

## Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Highway's Authority held in the Council Chamber on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 @ 09.00am.

<b>Present:</b>	Hon. Pamela Ward Pearce	-	Chairperson
	Hon. Gavin Ellick	-	Deputy Chairman
	Hon. Cyril George	-	Member
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Member
	Hon. Mrs Christine Scipio-O'Dean	-	Member
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Deputy Director of ENRD
	PC Jonathon Clark	-	Police Representative
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mr Trevor Graham	-	Director (Overseas Leave)
	Mr Ben Hathway	-	Roads Manager (Overseas Leave)

The Honourable Pamela Ward Pearce introduced herself as the new Chairperson of the Highways Authority and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Open Agenda.

#### 29.1 Matters arising from Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

##### Traffic Mirrors.

A member pointed out that a mirror had been erected at Two Gun Saddle and not at Longwood Gate as stated in the minutes. The member also asked if a thank you letter had been sent to the Rock Church for their generous donation of the mirrors. It was also asked that a Press Release be issued informing the public that all mirrors donated by the Rock Church are now *'in situ'*.

**Action: Secretary**

##### Congestion on the Bridge.

The Police Representative told members that the situation on the Bridge is getting better except for a few vehicles which persistently park there when Thorpe's are unloading their stock. The owners of these vehicles have been spoken to and given advice.

#### 29.2 Parking on Seafront.

The Police Representative had circulated a paper to members concerning parking on the Wharf with illustrations of the area in question. He told members that this is an ongoing issue every weekend on the Seafront. He has been approached by several members of the Sea Rescue boat crews who said it would be impossible to get past these vehicles if there was an emergency. It is apparent that members of the public are double parking in the area of the Yacht and Dive Clubs and also blocking access to the sea rescue facilities at

the lower Wharf. The 'No Parking' signs are not being adhered to and most of these vehicles are locked whilst their owners have gone fishing or visiting Lemon Valley etc.

The Police Representative asked the Authority for permission to paint double yellow lines along one side to disallow parking in the area, and also to inform the public that it is an offence to park on yellow lines.

A member pointed out that the bollards adjacent to the Dive Club were not intended to be so far away from the building. The original plan was to have removable bollards when the Reach Stacker is operating in the area. These bollards would have been placed 1.5 metres from the building but are now placed about 4 metres away.

Another member reported that there have been complaints from the Dive Club about the placement of the bollards which creates logistical issues for members. The member stressed that demand for space on the Wharf for boat owners who have to undertake regular maintenance and repairs to their boats is very great. It is very inconvenient for boat owners not to have a vehicle within the vicinity of their work area. Due to the lack of workshops and storage areas boat owners use their vehicles for this purpose. This is part of the reasons that traffic signs are often ignored. It was also mentioned that the Chevron area came about as a Health & Safety study which was to be piloted and reviewed. The fact that the public are ignoring the Chevron and causing congestion means that the situation should be reviewed. The member also suggested that maybe a permit should be introduced to allow boat owners to park their boats within the Chevron area with certain conditions. The member stated that there have been many adverse comments from the public and the Highway Authority should do nothing to exacerbate that.

A member asked how effective are Double Yellow Lines (DYL's) to which the Police Representative replied that DYL's are enforced by the Police Service and people have been asked to move on if found parking on these lines. The Police Representative also said that he had spoken to the Port Authority about closing the barrier at the top of the Wharf but this has proven to be useless as the public will open the barrier and let themselves through.

A member also stressed that the Wharf is one of the few traditional recreation areas that we have left and would strongly oppose to having it permanently closed to the public. The people of the island are feeling that their liberties are being more and more curtailed and have less opportunities to enjoy themselves because of the restrictions being imposed on them. Although there needs to be clear access for the sea rescue vessel this does not warrant closing the Wharf to the public except under extreme circumstances.

The Chairperson asked if the bollards were moved back to where they were originally intended would there still be a problem. The Police Representative replied that if they were moved to about 1.5 metres from the building that should solve the problem. A member asked if there is a way of finding out why the bollards are in their current position and if there is a reason for this.

