

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Held at The Guildhall on Monday, 22nd May 2017 at 2.15 p.m.

1. PRESENT : Cllr. B. R. Watson (Chairman), Cllr. A. Young, D.R.H. Hull (District Councillor), Mr. B.W. Hoare (Neighbourhood Highway Officer, Devon County Council), Ms. J. Collins (Parking Services Manager, East Devon District Council), Mr. S. Morgan (Axminster Chamber of Commerce), Mrs. Z. Adamson-Drage (Deputy Town Clerk) and Miss H. Kirkcaldie, (Town Clerk).

0 member of the public.

2. APOLOGIES: Cllr. Hayward, Cllr. I.L. Hall (County and District), Cllr. A.T. Moulding, (District Council), Cllr. L.A.Rowe and Cllr. J.W. Walden.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: It was resolved, duly proposed and seconded, that Cllr. Watson be re-elected as Chairman. The election of a Vice-chairman was deferred to the next meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING : the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2017 having been approved and adopted by the Town Council, were signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON 30th JANUARY 2017 : there were no matters which would not be dealt with under agenda headings.

5. PUBLIC FORUM: the following items were raised by Councillors on behalf of residents:-

a) Vale Lane – continued degradation of the surface and insufficient street lighting. The street is used frequently by people visiting Tesco. Mr. Hoare will look into these matters.

b) Potholes in Castle Street – the Clerk will report these via the online reporting system.

c) Degradation of Road Surface in Victoria Place, outside George Hotel: Mr. Hoare is aware of this and will submit the area for resurfacing.

d) Disintegration of Rumble Strips by Catholic Primary School: Mr. Hoare said that the best option would be to have these removed, given their condition. It is unlikely that they would be replaced.

e) Condition of Pavements: Mr. Hoare said that the area outside Trinity House and the pavement to the north of the Minster Green were scheduled for attention. The Town Clerk said that she had been advised that South Street and Church Street had been submitted for works in the current year as these were the areas about which most complaints have been received by the Town Council. Mr. Hoare will look into this matter.

f) Loading Bay in West Street – the Deputy Clerk said that several members of the public had felt aggrieved that they had received penalty tickets following the extension of this bay. Mr. Hoare said that it had been duly advertised. Committee members felt that the change in the regulation had had the desired effect of easing traffic flow through the town centre.

6. MATTERS SUGGESTED FOR DISCUSSION:

a) Speeding at Marshwood end of Crewkerne Road : residents in Crewkerne Road had expressed concerns regarding the speeds of vehicles, both in-bound and out-bound. It was suggested that a post be put in place so that the mobile speed camera could be used to monitor speed in either direction and that roundels with the permitted speed by marked on the road surface. Mr. Hoare will investigate.

b) Banning of Heavy Goods Vehicles from the Town Centre – the benefits of the absence of such vehicles from the town centre had been demonstrated in January when West Street was closed to north bound traffic. Members favoured advance signage being placed on the relevant roads to direct through traffic north-bound onto the by-pass. This would involve appropriate signage being erected on the A35 and the A358 from Musbury. Mr. Hoare will look into whether this would be possible. The matter would have to be discussed also with Connect Road Operators.

- c) **Speeding in North Street:** this matter had been raised by several residents. Mr. Hoare advised that it should be referred to the local Neighbourhood Policing team.
- d) **Report from Recent Highways and Traffic Orders Committee** – the introduction of the advertised alterations to parking orders for Alexandra Road and Widepost Lane had been approved at this meeting.
- e) **Report from Neighbourhood Highways Officer** – Mr. Hoare said that a contractor would be undertaking resurfacing on Chard Road in early July and that surface dressing would be undertaken on 10th June. He updated the Committee on the transitional period which was marking the start of the new contractor which would be working on Devon roads.
- f) **Community Road Warden Scheme** – it was agreed that the Town Council should sign the updated version of this agreement. The Town Clerk will check whether any staff or volunteers need to undertake the training course for filling in potholes. Mr. Hoare will let the Town Clerk know the next scheduled dates for Chapter 8 Training and pothole training. The tools and materials are provided within reason by Devon County Council.
- g) **Drainage on F.P. 69:** Mr. Hoare told Cllr. Hull that a new bridge had been installed which had resolved the problems about which he had been concerned.

7. PROGRESS MADE SINCE LAST MEETING

- a) **Changes to Waiting and Parking Regulations** – a previous suggestion regarding Castle Hill by the level crossing was not felt to be a problem at present. Banning of parking on the bend by the entrance to the playing field at Foxhill was felt to be necessary on safety grounds and will be added to the wish list. The grass bank opposite the entrance belongs to Devon County Council and is now cut by the Town Council. The County Council would have no objections to the Town Council trimming back the hedge and tree.
- b) **Amenity Grass Cutting and Weeding of Kerbs:** it remains the Town Council's position that works to remove/kill weeds growing in between kerbstones will be undertaken as and when the Town Handyman can fit this in with his other duties in summer as part of a rolling programme and that it may take several years to bring all areas up to scratch.
- c) **Road Closure at Wilhayes Lane:** this has not caused any major problems.
- d) **Pavement Works:** there was nothing to add to what had been discussed earlier..
- e) **Update on Footpath 80.:** Mr. Hoare will contact the District Council as the present temporary diversion is coming to an end. He thought it likely that it will be renewed.
- f) **Any Additional Parking Restrictions and Car Parking Matters:** Ms. Collins reported that the car park in Websters' Garage did not appear to have taken any business from the District Council car parks.
- g) **Improved Pedestrian Safety at Tesco Roundabout:** the existing planter had been removed which had improve visibility in some respects.. The Town Clerk will contact the County Road Safety officer about this roundabout as there is a considerable difference in the visibility at the east and west bound arms as opposed to the north and south bound arms.
- f) **Cycle Way Matters:** nothing to report.
- g) **Hunters Lodge Junction:** work is underway but is progressing very slowly. The Town Clerk will contact Highways England to find out whether an urban cross-hatched junction will be installed to prevent traffic blocking the junction when the pedestrian crossing lights are at red.

8. ANY OTHER AREAS OF DISCUSSION OR MATTERS OF URGENCY: Mr. Hoare said that repairs to the steps at Woodbury Lane would be undertaken shortly.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 25th September 2017

Signed Dated