

## Honiton Town Council

### General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held at the Council Offices, New Street, Honiton on Monday the Twenty-eighth day of July 2008

#### Members present

##### St Michael's Ward

Cllr A Boom

##### St Paul's Ward

Cllr R E Coombs

Cllr Mrs V A Howard

Cllr Mrs M D Morgan

Cllr C T Tratt

#### 13. To elect a Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Howard proposed Cllr Tratt as Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Boom and duly carried.

Cllr Coombs proposed Cllr Casson as Deputy Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Tratt and duly carried.

#### 14. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ash (personal), Cllr Casson (personal), Cllr Teare (annual leave), Cllr Whitlock (personal).

#### 15. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Cllr Howard – Footpaths (vicinity to residence).

#### 16. To discuss the maintenance of the Parish Paths Partnership footpaths.

Cllr Coombs advised members that the annual report had appeared in the press. The Footpath Co-ordinators are about to start annual inspections. Apart from a couple of longstanding problems, good progress has been made.

At East View there is no signage and damage has been done by the developer. Cllr Howard proposed that the Clerk investigate the ownership and proceed following the annual inspection. This was seconded by Cllr Boom and duly carried.

FP23 needs drainage work but Cllr Coombs understood that Devon County Council did not have any further available funding. It was agreed that the Clerk should meet with Mr Spurway to discuss this.

FP22 – Oaklea – this had been taken off the definitive map as unsafe. The Clerk advised that she had written to East Devon District Council to chase progress on this.

FP13 – An illegal and confusing notice has been erected. Cllr Howard proposed that Cllrs Coombs and Fleming approach the owners concerning this sign and then ask the Clerk to write if necessary. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and duly carried.

FP 8 – The Glen – Surface maintenance is poor. The Council has written to the County Solicitor and the Area Office but there had been no reply. Cllr Coombs and Cllr Boom had been attempting to meet with Mr Tucker on this matter since December 2007. It was agreed that the Clerk should follow this up.

#### 17. To discuss the maintenance of the non-P3 footpaths

Cllr Coombs advised members that the walkways in the town need formalising as residents are asking to close them or are restricting them. The Clerk would arrange to provide a map of the whole urban part of Honiton.

Gissage Walk – Cllr Coombs felt it important to try to take every opportunity to extend the Gissage Walk. Cllr Howard proposed that this matter be referred to the Policy Committee and that the Council reaffirm its policy to have a Gissage Walk. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and was duly carried.

**18. To discuss the current position with allotments and agree the way forward**

The Clerk advised members of actions she has taken since the agreement of the Council to go ahead with allotments at Honiton Bottom Road.

- She has written to all the people on the waiting list asking whether they are still interested in having an allotment
- She is arranging to have a survey done of the land
- She is talking with the Allotment Association about the formation of a local association

The next steps will be to have fully costed plans drawn up. £10,000 is currently being held in reserves. Further funding will need to be included in the precept for future years.

The Clerk advised that she is aiming for Spring 2009 to have the allotments available.

**19. To receive an update on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Honiton**

Cllr Coombs advised members that this is part of a Government initiative but there is no funding for the Honiton Plan. 4 routes have been agreed

- Footbridge over the River Otter
- Improvement of FP12 to the A35
- Route from the Copper Castle to Springfield Road
- Top of Magpie Lane with diversion of FP17

Ducks Path - Cllr Coombs reported that the designation of Ducks Path has now been disputed for a number of years. Following a recent decision on a similar situation in Salcombe, Cllr Coombs has written to the Highways Authority stressing the need for this path to go on the Highways Register. In the meantime East Devon District Council has cleaned the path and made it walkable while working on other areas in the town. Cllr Howard proposed that the Clerk write to the railway and ask them to maintain their border with Ducks Path. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and duly carried. In addition Cllr Boom would speak with the dog warden about the ongoing problem with dog mess in the area.

**20. To discuss progress on the creation of the nature reserve off Battishorne Way**

Cllr Tratt advised members that he had attended the recent open afternoon run by East Devon District Council which had been attended by many local people.

East Devon District Council would be sending a report to the Town Council in due course and it was anticipated that the reserve would be open in 4-6 months. Cllr Coombs questioned the felling of some semi-mature trees but Cllr Tratt reported that these would now not be felled. Parking would be restricted to 3 vehicles.

**21. To agree dates for the annual inspection of footpaths and lanes**

The Clerk had circulated a schedule of inspection dates and these were agreed. She outlined the new procedures regarding annual and ongoing inspections to fit into the risk management strategy. Cllr Coombs confirmed that all other Councillors were welcome to join the inspections.

**22. To review the terms of reference and frequency of committee meetings**

Cllr Coombs reminded members of the terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee :

*To respond to consultation documents from and monitor other services provided by other tiers of Government and other organisations.*

Working groups had recently been set up to respond to consultations and he questioned whether this was not more properly the work of the General Purposes Committee. It was agreed to take this matter back to the Town Council. It was further agreed to have an additional meeting of the General Purposes Committee in October (*now scheduled for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm*).

**The meeting went into a Part 2 session to discuss matters of a confidential nature. The press and public were asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

**23. To discuss specific issues relating to Wadmore Lane and Stout Farm**

Councillors discussed issues relating to disputes with residents at both these locations. Cllr Howard proposed that these matters be reviewed during the inspection walks and further action agreed at that time. This was seconded by Cllr Morgan and duly carried.

**24. The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.**

**Signed Chair**

**27<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Copies of this document are available in large print**