

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY HELD ON MONDAY 17th FEBRUARY, 2014 @ 10.00a.m. in No. 3, Main Street.

Present:	Hon. Cyril George	-	Chairman
	Hon. Wilson Duncan	-	Deputy Chairman
	Hon. Mrs Christine Scipio- O'Dean	-	Member
	Hon. Gavin Ellick	-	Member
	Inspector Jonathon Thomas	-	Police Directorate
	Mr Dave Malpas	-	Roads Manager
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
Invited:	Mr Derek Henry	-	Deputy Director, ENRD
	Mr David Taylor	-	Head of P&DC – Item 10.2
	Mr Lionel Joshua	-	Customs Manager – Item 10.3
	Mr Merrill Joshua	-	Tourism Manager – Item 10.3

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Open Agenda.

10.1 Confirmation of Minutes.

Minutes were not confirmed due to incomplete document being erroneously circulated to members.

Action: Secretary

10.2 Car parking and re-paving of footpaths.

The proposal to remove the central parks and have parallel parking on both sides of Main Street was brought to Committee once again. The Head of Planning & Development Control had done some research after the last meeting and found that in 2010 Executive Council had recommended that a public consultation should take place for the whole of Main Street project. This was carried out by Tourism at the time but the outcome was not reported to ExCo therefore a decision was not made. The Head of P&DC stated that his recommendation for parallel parking remained unchanged. He stated that the advantages of removing the central parking and adopting parallel parking was overwhelming and also gave additional parks.

The Inspector of Police agreed with the proposal stating it would solve a lot of problems.

Members could not reach an agreement and it was suggested that another public consultation should take place informing the public the reason for this. A member asked who should take the lead in this process. Head of P&DC said he did not have resources to do this. Further discussion took place about the repairs to the footpaths and roadways which should occur before any new parking arrangements are made. Chairman said ESH should be contacted to establish the start and finish times for the contract for the works to the footpaths and then plan the way forward.

A member asked for the matter to be taken to the Elected Members meeting for their views which was agreed.

Action: Chairman

10.3 Extent of Controlled Harbour.

The Customs and Tourism Managers were unable to attend the meeting, however it was agreed to have a site visit with members of Customs, Finance and the Police Directorate at the Wharf on Monday 24th February 2014 at 2pm. A request for No Parking areas on the Wharf will also be addressed at this time.

Action: Members

10.4 Hutt's Gate to Longwood Gate.

Roads Manager gave an update on the planned works on the road from Hutt's Gate to Longwood Gate. Following the public meetings it has been agreed that major work will not be carried out at this time, however, there is need for some urgent remedial work to be carried out. A provisional schedule had been agreed for road closures but a start date had not yet been set. Emails had been sent to all businesses, traders, public transport and Government departments who will be affected by the closure. RM stated he had contacted everyone who had made representations concerning their businesses.

He stated there was feedback from some businesses, departments and transport providers concerning the timing of road closures but others had not yet responded. It was suggested that they should be sent another email and set a deadline for a response. If any issues are raised they will be brought back to Committee for a final decision on dates and times. There will need to be a few weeks break after completion of the works on the Gordon's Post to Hutt's Gate road before work on the Longwood Road can begin. The public will then be informed of a start date.

Action: Roads Manager

10.5 Break

10.6 Community/District Roads.

A letter was received from a resident of Clay Gut concerning the access road to her property. She stated that the road was excavated and paid for solely for her property and that immediately adjacent to hers. Her complaint is that SHG is releasing more land for house plots in the area and she has spent large sums of money to repair the road to be able to access her property after it has been rooted up by trucks delivering materials to the new sites. She is now asking for assistance to concrete that part of the road which causes most problems. The work would be undertaken by family members.

The Head of Planning and Development Control explained that the road is a legal right of way for all residents. If there are more than three occupied residences the road would be classed as a Community Road and would be eligible for a grant of £2,500.00. Funds are unavailable at this time but the matter will be addressed in the new financial year.

Action: Roads Manager

Another application was received from residents below the Half Tree Hollow Police Post to have the dirt track above their homes developed to a tarmac surface and lead out to the main road above Mr Benjamin's shop. Funds are unavailable at this time but the matter will be addressed in the new financial year.

Action: Roads Manager

An application was also received from residents of Lower Alarm Forest for a district road to their properties joining from the existing Forest road. This application had been submitted in 2012 but funds were not available at that time. Members decided to have a site visit with the Housing Executive in attendance on Wednesday 26 February 2014 at 09.30am.

Action: Members

10.7 Application for Ladder Hill Road closure for Queen's Baton Relay.

Inspector of Police had requested a temporary road closure of Ladder Hill road on the 19th February for a period of 30 minutes. This is to allow the Queen's Baton to be relayed up Jacob's Ladder and back to Jamestown via Ladder Hill road. This request was approved.

Action: Inspector of Police

10.8 Road Safety.

The Roads Manager gave a definition of the word dangerous and said on the basis of that all roads on St Helena are dangerous.

The common guiding principles are:-

1. The Highway Authority has a responsibility to investigate collisions taking place on the network to identify causation patterns to minimise collisions.
2. The HA must ensure that changes to the road network do not adversely affect road safety.
3. The HA is not responsible for dangerous roads except where their actions have created them.

