

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Management Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 27 April 2011

Present

Cllr David Foster (Chair)	Honiton Town Council
Sgt Martin Burrow	Devon & Cornwall Police
Cllr Roy Coombs	Honiton Town Council
Mr Paul Downs	Eastern Neighbourhood Team, Devon County Council
PCSO Darren England	Devon & Cornwall Police
Cllr Ron Farnham	Honiton Town Council
Mr Derek Fishpool	Public Transport, Devon County Council
Mr Phil Hardy-Bishop	Highways Agency
Cllr Marion Olive	East Devon District Council
Mr Paul Wilson	East Area Highway Management, Devon County Council

11/12. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fleming (Honiton Town Council)

11/13. Declarations of interest from Town Councillors

Cllr Coombs – Higher Brand blocked culvert and collapsed pipe (P); Footpaths and town lanes (P); A boards on pavements (P); Water channel (P)

11/14. Matters arising from the Minutes dated 25 January 2011 not forming part of the agenda

No issues were raised.

11/15. To discuss issues relating to the Police

a) Progress on CCTV in the town centre

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Town Council has gained funding from the insurers following damage to the aerial on the WH Smith building and that the new aerial should be put up shortly after Easter. PCSO England confirmed that works to finalise the re-siting of cameras would be carried out during the week commencing 2nd May.

b) Changes to policing in Honiton and East Devon

Sgt Burrow advised that the changes will come into effect on 20th May. The wider Devon & Cornwall Police Force will see reductions in both officers and civilian staff. Honiton will become a local hub with patrol officers and a local presence will be maintained. There should be no reduction in local service or response to 999 incidents.

11/16. To discuss issues relating to Highways Agency

a) Progress on final stages of work on A35

Mr Hardy-Bishop advised that as previously reported, the Vehicle Activated Sign on Kings Road is fully operational and work should commence shortly to complete repairs to the grass verges.

Cllr Farnham stressed the need for liaison between various partners involved in the Cranbrook development due to concerns over increased works traffic on the A35. Mr Hardy-Bishop confirmed that developers have been strongly advised to ensure that they liaise with affected parishes.

b) Progress on improvements re Turks Head junction following development re Lidl

No change since the last meeting.

Signed Chair

23 May 2011

c) Signage on the A30 relating to A373

Mr Wilson reported that work is proceeding with signage on the same principle as that already in place in the town. Mr Wilson has identified a suitable site and will liaise with Mr Hardy-Bishop as appropriate.

11/17. To discuss issues relating to Devon County Council Highways

a) Parking enforcement

The Deputy Clerk reported that a letter had been received from a resident regarding parking enforcement on the High Street on market days. The Deputy Clerk would advise the resident to take up the matter with East Devon District Council.

Cllr Coombs raised the wider issue of disabled parking on market days and it was agreed to request that the Marketing Group look into the matter.

Cllr Coombs highlighted issues regarding taxis not using the taxi rank. The Deputy Clerk would follow up the matter with Mr Jackson at East Devon District Council Licensing.

b) Cold weather response

It was reported that Devon County Council has been awarded just over £9.3million from the Department of Transport's £200million of additional funding to repair roads damaged by the severe winter weather. Devon County Councillors will be involved in the process to confirm which roads will be repaired using the grant. The Deputy Clerk was requested to obtain the views of Town Councillors which could then be forwarded to Cllr Diviani for inclusion in the scheme.

c) Higher Brand blocked culvert and collapsed pipe

In order to resolve this issue, Cllr Coombs offered to meet with Devon County Council officers at a site meeting.

d) Dropped kerbs

Mr Wilson would follow up the matter with Mr Lee Cranmer.

e) Handrail on corner of Marl pits Lane

The Town Council has received funding from Devon County Councillors' Locality Budgets for the handrail. The work is scheduled and Mr Wilson will advise the Town Council on completion.

f) Speed restriction on Battishorne Way

Mr Wilson advised that this work will commence shortly and has also been funded by the Locality Budget.

