

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Management Advisory Committee held on Monday 23 February 2010

Present

Cllr Vivienne Ash	Honiton Town Council/East Devon District Council
Cllr Alf Boom	Honiton Town Council
Sgt Martin Burrow	Devon & Cornwall Police
Cllr Sally Casson (Chairman)	Honiton Town Council
Cllr Roy Coombs	Honiton Town Council
Cllr Paul Diviani	Devon County Council
Ms Amanda Pitchford	East Area Highway Management, Devon County Council
Cllr Peter Fleming	Honiton Town Council
Cllr Diane Morgan	Honiton Town Council
Cllr Marion Olive	East Devon District Council
Mr Paul Wilson	East Area Highway Management, Devon County Council
Ms Alexis Wood	Highways Agency

10/1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr John Richardson-Dawes.

10/2. To discuss progress on matters arising from the Minutes of 26 October 2009

Minute 88 - No 2 Cycle Way - Mr Wilson reported that this would be considered for inclusion in next year's budgeted work.

Minute 88 - Handrail at Marl pits Lane - Mr Wilson reported that he had spoken with Mr Tucker but any decision would have to be deferred until next year.

Minute 99 – Brand Lane – Cllr Coombs reported that this had been cleared well by EDDC but that if it were agreed to be a road, a “cul de sac” sign needed to be erected. Mr Wilson would speak with Mr Tucker.

Minute 97 – Progress on the Cranbrook development - Cllr Ash and Cllr Olive reported that financial hurdles continued to be cleared and the development would start to go ahead in the new financial year. Cllr Olive confirmed that Millwater School would not move for at least 5 years.

10/3. To discuss CCTV in the Town Centre

The Clerk and Sgt Burrow reported that, following many months of poor service from the CCTV equipment, the contractor had agreed to change the software to something more fit for purpose and this had been installed at the Town Council free of charge. The next stage was to install the software at the police station, to implement the training programme on the new software and to install the alarm at the Town Clerk's office. Sgt Burrow reported that the new software recorded constantly rather than being motion sensitive. This had resulted in reduced capacity in terms of recording but remained well within the parameters needed by the police. The Clerk reported that due to the inconsistencies in the system an outstanding invoice of £3,000 had been waived by the contractor.

10/4. To discuss issues relating to the Highways Agency

a) Progress on improvements on the A35

Ms Wood reported that the A35 extended scheme should be completed by the end of March, following delays due to the weather conditions meaning that it had not been possible to lay the anti-skid surface. An objection had been received regarding the speed limit order for Kings Road; the Highways Agency had contacted the objector to negotiate but this had not been successful. The matter would now be raised to divisional director level for a judgement which should be received within the next few weeks.

b) Update on discussions re Turks Head junction

Ms Wood reported that improvements to the Turks Head junction had been delayed due to changes to the Aldi planning application. The Deputy Clerk reported that the re-submitted

application had now been received by Honiton Town Council for consideration and it was understood that Aldi was interested in starting the development in 2011. Ms Wood confirmed that the scheme relied on developer funding, especially as Highways Agency budgets had been cut for the next four years. The Clerk queried whether the new application from Lidl would have an effect and Ms Wood would be looking into this.

10/5. To discuss issues relating to Devon County Council Highways

a) Progress on New Street/High Street junction

Mr Wilson reported that there had been a recent meeting but the consultancy contract had not been renewed and therefore a new contractor had been appointed. Honiton Town Council had asked for the work not to be done until the autumn of 2010 to allow the town centre a period of recovery and Mr Wilson believed this would be the earliest the work would now take place. The Clerk reminded Mr Wilson that Honiton Town Council needed plenty of notice as it would need to temporarily re-locate part of the street market.

b) Progress on Traffic Orders

In response to a query, Ms Wood reported that parking restrictions would shortly be introduced in Monkton Road outside the current development; restrictions would also apply near the new bus stops. She also confirmed that the Roman Way roadworks would be tidied up at the end of the current set of work.

Ms Pitchford confirmed that she had supplied a response to the query about parking restrictions on Old Elm Road.

