

## SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Industry Commerce Transportation and Tourism Committee held at the Guildhall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2010 at 7:00pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Yates (Chair), R Austin, P Clements, J Ellison, A Killeya, C Oakes, B Reid

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr W Cotton (Chamber of Commerce)  
Mr P Dickerson (Chamber of Commerce)  
Mr M Taylor (by invitation of Cllr Yates)  
Mrs D Ashton (Temporary Town Clerk)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors R Bickford, M Killeya

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**72/10/11**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr A Killeya declared a personal interest in items relating to rail services as he is a member of SRUG.

**73/10/11**      **BUSES**

- (a) **‘Saltash Day Rider’ ticket** – no further update as Cllr Yates had been unable to obtain a meeting with First Group Bus Company to investigate this matter further. Cllr Yates will contact Simon Newport (Commercial Director) to arrange a meeting.
- (b) **Fore Street bus bays** – Cllr Austin reported that this is still ongoing.
- (c) **Any other bus issues/updates:**

**Pillmere Bus Stop:**

Cllr Austin reported that the bus stop at Pillmere is still to be moved. Cornwall Council Highways dept. does not have any objections to this. The owners of property adjacent to new proposed bus stop site are due to be consulted. Once the bus stop is moved, it is proposed a bus shelter will go there.

Cllr Austin said that the Cornwall Councillors Community Grant may be able to support necessary works. Cllr Austin asked members if they felt works (lay-by) for this bus stop when it moves were a priority to which members replied yes.

**Bus Service to serve St Anne’s Road, St Georges Road, Hillside Road:**

Cllr Yates read to members a letter from a member of the public regarding a lack of service to residents living in the areas around the above since the route of bus no. 152 was changed in June this year.

Cllr Clements said that the 152 had changed its route because of inclement weather and parked cars on this route had caused difficulties for buses to go this way. Members also thought the other reason for the change was a lack of profitability.

Members discussed the various possibilities that could assist in resolving this matter.

Members **AGREED** that the letter be passed to the CIC as there may be potential for community bus service and Cllr Yates contact the smaller bus companies to see if there was a possibility of rerouting an existing service.

**74/10/11**

### **INDUSTRIAL ESTATES**

- (a) **Avery Way Signage** – members reported that signage is quite poor.

Members heard that a third company that is licensed to produce highways signs is still being sought for a quote as per the Town Council's Standing Orders. Members asked the Clerk to enquire with Tavistock Town Council as to which companies they use. A third quote would try to be sourced by the next committee meeting.

However, members felt that due to the length of time experienced trying to source a third quote, a recommendation may be required to suspend Standing Orders for this matter in order to consider only two quotes so that the issue can be moved forward.

- (b) **Any other industrial estate issues/updates:**

Mr Cotton spoke of a concern of Saltash not having enough units big enough for local businesses to expand into. Businesses end up looking elsewhere for suitable premises and moving out of the area completely. He felt that there should be more provision to prevent this happening.

Members explained that whilst the Town Council can comment on provision with Saltash in general, it cannot extend views and comments on site relating to particular planning applications outside of the proper planning process. It was suggested that Mr Cotton contact Cornwall Council.

Members heard that there were no lines yet on Gilston Road.

Cllr Ellison asked about the old units on Windsor Lane. Cllr A Killeya said that the appeal had been lost as the gardens were not big enough and there was an issue over an important tree, albeit without a tree preservation order. Cllr Austin said he would forward the decision notice to members.

**75/10/11**

### **TOURISM**

- (a) **Finger Signs** - the Clerk informed members that the contractor was aware that all signs required attention and awaiting a response.

The Clerk informed members that the old metal Station (passageway from Lowers Fore Street to Alexandra Square) sign had been repainted in black with gold lettering by a member of the caretaking staff, Colin Richings. Members expressed their thanks to him and that a good job had been done.

- (b) **Car Park Information Boards** – an update e-mail from Cllr Bickford said that all boards, bar the Leisure Centre board, have the local information poster in now and drawing pins are the most effective way securing them. Cllr Austin volunteered to do the final board.

Cllr Yates spoke of which matter goes on which agenda – it can be quite confusing e.g. notice boards are discussed at Civic Amenities but information boards are discussed here – noticeboards in general end up being discussed at both committees.

It was suggested that the Chairs of the committees discuss the matter.

