

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Management Advisory Committee held on Monday 15 June 2009

Present

Councillors – Cllrs Ash, Casson, Coombs, Farnham, Morgan

Non- Councillors – Mr Paul Wilson, Mr Peter Barnes, Ms Amanda Pitchforth (East Area Highway Management, DCC)

70. o elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the group

Cllr Ash proposed that Cllr Casson be elected the Chairman of the group. This was seconded by Cllr Farnham and carried. Cllr Farnham proposed that Cllr Morgan be elected the Vice-Chairman of the group. This was seconded by Cllr Ash and was carried.

71. ologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Boom and Mr John Richardson-Dawes (Public Transport Team, DCC)

72. o discuss progress on matters arising from the Minutes of 19 January 2009

Minute 57 - Taxi ranks – the site visit has been done and all changes agreed. The work is expected to be completed within the current financial year and incorporated with the work on traffic orders, for which funding has now been allocated. Mr Wilson confirmed there would be no effect on current bus stops.

Minute 58c – The work on no 2 cycle way has not been done (Glanvill Way to Rosemount Lane railway bridge). Mr Wilson confirmed that this was not on the approved plans but he would re-check the situation.

Minute 58c – Mr Wilson confirmed that the traffic calming in Waterleat Avenue would be replaced when the resurfacing was complete.

Minute 58f – The bus stop in Turks Head Lane is no longer used and the bleached flag will be removed. The pole will however be retained in case it is needed in the future.

Minute 58h – Cllr Nicholson had been unable to access funding prior to the election and a new County Councillor had since been elected. Mr Wilson would check with Mr Steve Tucker regarding possible solutions to the problems on the corner of Marlpits Lane.

Minute 58j – The location for lowering of kerbs at Dowell Street was confirmed as outside no 16, opposite the pathway to the TIC.

73. To discuss progress on the New Street/High Street junction

Mr Wilson introduced representatives from Parsons Brinckerhoff who had been working on the proposals for the new layout at the New Street/High Street junction. These were welcomed in general by Councillors but questions were asked as to whether the pavements could be widened to help with safety for the market traders. This would not result in any loss of parking bays under the current proposals. An alternative would be to clearly mark the parking bays, indicating their use for market stalls on market days.

Parsons Brinckerhoff would send the Clerk a second option showing this and the Town Council would consult with the Chamber of Commerce and respond to Mr Wilson by the end of July. The anticipated timescale for the work was September 2009.

Signed Chair

13 July 2009

74. To discuss parking matters in the town

Mr Wilson presented proposals regarding : George Street; Tucker Court/Silver Street; Jerrard Close, which were agreed by the Members present. The Clerk was authorised to sign the orders on behalf of the Council.

A further query had been received regarding Marl pits Road/Crosscut Way. This had been investigated by Devon County Council and no issues had been found.

75. To discuss safety of the market traders

Following discussion it was agreed that an alternative needed to be found to the current practice of parking traders' vans next to the market stalls.

The possibility of widening the pavement as part of the New Street/High Street junction improvements was a serious consideration.

Any erection of safety barriers would involve the Market Manager being trained in Chapter 8. All barriers identified to date were either (a) too heavy to be used on a temporary basis (b) too flimsy to give adequate protection.

A speed restriction on market days was not felt to be appropriate.

76. To discuss the lack of play facilities on the Hale Gardens estate

The situation was discussed that there were no play facilities on the eastern side of the A35, with the nearest play facilities for the Hale Garden estate being the small play area in Langford Avenue. It was agreed that the Town Council should write to East Devon District Council, identifying possible sources of funding and available land.

77. To discuss lowering kerbs to allow disabled access to buses

Correspondence had been received from a local bus driver concerning the difficulty of disabled access at the Congregational Church and the Job Centre. Devon County Council would investigate further.

78. To discuss the use of sub-standard buses on First 20 bus route

Mr Richardson-Dawes had sent in a response concerning this route, which was operated by Stagecoach Somerset. He advised that the Devon County Council contract for this service requires the operation of a low-floor vehicles with minimum thirty-five seats and asked for any instances of non-adherence to this be e-mailed to him. Cllr Ash agreed to progress this matter.

79. To consider improvements to the town entrances

The Town Council had now undertaken the cleaning of the entry signs as part of its cleaning contract for the town bus shelters. The planters had recently been re-done by East Devon District Council.

It was noted that bypassed communities such as Honiton were entitled to information boards and these were not in place. It was agreed that the Town Council would follow this up with Connect.

80. To consider amendments town signage

Mr Wilson confirmed that signage for New Street would be reconsidered during the improvements to the road junction. With regard to the difficulties being encountered with the low railway bridge, as reported by a resident, Mr Wilson requested that details of the companies involved be forwarded to him.

81. To discuss progress on the A35

The Town Council reported that the crossing in Monkton Road was planned for this financial year.

A proposal to reduce the speed limit in Kings Road to 30mph had been received.

The Town Council had sent Cllr Diviani a copy of the Devon County Council report and he was following this up.

The Town Council considered that the safety measures being proposed would still not significantly help the residents of Kings Road in terms of safety or social isolation and there was therefore still a need for an eastern bypass.

The Highways Agency representative would be addressing the Town Council on 13 July.

82. To discuss progress on CCTV in the town centre

The four cameras in the town centre were now fully operational and the facility for viewing at the police station was in place. There remained a problem with locating cameras at each end of the High Street and this was being addressed by the Police and the Town Council.

83. To consider a request from a resident regarding additional planting of trees

A resident had written requesting consideration of additional trees in the town. This had been passed to East Devon District Council for a response. Mr Wilson advised that the planning of any trees in the town centre would need

84. To discuss the suitability of the current location of dog bins

The location of Town Council dog bins at Footpath 23 and at Ducks Path was discussed. It was agreed that the Town Council would investigate the cost to move these bins so that a decision could be taken. The Town Council had resolved not to supply additional dog bins and it was therefore agreed that this would not be an option.

85. To discuss issues relating to footpaths and town lanes

Devon County Council would look into the current closure of the footway from Brand Lane to Buttery Close.

Serious damage had been caused by the weather and affected both Hutgate Lane and Tunnel Lane. These were being looked at by Devon County Council.

The Town Council's contractor was carrying out minor repairs and improvements on the footpaths and town lanes.

A large hole had opened up in Kings Road. This had been investigated by South West Water but it was believed that the problem could relate to the underground water channel. The Town Council would follow this up.

Complaints had been received regarding excessive noise in Pale Gate Close from the bypass. The Town Council would contact Connect to ascertain whether any improvements could be made, such as the provision of a bund.

Planting had been carried out by the Town Council at Dowell Street corner.

86. The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.50 pm.

Signed Chair

13 July 2009