

**Draft minutes of the Meeting of the
Accessibility and Highways Committee held on July 6th 2010**

Present Cllrs Broom, Chambers (Chair) and Davies

1. APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs Phil Thomas, Ian Neale and Sue Standen

2. PUBLIC QUESTION / COMMENT TIME

- Mr Johannes Freyer thanked Cllr Thomas for clearing the footpath from Gassons Lane to Water Lane. Mr Freyer also raised the issue of the flat vertical stone across the end of this footpath as it enters Water Lane. The 'stone barrier' is 0.6 metres high and has steps on Water Lane side making this access point a falling hazard. The stone is of historical interest and yet a similar stone was removed in 1972 from the May Pole Knapp cut onto the Langport Road to allow use by pushchairs, little children and the elderly.
Action Cllr Phil Thomas to investigate
- Stella Vincent urged the Committee not to cut the road verges. A discussion followed which explained our cutting policy during the season 2010.
Action to invite Stella Vincent to join the Flower Group.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING of 16th June

The Minutes were read and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 Behind Berry Crossing .. no action has been taken yet.
Action: CLLR Chambers to contact CC Jimmy Zouche
- 4.2 Verges volunteer cutting rota is operational. The hot weather is restricting the growth of grass on the verges and almost no cutting is happening.
- 4.3 Etsome Terrace Memorial Park.... Cllr Davies had a site meeting with the District Play Advisor, The Town Clerk Rodger Calderwood and residents Katrina Raybould and David Edwards. The Clerk was instructed to request 1. An edge of pavement Pedestrian Barrier for the exit onto Etsome Terrace and 2. A piece of equipment for the under fives.
Continuing action.
- 4.4 With reference to the parking survey which Cllr Neale conducted and reported on June 16th the parking issues were raised again. A letter from Mrs G Chalker reporting serious parking issues in Polham Lane was discussed. Three other car parking reports in Sutton Road (from Mr and Mrs Sheffield during a drop-in session) and Great Western Terrace were also considered.
Action: A meeting to be arranged for A and H Committee together with a representative of the three roads concerned. Cllr Chambers
- 4.5 The Appointment of a Traffic Superintendent is on the agenda for the main council meeting on June 13th.

5. Reporting and Delegating Session ... incoming messages from residents to any Committee Member since the last meeting on June 16th.

- Ragwort reports ...reported to County
- Mrs Chalker's letter re Polham Lane see 4.4 above

6. Great Western Terrace update ... Cllr Davies reported progress on the adoption and subsequent care of the Great Western Terrace. MIDAS are to prepare the area for adoption during August. Somerset County Council will adopt the roads after inspection.

In addition Cllr Davies had arranged a contract for the shrub areas to be tidied.

7. Bus stop shelters ..Cllr Neale was unable to attend. However Cllr Chambers explained that the Langport Road shelter is owned by the County Council and the two on Behind Berry are owed by STC.

Action : Cllr Neale to be asked to investigate the repair of the shelter at the junction of Gassons Lane and Langport Road.

8. Road repairs listing for repair prior to winter weather.

Some orange markings indicating repairs have yet to be completed.

Cllr Broom raised the issues of the grit bins for winter ice and frost.

Action Cllr Broom to investigate

Sutton road re-surfacing from The Bakeries to Paul's Bridge begins 9th August for four days.

9. Future planning for roadsides..... Hedges, ditches and verges.

To be reviewed during August /September after Cllr Standen's return.

10. Plan for Market Place ..Cllr Neale was unable to attend so he submitted a list of proposals see paper A.

These were discussed.

The Market place ... The wisdom of the proposal to place semi - circular wooden benches under the lime trees in the Market Place was questioned because :-

a. The sticky lime dew could not be removed from wood as well as it can from metal. In hot,dry summers this is a particular problem. b. The functioning of the semi-circular style in town setting.

The committee did not entirely understand the rest of the proposals in the Market Place. Further discussion required. Cllr Neale would be asked to hold an onsite meeting.

The proposal for the gateway sign for SOMERTON to the Southwest of Paul's Bridge on B 3165 was approved without reservation. Two planters to be purchased and set by the sign.

Action : Cllr Neale to action.

11. Odd jobs

The Unicorn Car Park is in need of a substantial tidying. This work will be done as soon as possible. The broken section of the Fence was repaired successfully by Mr Oliver Raybould in late June.

12. Advisory Groups report ...

Cllr Chambers prepared reports from the Flower Group and the Tree Group both of which met in June. ..see reports.

Trees ...an audit of the trees in Somerton is to be done before the winter led by John England.

David Moore has volunteered to oversee the avenue of oaks on Somerton Hill.

During the extreme heat Peter Raybould and Cllr Neale watered the oaks.

13. Bye-Law re: Ball Games in the Market Place ...

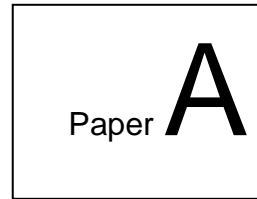
Cllr Davies presented the case to have a bye-law preventing ball games in the Square. This was in response to boys playing football while waiting for the Huish bus. Cllr chambers suggested that we leave this decision until more information is available and more Committee members are present.

14. Agenda items for Main Council and A and H on August 3rd 2010

The proposal to employ a Traffic Superintendent is to go to full Council on 13th July.

To the Chair of A and H
From Councillor Neale

Date 5th July 2010



Paper for A and H Committee meeting on 6th July 2010

Improvements to the Market Place

Market Town Forum has provided £4000 to Somerton to

1. Procure Semi-circular bench seats to be positioned and anchored under the two lime trees on northern edge of the Market Place. Some clearance of cobble setts will be necessary.
2. Procure a Gateway sign for Somerton on entry from the Long Sutton Road in a position adjacent to the junction of badgers Cross Lane and Sutton Road. Somerset County Council to be involved.
3. Procure two planters to place in close proximity/under the gateway sign for SOMERTON in order for plant to be a welcoming sign to Somerton.

Also with this document.

Cllr Neale reports that the fence in the Unicorn Car Park is perfect for the present.

Also oak trees on the south side of the Langport Road will be watered on Thursday 8th July by peter raybould and Cllr Neale..