

AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Held at The Guildhall on Monday 27th January 2020 at 2.15 p.m.

1. PRESENT: Cllr. A.L. Young, (Chairman), Cllr. J.J. Farrow, Cllr. M. Mynard, Cllr. P.G. Wales, Mr D Ashford (Neighbourhood Highway Officer, Devon County Council), Mrs. Z Adamson-Drage (Deputy Clerk), Mrs. S. Gay (Administrator). 1 member of the public.
2. APOLOGIES: Cllr. A.E. Bourner, Cllr. S. Jackson (District Council), Cllr. A.T. Moulding, (District Council), Cllr. I.L. Hall (County and District), Ms. J. Collins (Parking Services Manager, East Devon District Council), Mr. S. Morgan (Axminster Chamber of Commerce) and Miss H. Kirkcaldie, (Town Clerk). No representative of the police.
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th September 2020 having been approved and adopted by the Town Council, were signed by the Chairman.
4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30th SEPTEMBER 2019: these would be covered under agenda items.
5. PUBLIC FORUM – a resident asked if an update on the relief road could put onto the website. EDDC had information on their site and it would be good to see regular updates on the ATC website. The Deputy Clerk said that she would add a link to the website to enable the public to view the information from EDDC.

The resident also raised the issue of continued speeding on Lyme Road. Cllr Farrow said that a Clerk from another parish was looking for volunteers to train as Speedwatch camera operators. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer informed the meeting that DCC had agreed to install a zebra crossing near St Marys Roman Catholic Church. The member of public asked if a further chicane could be included but the Neighbourhood Highway Officer said this was unlikely. Cllr Maynard said he thought there had been a zebra crossing at the same spot but it had been removed when the road was resurfaced some time ago. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer was unable to give a date for installation. Cllr. Young suggested that the issue of speeding might be raised under the Safer Towns Initiative.

6. MATTERS SUGGESTED FOR DISCUSSION:

- a) Safety Issues on Chard Road - A copy of a letter sent to Devon County Council had been received regarding pedestrian safety on the Chard Road for residents of the Cloakham Lawns development. Residents are directed via the development's pathways to a crossing point with a very small refuge area. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer was aware of the letter and stated that the Developer was responsible for further work classed as Stage 3. The Developer had not responded to correspondence sent to them in July 2019. It was suggested the Town Council contact the Highways Agreements Officer to discuss this further.
- b) Parking Related Issues – Lyme Road and Castle Street were raised as areas in which there were problems.
- c) Road Safety Concerns – The Deputy Town Clerk said that there had been problems with the works in South Street. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer said that the contractors were awaiting the due date for the road closure to enable the works to be completed. As an interim measure he will put out cones to discourage parking on the pavement opposite Co-op which is causing significant problems to moving vehicles.
- d) Brown Signage – the Town Clerk will contact the Heritage Centre to ask them to compile a list of information they and other organisations wish to put on these signs. Councillors considered this to be the Heritage Centre's project. They can then come back to the Town Council to request a contribution towards any costs involved.
- e) Town Entry Signage – the Town Clerk had been seeking a price to purchase four new plain signs including twinning details. Cllr Young said she would prefer to refurbish the existing signs and have that design reproduced to enable re-instatement of a sign at Weycroft. The Deputy Town Clerk said that the Handyman

had said that the surface on the existing signs had deteriorated. Cllr. Young said she would prefer to investigate the costs of refurbishing the current signs in order to keep their character. The Deputy Town Clerk said that consistency was important.

- f) Training for Outdoor Staff - the Neighbourhood Highways Officer gave the name of contact to discuss Chapter 8 training for staff. He offered to do a presentation to the snow wardens. However Councillors suggested this may be difficult as the new wardens work full time. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer could email the presentation to them and will respond to any questions they may have.
- h) The Neighbourhood Highway Officer reported that works to South Street were ahead of schedule and was pleased that the road did not need to be closed. The Deputy Clerk said there had been some issues with people parking opposite the Co-op. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer said he would arrange for traffic cones to be put along that side. There had been an issue with the barriers that had been put up at the junction with Silver Street but these had now been removed. He confirmed that no closure of Lyme Road had been required. Works to replace the footway in South Street with tarmac are scheduled to take place from mid-April to mid-May. Crossing areas will have the raised pattern. In response to questions regarding further phases of works to pavements in the town centre, Mr. Ashford said there were no current plans for any other areas.

The Deputy Clerk left the meeting at this point.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD HIGHWAY OFFICERS REPORT INCLUDING ANY UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDER COMMITTEE MATTERS:

It has been agreed to put double yellow lines near the walkway between a cul-de-sac off Foxhill leading to Musbury Road. Similar proposals for Cherry Tree, Millwey Rise and Second Avenue are all on hold pending further observations. Cllr. Wales asked about Loup Court and the Neighbourhood Highway Officer stated he would investigate this.

The pothole action fund will be held at the same level as in the current year. Cllr Wales raised concern over large potholes near the football club on Chard Road. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer had viewed them Chard Road that morning and would arrange for remedial works. He explained that it was often necessary to repair a pothole several times if a repair is done when weather conditions are wet. Councillors welcomed the resolution of the long-standing problem of flooding by the doctor's surgery. Neighbourhood Highway Officer said that ploughing on Wyke lane had revealed some working gullies which had not been working as they had become covered over. He explained that he received budgets for various different categories of work such as patching, cleaning and drainage.

The County Council will no longer clear any ditches that are not in their ownership but are working with the National Farmers' Union so that farmers take more responsibility for their ditches. Many problems are resolved by hand-digging gullies. The Administrative Assistant asked about the Gamberlake Brook at the point between Woodbury Lane and the Carpet Factory site where it passes under Musbury Road. The problem is the rapid growth of vegetation in summer.

Regarding the steps by Mark Knoll, Neighbourhood Highway Officer said that he understood that that area was owned by the owner of the property who would be able to withdraw access to the land. It was not for a public authority to put a hand rail on private property.

Initial plans are in place to take in part of the curtilage of Pippins in Stoney Lane to install a pavement.

7. ANY FURTHER AREAS OR MATTERS OF URGENCY: None

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: 25th May 2020 and 29th September 2020

Signed Date