

**MALDON DISTRICT
LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL
MEETING – 7 DECEMBER 2012
Council Chamber, Princes Road, Maldon – at 9.00am**

MINUTES

Present:

Representing Essex County Council – Councillors R L Bass (Chairman) and Mrs P A Channer

Representing Maldon District Council – Councillors A J Cussen, F R Delderfield, R Pratt (Vice-Chairman), Rev A E J Shrimpton and Mrs M Thompson

Officers: Mrs H Neve (Area Co-ordinator) and J Simmons (Liaison Officer, Essex County Council), Mr S Jennings (Committee Services Manager/Highways Liaison Officer, Maldon District Council)

In attendance: Councillor M S Heard (Maldon District Council)

1. Councillor attendance and apologies for absence

Members of the Panel agreed with the Chairman that as a matter of procedure it would be appropriate for any other District Councillor or County Councillor to attend a meeting of the Panel, but not participate, despite the fact that the Panel met without the press or public present. Having agreed this to enable District Councillor M S Heard to remain, apologies for absence were then received from Councillor R G Boyce (Essex County Council) and Councillor Miss M R Lewis (Maldon District Council).

2. Minutes of Meeting – 21 September 2012

It was noted that there was an error in the Minute numbering. It was agreed that the second Minute 7 should be renumbered 8 and all subsequent Minutes renumbered accordingly.

Reference was made to Minute 7(b) – Street Light Switch Off Times, and while not a matter of accuracy it was agreed that an update on the request made would be dealt with under the next agenda item.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 21 September 2012 be approved and confirmed.

3. Reports on matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting not otherwise included as part of later agenda items

- (i) Organised events on the highway

The Panel was advised that the County Council would only become aware of an event where an application for a road closure was received. The Panel agreed with the view of the Chairman that event organisers, particularly cycling, should be encouraged to

provide good advance notice so that any advisory signage could be arranged and local people notified.

- (ii) Programme of Works 2011/12 – Mundon (Limebrook Way to Burnham Road 18T weight limit) – Signing Review

Plans of locations where heavy goods vehicle directional signing existed had been circulated together with a map showing where further signage could be provided. This proposal was agreed.

- (iii) Street Light Switch Off Times

The Panel was advised that it was not possible to reverse existing ‘switch off’ times beyond the existing zone in Maldon town centre due to the way that the County Council purchased its energy supply. It was confirmed that if and when these arrangements changed then the possibility would arise for an experiment along the lines requested to be introduced.

Councillor R L Bass declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in this matter as he had taken the decision some time ago that had led to the present arrangements.

Officers were requested to obtain details of the current contract arrangements and notify Panel Members accordingly.

4. Programme of Works 2012/13

The Panel received the updated programme of works for the current year.

It was noted that the second item on the list should state ‘Tyle Hall to Althorne Hall’ and be listed under Althorne. Officers were asked to provide the indicative programme dates for the Carriageway Microsurfacing by the next meeting. Consideration was then given to the following individual schemes and actions agreed;

Wickham Bishops, School Road (kerbing of green o/s Library) – optional treatments were presented and option B agreed.

Great Totham, Maldon Road (new footway between Village Hall and Beckingham Road – Design only), it was noted that although the design element was an important part of any scheme evaluation, the local view was that a walkable verge would be quite sufficient for this location.

Langford, Maldon Road (close off unofficial lay by), it was agreed that despite an alternative schematic option being available the proposed bund at a cost of £1,500 was satisfactory.

Maldon District (purchase of flail for Highway Rangers), the Chairman said that he had suggested to Officers that a good approach to the use of this new equipment would be the selection of a stretch of road in each County Division where working in conjunction with the efforts of local farmers/adjoining landowners a real difference could be made in terms of appearance and safety. The suggestion for his Division was the lower part of Maypole Road between Captains Wood Road and Holloway Road and extending to the Elms Farm roundabout. He invited Councillors Mrs Channer and Boyce to nominate a road in their Divisions for similar treatment.

It was agreed that an update on the prioritisation of public rights of way schemes and all others not currently programmed be circulated to Panel Members within two weeks and that a further and full update, including start dates, be submitted to the next meeting.

5. Potential Schemes List

The Panel received the Reserve Scheme List 2012/13 and agreed that it should be re-named as above. Any scheme agreed and programmed for implementation will be removed from this list and added to the Work Programme. Draft additions to the list (for consideration by the Panel) would only be made if raised or endorsed by a Parish/Town Council, a District Councillor or a County Councillor. It would become the Panel's list.

It was agreed that a letter be written to all Parish/Town Councils inviting them to suggest two schemes, and a reserve scheme, of a small or minor scheme able to be progressed and funded by the Panel.

The Panel then looked at the red category of schemes (being against Essex Policy or where there was no engineering solution), and agreed the following actions:

1. IT438 Heybridge Approach, Heybridge – controlled pedestrian crossing – delete from the Potential Schemes List
2. IT459 Wycke Hill, Maldon – controlled pedestrian crossing – replace scheme with pedestrian refuge – design costs £5k
10. IT447 Plains Road/Loamy Hill Road, Little Totham Road – lorry signing – delete from list as consequence of scheme validation – Officers to bring back an alternative signing scheme to next meeting

It was noted that information relating to any scheme deleted from the Potential Schemes List would be retained by the Highways Department.

It was further agreed that all amber category schemes would remain, subject to further review, and that that sum of £75k is allocated in 2012/13 and 2013/14 for small cycling improvement schemes with the Cycling Officer being asked for suggestions to be brought back to the Panel for consideration.

The Panel was informed of a communication on behalf of the Place Shaping Sub-Group (now re-named the District Cycle Task and Finish Group) of the Local Strategic Partnership on a workplan of tasks to define and extend national routes into the District. Although unable to attend this meeting, it was noted that the Cycling Officer had commissioned a piece of work to identify options and readily available improvement schemes to utilise funds in the current year. Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared an interest in this item as she was invited to attend meetings of the LSP Task and Finish Group.

In terms of schemes to be added to the list, it was noted that communications together with photographs had been received from Asheldham and Dengie Parish Council on the matter first raised at the last meeting. Councillor A J Cussen declared a personal and pecuniary interest in this matter as he was involved with a planning application where his client was in negotiation with an adjacent landowner, and he would therefore leave the meeting. With the concurrence of the Panel, the Chairman said that he would defer consideration of this matter to the end of the meeting.

6. Section 106 Funding

The Panel received a summary of the monies arising from s106 agreements, and noted that clarification was awaited of the reassignment of funds associated with Beckingham Business Park, Tolleshunt Major. It was agreed that a proper written updated be provided, including the situation regarding the scheme arising from the Tesco development.

7. Highway Rangers Work Summary

The Panel received and noted a summary of the work carried out in September and October 2012.

8. Arrangements for future meetings

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 8 February 2013 and agreed that a further meeting be fixed for 22 March 2013 with a view to establishing a work programme for 2013/14.

9. Asheldham Bends

Further to Minute 5 above further consideration was given to the above matter and Councillor A J Cussen having declared an interest left the meeting.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, the Panel agreed that Officers be asked to arrange and attend a site meeting with the Parish Council, together with any interested Panel Member. A report on the outcome would be brought back to the Panel.

The meeting closed at 10.30 am.