- (c) **Any other Tourism issues/updates:**

Cllr A Killea asked about the tourism packs that the Town Council produces and distributes to relevant outlets throughout the town.

The Clerk explained that some packs have been put together but it is a very time consuming job and staff have difficulty putting together large volumes during their working day when they're also trying to undertake their other responsibilities.

Members felt that the packs that are ready should go out now. Cllr Reid kindly offered to distribute the packs to relevant outlets throughout the town.

76/10/11

### **SALTASH STATION & RAIL SERVICES**

Cllr Bickford had e-mailed an update prior to this meeting:

Off Peak fares will rise a little from the 5<sup>th</sup> September - 10p or 20p for Devon and Cornwall. This would have meant that the Saltash - Plymouth Off Peak Return fare would have risen to £3.00. Cllr Bickford reported that he had successfully argued for this fare to be reduced to £2.50. The argument was based on an analysis of Off Peak Return fares from Cornish stations into Plymouth, which found that the Saltash fare was unfair. They agreed and the change will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> September

A station progress report from John Taylor at First Great Western is still being awaited. Mr Taylor may currently be away so Cllr Bickford will try make contact again at the end of August and then escalate the pressure if need be.

New Information Points with screens are due for both platforms. Members commented that posts for one of these information points is located in a

position where a public waiting shelter is due to go. Cllr Yates said he would go and investigate.

Cllr A Killeya reported that he still had received no communication from the owner of the station.

**77/10/11**      **PETROL PRICES IN SALTASH**

With regard to local petrol stations joining the ‘Saltash Card’ scheme, Cllr Ellison reported that this was still an ongoing matter. He is due to chase up BP Services as no reply has been received from them yet.

Cllr Bickford is due to pass Cllr Ellison ‘Saltash Card - Point of Sale’ logo marketing material which is to be placed in the service stations.

Members felt that now that Texaco has signed up, the scheme should go ahead – it may encourage BP to sign up.

**78/10/11**      **TAMAR TAG**

Cllr M Gee had notified the Clerk that there had been an increase in the minimum level of Tamar Tag top-up – it is now £15.

Members discussed this at length. Members heard that Tamar Tag had explained to a member of the public that he was required to top up £30. As he had two vehicles it was felt that this might be because a different account was required for each vehicle

Cllr A Killeya thought that it may be either due to new rules or that Tamar Tag has made an error.

**79/10/11**      **FUNDING**

(a) **Cornwall Councillors Community Grant** – Members put forward the works for the Pillmere bus stop/shelter. Cllr Austin said he would find out the cost of such works and report back to members at the next committee meeting.

(b) Cllr Bickford had submitted the following request for funding:

SRUG (Saltash Rail Users Group) produce a Saltash Train Timetable on a twice yearly basis. These are timed to coincide with official National timetable changes. SRUG have distributed these to Saltash households by means of a delivery with the Saltash Observer and the scouts when delivering the Town Council Messenger.

The cost for each of these publications and delivery is approx. as follows:

Printing of 10,000 leaflets	£283.00
Distribution with Observer (7,500)	£173.00

Distribution with scouts (6,500) £100.00

The cost ranges from £383.00 to £456.00 per timetable so annually, it would be just double that. If SRUG manages to get a distribution with the Scouts when they deliver the Town Messenger, the cost is approx. £739.

The hidden costs of actually designing the leaflet will remain free, i.e. Cllr Bickford's considerable time, but should not be forgotten.

We have in the past received funding from Passenger Focus, but this source is going to stop and SRUG believes that the May 2010 Timetable will be the last with such funding. Cllr Bickford will continue to try.

SRUG would like to have this Timetable leaflet part funded by the Town Council and would be happy for this to be reviewed on an annual basis (probably best reviewed in September/October to coincide with budgetary planning).

The Town Council would receive a credit in much the same way as Passenger Focus does. This would not fund other activities such as the 'Days Out' leaflet or others.

SRUG is aware that the Town Council have an allocated budget set aside to subsidise and promote public transport. SRUG feels that this would seem the most appropriate budget to draw on. SRUG would look to cover the remainder of the costs.

Members said that the Town Council does have funds allocated for such things. Members said that the timetable is very useful and convenient guide which is widely used and has increased the train usage from Saltash.

