes previously considered by members.

The position was noted.

47. NEW HIGHWAYS ISSUES

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

(a) South Street

A new pedestrian crossing in South Street close to the junction with Normandy Way had been requested by the Bridport Area Fifty Plus Forum.

It was noted that this matter had been raised before by the Town Council, but surveys undertaken by the County Council had indicated that this site did not meet the criteria for a crossing. If more evidence of need could be produced, then the Town Council would support further representations being made to the County Council.

RESOLVED: that in principle, the request for a crossing be supported subject to more information being obtained, prior to further representations being made to

the County Council.

The following proposals (b-d) had been raised by Cllr Ms R.C. Kayes:

(b) St Swithuns Road- possible residents' parking scheme

It was reported that before a scheme could be considered by the County Council, it was necessary to obtain evidence that all the residents would support a scheme.

RESOLVED: that, as with all requests for residents' parking schemes, evidence to be provided of support for a scheme in this area and the results reported back to the Sub Committee.

(c) Dibdin View - give way markings out of Dibdin View into Flaxhayes

RESOLVED: that this matter be looked at in conjunction with Dorset County Council and be reported back to the Sub Committee.

(d) North Allington - parking in North Allington and erasing double yellow lines, placed at the site of the former medical centre.

RESOLVED: that this matter be looked at in conjunction with Dorset County Council and be reported back to the Sub Committee.

(e) Downes Street

It was noted that a previous proposal to prevent right turns from this junction had not been supported by the County Council.

RESOLVED: that proposed changes to the junction of Downes Street and East Street not be supported at this stage and be brought forward again, as part of the wider review of the town centre traffic changes.

Although not on the agenda, members raised the following matters:

Wellfields Drive – Additional Yellow Lines – it was asked if there could be an update on this matter.

Parking for People with Disabilities – it would be helpful to have a review of the parking provision for people with disabilities, to see if this was adequate and also to assess parking on double yellow lines.

48. 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 27 June 2013