

**MINUTES OF HIGHWAYS' MEETING HELD ON  
Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at 2pm in Council Chambers, Market Hall, Holsworthy**

**Present:** Cllrs. R. Brown, P. Johns, D. Smith and E. Squire  
For Police: PCSO A. Elston  
For D.C.C.: B. Pedrick, S. Dawe, B. Banting and Cllr. B. Parsons  
For TDC: Mr. S. Toon  
For Chamber of Trade: Mrs. B. Johns  
Pacrasweek Parish: Mr. M. Stanton  
Town Clerk in attendance

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr. M. Barfett, R. Buckingham  
For Police: Sgt. P. Channing and PC Amanda Brown  
For Fire Service: Mr. G. Rooke and Mr. A. Coxon

**2. Declarations of Interests:**

The Chairman asked Members to declare their interests for items on the Agenda as and when they arose.

**3. Highways' Committee Meeting Minutes**

Cllr. Squire proposed that the minutes of the previous Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 be signed as a true and accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr. Johns and agreed. Cllr. Brown duly signed the Minutes.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. To Consider the Layout of the Town Square Including the Parking Bays and the Possibility of a One Way System.**

Cllr. Brown introduced this item and explained that Devon County Council (D.C.C.) had provided maps of the Square detailing the restrictions that apply to it, i.e., waiting restrictions, loading bays etc.

Cllr. Brown explained that since the resurfacing works, motorists had been experiencing problems accessing the bays on the Kings Arms' side of The Square, due to the angle of the white lining. Cllr. Brown also mentioned that perhaps herringbone bays would be more suited to the Square. Mr. Pedrick explained that herringbone bays would not be wise due to cars reversing into traffic. Mr. Toon explained that the Parking Enforcement Officers are now experiencing more 'out of bay' parking, as motorists struggle to park within the bays due to the angle required, and that initially his Officers had issued warning notices for this incursion, however, they were now issuing Fixed Penalty Notices. Cllr. Parsons said it appeared the lining of the bays needed to be changed, people are clearly not happy with the present situation and that it needs to be looked at to see if anything can be done. Mr. Pedrick stated that there is no funding available in this financial year and that he would investigate what could be done in April 2010. He clarified that there will be scarring left from the originally lines.

Cllr. Johns asked if an overall look at parking in the Town Square could be carried out as the Chamber of Trade want to discuss the layout in general. They believe that a herringbone around The Square leaving the middle free of parking would work better, as well as changing the loading/unloading bays. Mr. Pedrick added that changing the layout of the bays may result in further parking spaces being lost.

Cllr. Brown asked members for their views on the one-way system in The Square. Mrs Johns said no members of the Chamber of Trade have requested a one way system. Mr. Pedrick said this course of action may be unwise as it will mean increased signage in The Square, which could spoil the look of The Square and that again you would loose parking bays. Cllr. Squire added that most motorists treat The Square as one way.

**6. To Discuss the Drains in Glebelands.**

Mr Dawe explained to the Committee that this was an ongoing issue. Tarka Housing are currently conducting a survey of all the drains in the Glebelands area. Tarka's contractor will be jetting the drains then examining them by camera to ascertain what the problems are. Mr Dawe added that it was a difficult problem as you cannot stop the water from travelling down the road to the lowest point.

**7. To Examine Traffic Problems in Holsworthy, Including the Low Bridge, Bodmin Street Junction and the Need for a Traffic Survey to be Conducted.**

Cllr. Brown began by explaining that traffic queuing in Holsworthy was increasing, particularly in locations such as Fore Street. The bus creates serious problems in Bodmin Street, due to the narrowness of the road, and this is made worse by inconsiderate blue badge holders parking, particularly on Market Day, as well as the junction at Parsons Close. Mr Banting suggested that if the Town Council and Chamber of Trade are examining the Square then it made sense to include Bodmin Street at the same time. He added there are possibilities of adding loading bays and introducing prohibitions for other vehicles. Cllr. Parsons explained that the Joint Delivery Team and Savills will be incorporating a Traffic Survey for the area within the work they are undertaking for the Agri-Business Project and that Savills are due to report back soon.

Cllr. Johns asked Mr. Pedrick if the Highways' Department would act on the findings. Mr Pedrick confirmed that traffic issues would need to be examined.

P.C.S.O. Elston advised that previously cameras had been temporarily located at North Road and Foresters Road to monitor traffic. Cllr. Brown added that any information to help with the situation would be very helpful.

Mr. Toon said in order to help he was happy for his Officers to monitor the disabled motorist parking in Bodmin Street. This offer was accepted by the Committee.