11/18. To discuss issues relating to Bus Transport

a) 367 Service (Town Bus) route and timetable

It was reported that Mr Richardson-Dawes had confirmed that it will not be possible to make changes to the timetable to satisfy so many simultaneous requirements. Mr Fishpool advised that policy limits the amount of time allowed for buses to drop off or collect students before or after the school day and it would therefore not be possible for the bus to arrive any earlier at Honiton Community College.

b) Bus stops in Monkton Road

Mr Hardy-Bishop advised that there is no funding available for any further improvements. Mr Hardy-Bishop will work from the priority list as funding becomes available.

c) Bus service 20 change of operator and timetables

Mr Fishpool advised that, following the tendering process, the service will now continue to be operated by Stagecoach with two buses working. The additional vehicle has been taken out of service. Whilst there has been a slight reduction in the service due to budget constraints, peak time services between Honiton and Taunton will be maintained, as will the early morning service between Honiton and Dunkeswell.

11/19. To discuss issues relating to Footpaths and Town Lanes

a) Update on progress with Definitive Map Review

The Deputy Clerk advised that user evidence will be required for several of the outstanding DMR claims. It was agreed that surveys would be undertaken by Honiton Town Councillors who are on the Town Management Advisory Committee and the Deputy Clerk would advise remaining Councillors of the opportunity to take part in evidence gathering.

b) Footpath 22

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Town Council is awaiting suggested dates for a meeting with officers at East Devon District Council in order to resolve the issue.

c) Woodhill View

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Town Clerk continues to follow up this matter with East Devon District Council but to date no response to the Freedom of Information request has been received.

d) Permissive paths by Roundball Wood

Cllr Coombs raised the issue that if the two permissive paths are not properly recorded and signed then in time they could be forgotten. It was agreed that this could be looked at as part of a future review of the Roundball Wood Management Plan which was approved by the Policy Committee on 18 April 2011.

11/20. To discuss issues relating to East Devon District Council

a) Update on air quality management area consultation

Cllr Farnham reported ongoing concerns with regard to Dowell Street following the report from the consultation and it was agreed that these should be fed back to East Devon District Council.

b) Allhallows Playing Field improvements

It was reported that Mr Struthers-Frost will be looking to install some toddler equipment following the start of the new financial year and that other improvements are ongoing.

Cllr Farnham left the meeting.

c) A boards on pavements

Cllr Coombs raised the issue of the proliferation of A boards on pavements and the lack of any consistent enforcement. Mr Downs outlined policy on A boards which provides that A boards should allow for a minimum of 1.5 metres clear footway and should not be over a certain width.

There are difficulties with enforcement as some pavements are in private ownership and A boards are favoured by local Chambers of Commerce, particularly in difficult economic times.

It was agreed that the matter be passed to the Marketing Group to discuss with the Chamber of Commerce to look into the possibility of dealing with the issue at a local level.

d) Maintenance of the Water Channel

Cllr Coombs outlined the issue of maintaining the water channel and enquired as to the possibility of it being cleaned regularly. Mr Wilson advised that ownership should first be established and the Deputy Clerk was requested to look in to the matter. Cllr Coombs advised that an application for funding for restoring the water channel had been made to the David Knightley trust.

11/21. To discuss issues relating to the Parish Lengthsman

Cllr Foster advised that the Town Council is trying to obtain a schedule of work from the Parish Lengthsman and is awaiting the timetable for the new financial year.

Visibility at Queen Street junction with New Street

Cllr Coombs raised the issue of traffic at the junction of Queen Street with New Street and whether it would be possible to install a mirror to improve visibility. Mr Wilson advised that under Department of Transport policy, mirrors are not permitted on public highways in urban areas and are only permitted at rural junctions to prevent personal injury or collisions.

11/22. The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.20pm.