

Honiton Town Council

**Minutes of the Town Management Advisory Committee held on Monday 19th
January 2009**

Present

Councillors – Cllr Casson, Cllr Boom, Cllr Coombs, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Morgan

Non- Councillors – Mr Terry Farebrother (Honiton Market Supervisor), Mr Lee Cranmer (East Area Highway Management, DCC), Mr Derek Jackson (EDDC), Mr Andrew Johnson, Mr Ken Arber and Mrs Vicky Sparkes (Representatives of local taxi firms)

56. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr John Huffer (Horseshoe Taxis), Mr John Richardson-Dawes (Public Transport Team, DCC) and Cllr Ash

57. To discuss additional taxi facilities in the town centre

(This item was discussed early on the agenda so that Mr Jackson, who had another appointment, and the taxi drivers could leave earlier).

After consultation with EDDC, DCC had come up with a proposed plan for the provision of extra taxi ranks in the town centre which Honiton Town Council were opposed to. Lee Cranmer said that DCC had felt that their proposal for the new ranks was the most suitable place to have them. However, Terry Farebrother produced another proposal in which market pitches nos 36-38 outside the Baptist Church would swap with the present taxi rank on a like for like basis and pitches no's 32-35 outside the Manor House would be moved next to pitch 31 on the opposite side of the road. This would make room for a further four taxi rank spaces in their place. Cllr Nicholson expressed concern that these spaces outside the Manor House were close to the High Street/Dowell Street junction and he thought that this could cause problems with the taxi's pulling out. However, Mr Farebrother and the taxi drivers pointed out that they would be able to pull out safely when the lights changed and there was a break in the traffic. If the taxi ranks were on that side of the High Street there was easier access for passengers to Lace Walk and the toilets. Mr Farebrother's proposal found approval with the taxi drivers and Mr Jackson found no problems with them either. Lee Cranmer said that he was not familiar with the new site and would have to take a look at it before deciding.

These new proposals will now go officially before DCC, EDDC and the Honiton Street Market Advisory Committee the next meeting of which is not until 31st March.

Signed Chair

9th March 2009

58. Progress on items from the minutes of 20th October 2008

- a) High Street/New Street layout – Mr Cranmer advised that there was no time scale on this matter yet.
- b) Repainting of lines at Minifie Road – after discussion the committee agreed that this item may refer to Lee Close and not Minifie Road. They are to go and have a look at the site to check this.
- c) Markings of cycleways at Waterleat Avenue, Battishorne Way and Heathfield Farm and creation of additional cycleway beside railway- Cllr Nicholson advised that the cycleway markings from Glanvill Way to the Rosemount Lane railway bridge had now been done.
- d) Signs at entrance to the town – Lee Cranmer advised that the width restriction signs sign at the top of Church Hill were to be located to the mini roundabout (at the bottom of Lower Marl pits Hill) in the next financial year.
- e) Lower Brand Road layby – problems had been caused here by vehicles parking in the layby and Cllr Ash had had an idea to clarify the area by making it a designated bus stop. Mr Cranmer asked the committee if they thought that painting bus stop markings here would just push the problem further down the road and the committee said that they didn't think that would happen. Mr Cranmer is now to liaise with the bus company on this.
- f) Upgrading of bus stop at Turks Head Lane – the bus stop flag at this stop is bleached and unreadable. Cllr Coombs asked if the flag could be either re-painted or have new transfers put on it and also if a bus timetable could be put up here.
- g) Clapper Lane – Mr Cranmer had discussed this with Steve Tucker and there are now steel bollards in Clapper Lane. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the ownership of the allotments and the private roadway which is the northern boundary of the allotments so that a safety route could be looked into.
- h) Marl pits Lane handrail – Cllr Nicholson is to action this, he offered to ask Paul Wilson if a handrail could be installed and if Mr Wilson agreed to this he offered to finance it out of his locality allowance. Cllr Casson thanked Cllr Nicholson for this offer.
- i) Dowell Street lowering of kerb – neither the committee nor Mr Cranmer were sure of the exact location in Dowell Street where the dropped kerb was required. Mr Cranmer said that he would need clarification from Cllr Farnham on this point.

59. To discuss a request raised by a resident for a restricted height sign at the bottom corner of New Street

Lee Cranmer advised that Paul Wilson had stated that he wouldn't agree to any more signs being put up at the bottom of New Street. Cllr Coombs suggested that an advance warning sign be put up further along the High Street. It was felt however, that the problem lay with the information that is given on the Sat Nav systems. Lee Cranmer said that he would bring this up with SW Freight partnership and see if the information on the system could be changed. The committee asked the Clerk to write to Mr Pike advising him of this.

60. To discuss a request from the Chamber of Commerce about improved signage for the town centre

There is no brown sign for the town on the road coming down from London, but there is one on the road coming up from Cornwall. It was decided that we need to know where the boundary on the A30 between Connect and Interoute is so that we know who to write to in order to get a brown sign put up. The Clerk is to ask Roger Stribling and also try and find out from him who owns the slip road at that end of town.

61. To discuss means of prohibition of vehicle parking that prevents pedestrian use of dropped kerbs

It was decided that this was a matter which can only be dealt with by the police and the Clerk was asked to write to Sergeant Gate at Honiton Police Station about this problem, with regard in particular to area in Streamers Meadows by the junction of Eureka Terrace.

62. To discuss a request for tourism signing for The Railway, Queen Street

Paul Wilson had received a request from the owners of the above for the provision of brown tourism signs to their premises. Mr Wilson stated in his letter to us that his concerns were that this may lead to further requests for such signage and that Highways Management are trying to remove signs in urban areas rather than add to them. He felt that with generic signing currently in place on the A30 indicating that there are restaurants in the town signing for The Railway was not justified. The committee agreed with Mr Wilson's views and asked the Clerk to write and let him know.

63. To discuss progress on the A35

We now have five proposed plans for the pedestrian crossing on Kings Road. There is a meeting scheduled for 10th February with the Highways Agency and its contractors which the Clerk and Cllr Morgan are attending. Cllr Nicholson advised that things are fairly near the end of the working party progress on the A35 bypass. Their recommendation will then in due course go to the overview committee and then to the executive committee and then on to the Highways Agency. So it will be a while before a decision is reached.

64. To discuss progress on CCTV in the town centre.

There was nothing to report on this item.

65. Community Nature Reserve at Honiton Bottom Road

Lee Cranmer advised that EDDC had sent through some very vague plans to DCC last week. DCC had responded by saying that the information EDDC had sent through was insufficient for them to act on, and they were therefore asking for more. He advised that Devon County would be willing to pay for dropped kerbs at this location.

66. Off road parking at Millers Way

A letter had been received from Mr Rayner of 8 Millers Way concerning a planning application which he had made for off road parking at 8 & 10 Millers Way for which the Town Council had recommended approval but which EDDC had refused. This letter was also coming before the planning committee the next evening and the committee decided to leave it to them to reply to.

67. Footways around the town

Cllr Coombs advised that there were some walkways around the town which had problems. The footway along the northern side of Tesco is not lit nor well maintained and the Woodhill View walkway which again is not maintained need to be put on the next Town Management Agenda for attention.

68. Town Information Boards

Cllr Coombs raised the question of these boards which the town used to have on the main trunk roads, but which were taken away. The Council has a right with the Highways Agency to have these signs. He requested that this item be placed on the next Town Management Advisory Committee meeting agenda.

69. The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.56 pm.

Signed Chair

9th March 2009