The low bridge on Chapel street was discussed and the need for better signage to prevent lorries becoming stuck. The Clerk advised the Committee that Sgt. Pennie Channing had suggested solar powered signs which are activated by high vehicles, and or additional markings on the road. Mr. Banting explained that only signs that fit within the regulations can be used and some of the signs are very costly. He added that improvements had been made to the signage in the past and the bridge is signed in a number of places. Cllr. Smith said that when a lorry does get stuck, the driver should be prosecuted for driving without due care and attention. Mr. Banting was asked to investigate the cost of the solar signs. Cllr. Brown suggested that this could be the opportunity to look at weight restrictions within the Town. Cllr. Parsons said he would double check with Savills and the Joint Delivery Team to ensure that weight restrictions formed part of the Traffic Survey.

It was suggested by Cllr. Smith that the Parsons Close junction should be changed. By making the exit from Parsons Close a 'STOP' junction and bringing the dimple into the road would create a chicane, automatically slowing traffic down. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that problems with the junction were ongoing and it was not working in reality. Mr Pedrick confirmed that he would speak to Mr. Joe Deasey, the Area Engineer, to see if a study could be done and the junction be investigated.

**8. To Review the Amount of Damaged Pavements in Holsworthy.**

Mr. Pedrick explained that shortly, Mr. Dawe would be removing the slabs and tarmacing the whole of Bodmin Street, both sides. In order to do this work Mr Pedrick had obtained special funding, as all Highway funding had now been diverted to repairing defects. Cllr. Brown thanked Mr. Pedrick for his efforts with this project.

The Clerk explained a wheelchair user has expressed concerns that there was no drop kerb opposite Northcott Terrace. Mr. Pedrick confirmed that both he and Mr Dawe had previously looked into this matter and due to the depth of the kerb there would be problems installing a dropped kerb at this location due to the camber.

Mr Stanton pointed out that a wheelchair user in his Parish experiences problems with motorists parking in front of drop kerbs. Mr Toon explained that as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009, new powers were introduced allowing Parking Enforcement Officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for motorists parking in front of dropped kerbs and for parking more than 50cms away from the kerb. Torridge are just waiting for the green light from the County Council and they will be happy to enforce it.

Cllr. Johns left the meeting.

**9. To Discuss Devon County Council's Wish to Introduce a Pay and Display Parking Scheme in Holsworthy.**

Mr Banting explained that a pay and Display Parking Scheme was being looked at and that there were no proposals to look at Holsworthy in particular at the moment. Mr Banting explained that the scheme was designed to keep traffic moving in Market and Coastal Towns and would make enforcement easier. The Clerk advised the meeting that the Town Council had sent a letter to Lester Willmington, Head of Highway Management at DCC, several weeks ago objecting to the introduction of any such

scheme and detailing the reasons why. She added that it was evident from the reports that the scheme was being introduced to generate income and that Holsworthy did not experience any problems with traffic movement. She added that no reply had been received from Mr Wilmington, not even an acknowledgement letter. The Clerk explained that on street enforcement was targeted for 100% compliance, currently TDC had 72% compliance. As a large proportion of revenue is generated from fixed penalty notices, the service will cost more as compliance increases as less revenue will be generated. She added that no evidence had been provided by DCC to support the need for such a scheme in Holsworthy.

Cllr. Parsons said people will not want to come into town if they are “clobbered” for parking charges. He added that he will be stressing the Town Council’s objections. He confirmed that there is a distinct lack of funding at Devon County Council and Councillors should be honest about this.

Mrs Johns advised the Committee that the Chamber of Trade had raised a petition in the shops and collected over 500 signatures so far opposing the scheme. She added that it will not help businesses in the Town especially in the current economic climate.

Clerk suggested that the objection letter, together with excerpts from the reports, be circulated to all Parishes in order to make them aware of what is happening and raise support in objecting to the scheme. It was agreed that the Town Council should liaise with as many organisations as possible.

**10. To Discuss Any Other Issues Relating to the Highways Within Holsworthy.**

The Clerk asked Mr. Pedrick for an update on the Youth Centre access. Mr. Pedrick confirmed that a price had been worked out and that the Area Engineer said it would be carried out next year under the Safer Journey’s to School budget. At present no one was able to give a date for the work.

Cllr. Smith advised that the layby opposite Holsworthy Golf Club looked as if it was being used as a storage facility. Mr. Pedrick confirmed he would investigate.

Cllr. squire asked about white paint on road at Anvil Corner, she was advised this was patching work for next years surface dressing.

**11. Close**

Cllr. Brown thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 3.31pm

**Signature .....**

**Date .....**