Cllr Austin suggested that train timetable information be included in the Town Messenger.

As members felt this was for the benefit of the community, it was **RECOMMENDED** that the next SRUG timetable be subsidised by the Town Council with all receipts to be submitted for inspection by this council.

**80/10/11**      **PARKING**

- (a) **Car parking charges increase in Saltash by Cornwall Council** – the Mayor had drafted a letter on behalf of the Town Council, as per the last committee meeting, against any increase in charge. The Clerk said the letter would be sent once details of who to send it were confirmed.

Cllr A Killeya remarked that there are lots of free car parks in holiday areas in Cornwall and that this part of the County has few in comparison.

- (b) **Any other matter relating to car parking:**

With regard to trailer parking in the Ashtorre area (minute 67/10/11(a) ICTT 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010), Cllr Ellison felt not having a sign was unsatisfactory. Cllr Yates reminded members of what was agreed at the last meeting. Cllr Ellison thought the issue existed all year round and not just the summer months. Cllr Yates said that it would be an agenda item for the September committee meeting. Cllr Ellison asked if Cornwall Councillors would commit some of their grant funds to a sign with wording along the lines of the Jubilee Green car park.

#### **81/10/11      FORE STREET SHOPS**

Cllr Reid updated members that the betting shop in Lower Fore Street was moving to new premises. Cllr A Killeya thought that the new location was a building that Saltash Heritage and the Town Council were interested in for use as expansion and storage for Saltash Heritage. Cllr Reid said he would find out further information and pass it on to the Clerk.

Members spoke of a shop front in Fore Street that was in dire need of some cosmetic attention to make it less of an eyesore in the main shopping area. Members thought the owner should be contacted to try find some way of improving the shop front. Cllr Yates said that an enforcement action could not be really be taken quickly unless there is a health and safety concern which take priority over other issues. Members discussed the matter of enforcement at length. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Yates and Bickford contact the owner of the property concerned, and if necessary, a letter be sent from the Town Council.

#### **82/10/11      URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIR**

Cllr Yates briefed members on a letter that he had received from Mr Michael Taylor about a very serious unpleasant experience on Fore Street where members of his family had recently suffered injuries after being hit by a cyclist whilst they were crossing the road at the speed control bump / pedestrian table adjacent to Superdrug.

Cllr Yates explained to members that he had invited Mr Taylor to attend this evening in order for him to explain the incident himself:

A van, travelling down Fore Street, had stopped at the speed control / pedestrian table and indicated to them that he had stopped to allow them to cross. Unfortunately, behind the van, also travelling down the street was a cyclist with poor brakes who had to overtake the van and as he couldn't stop, ploughed into his family. The van driver picked his eldest granddaughter off the road to the pavement.

All were in a state of shock and spent four hours in Derriford hospital after one of the witnesses had called an ambulance as all members of his family had suffered extensive injury as well as being in shock..

Mr Taylor wished to bring to the attention of members the dangers of crossing Fore Street, particularly with so many vehicles stopping to allow pedestrians to cross when there is no obvious signage to indicate whether it safe for vehicles to allow pedestrians to cross at the speed control bump / pedestrian table. Although there is a pelican crossing point, the speed control bumps / pedestrian

tables are of concern as they are made to look like crossings together with the fact that levels of traffic have increased.

Mr Taylor explained that the police had been contacted at the time but were not interested

Members expressed their alarm at such a serious incident and that the police took little interest. Members agreed that the speed bumps were confusing to pedestrians. Members discussed their own personal experiences of pedestrians just stepping out in front of cars and agreed there is the perception that these are allocated areas for crossing the road.

Members said that the matter of road safety was Cornwall Council's responsibility. Members urged Mr Taylor to contact the police again. Mr Taylor's son is due to contact the police again - Cllr Yates asked to be given an update on that.

Cllr Yates said he would contact Cllr D Holley and ask him to raise the matter of this incident with Cornwall Council's road safety dept.

Cllr Oakes also wished to highlight his concern of motorised mobility scooters on pavements as he felt they are an accident waiting to happen due to the fast speed that users go at.

**83/10/11**      **PRESS RELEASES**

It was **AGREED** for the following press releases to be done:

- Rail price update by Cllr Bickford.
- Petrol price available in Saltash via use of Saltash Card.

**84/10/11**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 7.00pm

Rising at 8.24pm