

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Held at The Guildhall on Monday, 29th January 2018 at 2.15 p.m.

1. PRESENT : Cllr. B. R. Watson (Chairman), Cllr. J.W. Walden (for part of meeting), Cllr. A.L. Young, D.R.H. Hull (District Councillor), Mr. B.W. Hoare (Neighbourhood Highway Officer, Devon County Council), Mrs. Z. Adamson-Drage (Deputy Town Clerk) and Miss H. Kirkcaldie, (Town Clerk).
By invitation Mr. L. Cranmer (D.C.C. Traffic Engineering Department) and S. Hockaday (Senior Civil Parking Enforcement Officer, D.C.C.).

1 member of the public.

2. APOLOGIES: Ms. J. Collins (Parking Services Manager, East Devon District Council), Cllr. I.L. Hall (County and District), Mr. S. Morgan (Axminster Chamber of Commerce), Cllr. A.T. Moulding, (District Council) and Cllr. L.A.Rowe

3. MATTERS RAISED WITH D.C.C. TRAFFIC ENGINEERING OFFICER:: Mr. Cranmer explained that his remit covered Traffic Regulation Orders, sign maintenance and line maintenance.

- a) Widening of Stoney Lane - Cllr. Hull asked why, at the time the work on Green Lodge was being undertaken, Stoney Lane was not widened at the section beyond Loretto Road and was informed that it was because of the lack of funding.
- b) Heavy Goods Vehicle Ban for Town Centre - It would not be possible to consider residents' desire to have a ban on the passage of heavy goods vehicles through the town centre until measures to improve the right hand turn onto the A35 at the top of Lyme Road had been put in place.
- c) Proposed Works in Town Centre - A scaffolding company had requested traffic control to enable works on the Route 66 building in the run up to Easter. This would require suspension of the Pelican Crossing outside Boots. The Town Clerk asked whether a road closure similar to that operating when the substation in West Street was demolished could be used. Mr. Hoare said that this was unlikely because of the cost to the company and a the traffic order would take 3 months to put in place.
- d) Parking Restrictions in Widepost Lane – the views of residents will be sought to decide whether this will be requested as an additional restriction to ensure access for emergency and service vehicles.
- e) Disabled Parking Bay in North Street – a new parking disabled parking bay has been laid out in North Street. The feeling was that it would have been better sited on the opposite side of the road. Mr. Hoare will investigate this matter further as he had not been consulted about it.
- f) Minor Amendments to Existing Arrangements – a small section of Sector Lane between St. Mary's Close and Sector will now have parking restrictions. Likewise, a small section of Foxhill on the corner near Kirby Close and the section of Stoney Lane where it was widened. A similar process will take place next year. Parishes could put forward area where restrictions were now inappropriate as well as requesting any new restrictions.
- g) Turning Bay Outside Atkins Auctions – this was suggested for double yellow lines.

The Deputy Town Clerk left at this point.

- h) Heavy Goods Vehicles Mis-routed to Membury – several recent incidents whereby heavy goods vehicles have been mis-reading the signage by the George Hotel when they were trying to reach Chard have led to a decision to review the signage at that point. The sign to Membury will be removed and that to Chard made more prominent.

4. MATTERS RAISED WITH CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Mr. Hockaday explained that the officers no longer worked from Sidmouth but from Exeter. He pointed out that cars were just as entitled as vans and lorries to use loading bays if they were loading or unloading.

- a) Operation of Service in Axminster – the town is covered by 3 officers as part of a peripatetic team.
- b) Areas Where Enforcement Should be Strengthened – the Town Council stated that there were problems in West Street and the loading bay in South Street.

Cllr .Walden arrived at this point.

5. PUBLIC FORUM – SPEEDING IN LYME STREET/LYME ROAD: A member of the public asked for repeater signs to be put in place which would emphasise the fact that vehicles having entered the 20 m.p.h. zone just east of Sector Lane should not be adhere to that limit as they progress down Lyme Road and Lyme Street and said that he felt those exceeding the limit should be penalised. In the course of discussion it emerged that there are two types of 20 m.p.h. restriction, one where the speed limit simply reflected the speed at which vehicles were tending to travel anyway and one, which applies in Axminster, where there is a zone which was put in to reduce vehicle speeds to a safe level by construction of measures such as chicanes, raised tables and pinch point. The assumption in both cases is that there is no need for police enforcement because there are measures in place which discourage vehicles from exceeding the specified speed. He said that research had shown that additional roundels did not have much effect in bringing speeds down. He added that in terms of maintenance he preferred repeater signs rather than roundels. He said that he would look into what could be done in conformity with regulations relating to spacing of such signage.

The Chairman enquired about the policy on speed advisor signs. He was told that Devon County Council did not support them, though he said that there were some mobile units which had been used by the police. Cllr. Walden said that neighbouring counties did use them. He said that there were at least five locations where such signs would be beneficial and enquired whether, if the Town Council met all costs involved, there would be any objections from Devon County Council and was informed that there would be none provided the conditions set out by County were met. The matter should be progressed via the Neighbourhood Highway Officer and the Speed Review Complaint Action Review Forum. Another option to consider was Community Speed Watch though there was a process to go through.

6. PUBLIC FORUM – ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR RELIEF ROAD: in response to an enquiry from a member of the public, the Town Clerk said that no information had been received regarding this.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING : the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2017 having been approved and adopted by the Town Council, were signed by the Chairman.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON 29th SEPTEMBER 2017 : None.

Mr. Cranmer and Mr. Hockaday left at this point.

9. MATTERS SUGGESTED FOR DISCUSSION:

a) Hunter's Lodge Junction Scheme – it was noted that the vehicle activated signage is still not working correctly. Mr. Hoare will send contact details for Highways England to the Town Clerk.

b) Neighbourhood Highway Officer's Report – this had been circulated to members:

- i. . Request for new children signs in Stoney Lane - no justification as improved visibility due to improvement & exiting advance school crossing lights.
- ii. Proposed One Way System - Circulatory system proposal not feasible/workable.
- iii. Regulations Regarding No Waiting Cones – these are enforceable by Police/Civil Enforcement officers.
- iv. Mobile Speed Control Signage – list of conditions copied to the Town Council.
- v. George St/Lyme St – No right turn sign has been lowered to acceptable height.
- vi. Ahead Only with arrow road marking to follow – delay in completing works due to Winter conditions/salt/gritting issues.
- vii. Grass cutting /weeds – revised Urban grass plans to be issued to all Parishes in due course(time scale unknown). Weed treatment excluded from DCC Policy due to 'Tough Choices' decision in 2015/16.
- viii. Pavement works – design brief with EDG for submission in 2018/19 (priority sites will be made to EDG by end of March 2018).
- ix. Parking restriction requests will be submitted for consideration.

c) Highway Drainage Matters – work will be done on a problem on the A358 at Abbey Gate. Problems outside Glendale in Cooks Lane will be investigated as part of a small scheme during this year. 6 drains below Hurst Lodge on Lyme Road have been cleaned.

d) Cycle Way Matters – Cllr. Watson said that the pavement on Trafalgar Way needed to be pougheed

as creeping vegetation from the verge was reducing the width of the path.

e) Amenity Grass Cutting – the Town Clerk was awaiting the revised maps so that she could discuss this with the Town Handyman.

f) Update on Pavement Works in Town Centre – the priority order for these works was discussed and agreed as:

- i. South Street.
- ii. Silver Street.
- iii. Church Street.
- iv. Trinity Square.
- v. Chard Road.

The meeting concluded at this point as time had run out.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: 21st May 2018 and 24th September 2018

Signed Dated