The Chairperson asked to find out who is responsible and the rationale for the change that was originally intended. A member said that the Port is the responsibility of Corporate Finance.

A member objected to painting yellow lines and also to closing the port.

The Chairperson said that changes could not be made if this is a one off incident and asked if data could be provided to substantiate this. The Police Representative agreed to provide data to members either by email or to bring to the next meeting.

**Action: PC Clark**

### **29.3**

#### **Parking in front of Court House.**

The Chairperson expressed concern about a Police Notice 'No Parking' sign placed outside the Courthouse. The Police Representative replied that the Roads Section had given approval to place the sign there. A member told him that the Roads Section does not have the authority to permit the use of 'No Parking' signs. Requests of this nature should come to the Highway Authority. A member asked for the sign to be removed.

A member commented there are six (6) parks occupied by the Police at Ogborn House. Also another car is parked near Ogborn House which the member felt should not be there. The Police Representative replied that the car was impounded as a result of a road traffic accident.

The issue was also raised about parks being reserved near St James' Church for funerals. A member stated that standing permission was granted by Highways Authority years ago for parking at funerals. The Chairperson asked that as a matter of courtesy the Highway Authority be informed in future.

**Action: PC Clark**

#### **Castle Entrance.**

A member commented on a red traffic cone placed near the car parks outside the Castle. It had been indicated that a 'No Entry' sign was needed in this area but has not come to Committee for discussion. A member said that an email had been circulated and approval had been given in principle to keep the area open in case of an emergency. There has been feedback after a Fire Drill when it was difficult to access the Castle due to vehicles blocking the entrance. However, no formal decision has been made about what signage should go there. The Chairperson asked for the matter to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**Action: Secretary**

**Any other urgent business.****Parking in Castle Gardens.**

A member said that this matter has been discussed by the Highway Authority in the past. A letter had been sent to SAMS informing them that it is illegal to park in Castle Gardens. However, the staff of SAMS are still parking their vehicles there. The member asked if the Police monitor parking in Castle Gardens. The Police Representative was unaware of a letter being sent to SAMS and said if he was furnished with a copy of the letter he would speak with the staff of SAMS. The Secretary will provide a copy of the letter to the Police Representative.

**Action: Secretary & PC Clark**

**Unlicensed Vehicles and Trailers parked on Highways.**

The Chairperson said that this was topic raised at the Community meeting in Rupert's the previous evening. The Police Representative replied that the matter is being addressed. He is currently liaising with Attorney General's Chambers to seek clarification on the law to enable him to have these vehicles removed from the public highways. Areas such as Barracks Square and the Haven are being addressed.

**Action: PC Clark**

**The Roundabout.**

The Chairperson said there was a lively discussion at the Constituency meeting in Rupert's about the use of the Roundabout particularly the one near the Canister in Jamestown. Constituents said that the road markings are no longer there and drivers are confused as to who has to stop. It was said that giving way to the right is not normal convention here and there is a need to educate the public. A member said that this matter had been discussed in informal LegCo with members of the Working Group of the Road Traffic Ordinance (RTO). A Police Sergeant was present and he had been asked to go into the community and educate the people about road safety particular on roundabouts. A member said that the road marking need to be reinstated to assist drivers. The Deputy Director will follow this through with the Roads Section.

**Action: Deputy Director**

**Parking in Jamestown.**

The Chairperson said constituents of Rupert's were told that a review of parking in Jamestown is ongoing.

**Letter from Solomon's.**

The Chairperson circulated a letter from Solomon's concerning the use of car parks near Greenlands. A member said that a site visit had taken place some time ago. The Secretary was asked to check files for the previous correspondence from Solomon's. The matter will be deferred for the next meeting.

**Action: Secretary**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 09.45am.

Date for the next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at 09.00hrs in the Council Chamber.**

Confirmed.....*R. H. Jones*.....Date.....*11/09/15*.....