

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Town Mayor Councillor J P Zalot
The Deputy Mayor Councillor C J Theakston
Councillor D T Evans
Councillor A J V Grant
Councillor K M Jones
Councillor R A Jones
Councillor D R Owen
Councillor L J Roberts
Councillor J A Rowlands
Councillor M G Sarsfield

The Town Clerk was in attendance

APOLOGIES: Councillor D W Gallichan
Councillor H Mattocks
Councillor S Zalot

The Town Mayor took the Chair

104.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Resolved (unanimous): To go into Committee.

105.0 COACH PARKING ISSUES CONCERNING FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME WORKS

The Town Mayor outlined the background and history of the flood alleviation works, complimenting Anglesey County Council on the work already done. The current works were the final element of the project which had included the bund in Castle Meadow and new sea walls. He outlined some of the Council's concerns about the prospect of parking coaches on the Green. It was confirmed that the discussion would be about parking arrangements for the duration of the engineering works.

The Town Mayor invited Huw Percy and Emma Collett of Anglesey County Council to join the meeting.

Huw Percy gave further background to the works and acknowledged the contribution the Town had made. The current works had been in the planning stage for several years and were going ahead now that Welsh Government financial support had been secured. He addressed questions about use of the coach park. Logistically it is a good location for sizable components as well as equipment (the pipe sections are 1.5m in diameter). During the works the coach park is also needed as a diversion route while the road to Llanfaes is dug up and will itself be excavated to install the culvert across it. Space has already been set aside to enable access to the allotments. He acknowledged the disruption to the town. There is never a good time for sizable project in the town however doing the work in winter balances disruption in the town against the additional difficulties of construction in poor weather.

Huw Percy outlined the proposed options and drew attention to feedback from the coach operators:

1. Park coaches on the Green with access via the RAYC end of Green Edge. Drop off and pick up would remain in Castle Street.
2. If turning into the Green was a problem for coaches Option 1 could be adapted by making Alma Street one-way and have the coaches approach the entrance to the Green from that direction. Drop off would be outside on the seaward side of the Bulkeley Hotel or on The Green. It is believed (based on experience during the Tour of Britain and Olympic flame torch relay) that coaches can make the turn into Alma Street but this would have to be confirmed. Concerns were raised about the potential width of coaches on the relatively narrow Green entrance road.

Councillor M G Sarsfield joined the meeting.

3. If parking coaches on the Green is not practical the current car parking along the seafront road could be suspended and used for coaches. It was suggested that if this inconvenienced residents a free pass for parking on the Green could be offered. There would be a visual impact and access to properties would have to be preserved. In response to a suggestion Mr Percy stated that IoACC were proposing to have a dry run with a coach to confirm that the traffic movements required by which ever option is adopted are manageable.
4. Coaches drop off and pick up at West End and use the existing parking areas there. This option has challenges: tourists have further to walk into town and somewhere would have to be found for coaches to turn around.

Councillors observed that finding a solution will involve balancing the needs of several different sections of the community as well as the coach tour operators. Councillors did ask for understanding from the coach drivers.

The possibility of using the Laird's site as a compound or coach park was addressed. Councillors were reminded that the coach park will be dug up during the works; moving the pipe sections etc. from a remote compound would complicate logistics; the coach operators had raised concerns about lack of welfare facilities for drivers and had expressed the view that if that was the option offer they would probably miss out Beaumaris and spend longer elsewhere. Even if temporary welfare facilities could be provided (toilet, restroom, refreshments etc.) the option might still not be sufficiently attractive.

A report by Town Council staff was presented. If the Green is to be used parking the coaches on the hard standing either side of the entrance road would be the preferred option. There are some operational issues to address such as: whether coaches can navigate the bend by the old swimming baths (a test run is recommended); managing coach movements to reduce risks to pedestrians (marshalling was recommended); the need to build the proposed pavement to provide a safe route round the barrier particularly for wheel chair and mobility scooter users would be more urgent; clarity is needed as to liability for any damage from heavy vehicles; to avoid setting unfortunate precedents the terms and conditions for parking should be formally varied. The possibility of creating a new entrance and using the centre road was discussed but felt to be impractical.

In discussion Mr Percy expressed willingness to address any damage issues and give assistance with mitigation measures (e.g. use of temporary trackways). He also expressed a willingness to make good any damage that temporary works like trackways might cause to the Green.

There was a feeling that coach companies should be involved in assessing the proposed solution so that the council could receive practical informed advice (possibly provided in writing). Mr Percy said that if use of the Green was agreed he would arrange for a trial with a coach on Wednesday or Thursday. The pros and cons of entering the sea front from Alma Street or the RAYC end were discussed.

The preference was to retain the existing drop off and pick up points though it was explained that coach operators would like to have the option to allow passengers who wish to board the coaches on the Green.

Recommendation to Council (unanimous):

To accept the principle of coaches being parked on the hard standing areas of the Green (not on the grass) on a temporary basis. Trackway would be used to reinforce the areas if advised by IoACC. An agreement on the reinstatement of damage would be needed.

Recommendation to Council (unanimous):

That the preferred option is for coaches to enter Green Edge from the RAYC end. The planned work to extend the pavement could incorporate any changes to the Green entrance if necessary to facilitate access by coaches.

There was discussion of temporary arrangements until the coach parking can be put in place. It was reported that The Bulkeley Hotel had offered use of its car park.

Recommendation to Council (unanimous):

To offer Bulkeley staff and residents free parking on the Green for the duration to facilitate use of the Bulkeley car park.

Recommendation to Council (unanimous):

Coaches will park on the Green on the same terms, conditions and charges as the present car park.

The aim is to put the new arrangements in place as soon as possible (though that depends on the amount of works needed). Once finalised IoACC will arrange signage and a press release. The arrangements will also be publicised by the Town Council in the newsletter and on social media.

There was a discussion of the confusing diversion signs. There are two overlapping diversions in operation. One for the works in Wexham Street the other for the Dwr Cymru works in Llangoed. IoACC undertook to consider the issues. Colour coding the diversions and removing/relocating some signs might help.

The meeting adjourned for 5 minutes at 20.40

106.0 SAFETY ISSUES CONCERNING TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT BEAUMARIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Concerns about increased traffic levels outside the school were raised by Councillors. The practical difficulty of providing a school crossing patrol was discussed. The possibility of volunteers helping children cross the road safely without stopping traffic (i.e. in a safe gap in the traffic) was discussed. Emma Collett undertook to speak to the school to see if some parents could be involved.

Councillor C J Theakston joined the meeting.

107.0 INVOLVEMENT OF STAFF IN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Resolved (unanimous): To exclude the press and public for a confidential discussion of staffing issues.

The Administrative Assistant left the meeting.

Recommendation to Council (unanimous):

The Monitoring officer has given advice on a potential conflict of interest. To protect the Town Clerk he will no longer be involved in work associated with the Flood Alleviation scheme. The work will be done by Mr N Baguley.

Resolved (unanimous): To readmit the press and public.

The Administrative Assistant rejoined the meeting.

Resolved (unanimous): To go back into Council.

Resolved (unanimous): To adopt the recommendations of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 21.10

Date

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**Town Mayor
Councillor J P Zalot**