Road Safety is not specifically legislated for in St Helena Law. The only specific reference is the first Policy Objective in the Roads Policy. There is

also the Health & Safety Ordinance which requires that persons are not exposed to risks when work is carried out on the roads and also that the public are not exposed to risks as a result of the works.

The Police Directorate has information on Road Traffic Accidents and will collate data for the Roads Manager who will use this and make an assessment of risks. Using this information the HA or Police can plan actions to reduce those patterns which are identified.

Action: Roads Manager

10.9 Resurfacing of Mule Yard.

A member reported on the condition of the road surface in the Mule Yard and asked for it to be resurfaced. The Mule Yard is leased to a private operator and it was agreed that the terms of his contract with Corporate Services should be checked before any action can be taken.

Action: Deputy Director

10.10 Damage to Public Roads.

The Inspector of Police voiced his concern about damage caused to Public highways/roads by tracked excavators and asked Committee for their views on the matter. Tracked vehicles are exempted by HE the Governor and the Licensing Officer gives conditions for their use on roads, one of which is the use of appropriate rubber padding.

Inspector of Police will approach Licensing Office for the issuing of reminders of the conditions to operators of these vehicles. Also MOT certificates will not be issued if the appropriate padding is not used.

There were three incidents last year whereby damage was caused to roads by tracked excavators. Inspector asked Committee if they were concerned about the damage caused by these vehicles and repairs having to be undertaken at public expense. Members supported the Inspector who will make recommendations to bring to HA at a later date.

Action: Inspector of Police

10.11 Application from SHAPE for Road Closure in Market Street – Gravity Rush.

A request was received from SHAPE for the closure of the Bridge on 15th June, 2014 from 10am to 7pm. It was also requested to close Market Street from Seales's Corner to the Rose & Crown from 1.30pm to 4pm. This is to accommodate their Gravity Rush go-kart race. Approval was given and Inspector of Police will contact the Manager of SHAPE to discuss safety issues for the event.

Action: Inspector of Police

10.12 Cross cutting issues.

Nothing to report.

10.13 Matters arising.

Member was informed by the Manager of Governor's Office that the Bus Shelter has been allocated to residents of Bottom Woods.

10.14 Any other business.

Confirmation of Minutes.

A member asked for the timely distribution of minutes.

Action: Secretary

Gordon's Post to Hutt's Gate roadworks.

A member asked for an update on the works on the Gordon's Post to Hutt's Gate road.

Roads Manager stated that the works are going ahead very well and expected to be completed in mid March.

A member asked if the Tomb Wall will be painted and was told only the rails will be painted. However, it was agreed to paint the wall.

Action: Roads Manager

Botley's Ley Road.

A member asked for an update on the proposed repairs to Botley's Ley road. The Deputy Director reported that it was agreed at December's meeting after a site visit the money allocated for the road will be put with money in the ANRD budget to undertake the works.

Action: Deputy Director

Roads Manager.

The Roads Manager will be leaving shortly and members thanked him for his input. A member asked what happens after his departure and was told that an Advert has been placed for a new Roads Manager and interviews will be held later this month.

In the interim period the SE of Works will manage the road works and Director and Deputy Director will have an oversight of the whole area until a new Roads Manager is in post.

Action: Deputy Director

Blackfield Road.

A member asked when will work start on the Blackfield Road and was told it has high priority and will be done soonest.

Action: Roads Manager

Director of ENRD.

A member asked how will they meet the new Director of ENRD who will arrive on 19th February. He will meet with elected members on Friday 28th February.

Action: Deputy Director

Road outside Anne's Place.

A member asked when will the road outside Anne's Place be repaired. Roads Manager replied that the HA has a different remit to the Roads Section. Inspector asked to check with Crown Estates who has responsibility for the road as it is used as a public access through Castle Gardens.

Action: Deputy Director

Harbour View Car Park.

A member asked when will Harbour View Car Park be demarcated and was told it cannot be done until after March.

Action: Roads Manager

Safety Rails at Two Gun Saddle.

A member asked when will the Safety Rails be installed and Roads Manager said he does not have a specific date but it was still on the list of things to be done.

Action: Roads Manager

Stop Markings at Longwood Gate.

A member asked when the markings at Longwood Gate be repainted. Roads Manager replied that the markings are going to be replaced with a Stop sign.

Action: Roads Manager

Bus Shelters.

A member asked if funds can be found to erect Bus Shelters in the Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill areas. Deputy Director said that funds are not

available in this financial year but it can be looked at next year, however the maintenance of these shelters had to be financed also. It might mean making cuts in other budgets to finance this.

Action: Deputy Director

Car Parking.

The Deputy Director said that following the last LegCo on the subject of car parking in Jamestown there needs to be some Strategic Direction from Elected Members.

Action: Chairman

Cole's Building.

A member of the public asked for double yellow lines or the erection of a bollard to keep the access to her property clear. The situation will be monitored and a decision made at a later date.

Action: Inspector of Police

There being no further business the meeting closed at 13.00hrs.

10.15

Date for next meeting.

Next meeting planned for Monday 17th March, 2014 @ 10.00am in No.3, Main Street.

Confirmed.....



Date.....

14.04.14