Mr Wilson reported that 27 letters had been received during the recent public consultation on proposed traffic orders for the town; 9 of these had been objections to plans for Millers Way and 8 had been in connection with the High Street. Mr Wilson would be discussing these with Cllr Diviani before bringing proposals back to Honiton Town Council.

c) The Installation of a Crossing over Battishorne Way for the Nature Reserve

Mr Wilson referred to the original site meeting with Devon County Council, the police, East Devon District Council and Honiton Town Council. At the meeting it had been agreed that the site was not suitable for a permanent crossing, due to poor visibility. However dropped kerbs would be put in to indicate a crossing point and four speed signs would be erected once the location had been agreed with the police. Cllr Olive asked for progress on her application to use some available funding for a crossing but it was felt that this may no longer be available. Cllr Fleming asked that any installations be backed up by regular enforcement and Sgt Burrow confirmed that regular operations were already taking place in the vicinity. It was agreed that there was a need to explain to people in the town why no crossing would be put in and the Clerk was instructed to action this.

d) The Provision of further Grit Bins and Ways in which the Town Council could better support in times of ice and snow

Mr Wilson reported that Devon County Council had received over 700 requests for grit bins. Cllr Diviani announced that the County Council was currently looking into ways in which local parishes could help, either by stewardship or through clustering of parishes. As a first step Honiton Town Council should identify preferred locations for grit bins. The Clerk raised the question of local people helping, which in the past had been discouraged by the County Council; Cllr Diviani said that this would be possible in the future as long as it was done responsibly and Devon County Council would be issuing guidelines.

e) New Street – Consideration of a reduction in the speed limit, improvements to the pavements and the possibility of becoming a one way street

Cllr Boom outlined the current situation in New Street which was getting busier with traffic and pedestrians. He raised the issue of uneven and broken pavements which were also very narrow and not suitable for disabled users. He believed that consideration should be given into making New Street permanently one way as this had worked well as a recent temporary measure. Sgt Burrow reported that the police did not consider speed to be an issue on New Street and that it rarely exceeded 30mph during shopping hours; he advised that any reduction to 20mph would not be enforced and would need the County Council to put in traffic engineering. He felt that the biggest issue was vehicle parking but accepted that a total

restriction was not feasible as it would stop loading and unloading.

Mr Wilson agreed to speak with Mr Tucker about the state of the footways.

It was agreed that the Town Council should lead a working group of local partners to look at all options for the town with regard to roads and traffic rather than deal with problems in a piecemeal fashion; this could then be used as the basis for a bid for the Local Transport Plan. The working group could take the work previously done as part of the MCTi exercise as a starting point.

f) Consideration of the re-classification of the Honiton/Dunkeswell/Hemyock road from a "C" to a "B" road

Cllr Coombs outlined his concerns regarding this road which had more traffic movement than the B3170, especially in terms of HGVs. Cllr Diviani advised that this point had already been raised by neighbouring parishes and would be discussed at HATOC on 29 March (meeting open to the public).

g) Flooding problems in Hale Lane

The Clerk drew Mr Wilson's attention to a complaint received by residents of Hale Lane. Cllr Diviani advised that he had also been made aware of this problem and had asked Mr Tony Matthews to look at it; Mr Wilson would follow this up. Cllr Coombs reminded the meeting that Honiton Town Council had been given assurances when the new houses on Kings Road had been built that the culvert would be preserved and he questioned whether a survey should be undertaken to see whether there was damage present. The Clerk was instructed to contact Mr Keith Steel at East Devon District Council to discuss.

h) Higher Brand Lane blocked culvert and collapsed pipe

Cllr Coombs advised that the Parish Lengthsman had indicated this problem was beyond his capabilities and that it was now believed to be blocked. In addition he believed there may be a blockage at an old drain at the junction with Gardiners Lane. Mr Wilson would check with Mr Steve Tucker what action was being taken.

i) Safety Issues on bend by railway bridge Pine Park Road/Queen Street

Cllr Coombs asked Devon County Council to look at signage warning of the double bend on this road. Mr Wilson would look into this.

j) Brown Signs

Mr Wilson was asked why a brown sign had been put up for The Railway in a residential area despite Devon County Council's decision not to put signs up as they should only be used for highways issues and not for direction. Mr Wilson would look into this. The Clerk also raised an issue brought to her attention by the Methodist Church who believed that a brown sign had been promised to them when the New Street roadworks were being completed; Mr Wilson said he doubted this would be approved as there were no highways issues involved.

10/6. Other Agenda Items

The Chairman proposed that as the relevant officers were not present at the meeting, the remaining agenda items be carried forward with the Town Council pursuing them in the interim to see whether progress could be made.

10/7. The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.55 pm.