

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF INGOLDISTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
CONCERNING THEIR EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS TO PERSUADE THE
AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ACTION TO LESSEN THE DANGER TO VILLAGERS
AND THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC ON THE MAIN ROAD A149.

By and large these Minutes take no account of the time spent by Councillors in sometimes very lengthy discussion before that Minute was arrived at. They do not record the time spent by Councillors outside their Meetings with representatives of Local Authorities, etc. They do not record numerous Press interviews, including photographs. They make no mention of Television coverage, which included all the children of the Village School standing with their teacher on the side of the Main Road trying to cross to the Recreation Ground.

- Sept. 1938 It was proposed that the Clerk be asked to write to Docking R.D.C. to have the 30 m.p.h. speed limit removed from the bridge at Snettisham and placed near the Recreation Ground at Ingoldisthorpe.
- April 1949 Application made for the extension of the speed limit in the village.
- Nov. 1949 Clerk instructed to write to Capt. Murray Harvey regarding a 30 m.p.h. speed limit.
- March 1950 Reply received Capt. Murray Harvey - no details.
- June 1950 Letter to Capt. Harvey suggesting a white line and the word SLOW.
- Feb. 1953 Clerk asked to write to the Divisional Surveyor asking for an interview with a deputation from the Parish Council on the Post Office corner.
- May 1953 It was stated that a reply was awaited from the County Surveyor re above.
- May 1953 Clerk instructed to write to the County Surveyor for a reply.
- July 1953 Plan showing possible alteration to the Post Office corner received general approval.
- Nov. 1955 The danger on the road from the Manor to the A149 was discussed and a letter sent to the Divisional Surveyor.

- March 1956 The Clerk reported that two letters had been sent re the above without reply and was instructed to write to the Highways Committee of the R.D.C.
- March 1958 Clerk instructed to write to the Divisional Surveyor requesting him to meet a deputation with regard to danger from vehicles being allowed to park between the Post Office and shop.
- Oct. 1958 Letter received from the Divisional Surveyor, no details given, but the Clerk was instructed to write to the local Inspector of Police requesting his help in this matter.
- April 1959 Complaint from parishioner re a danger of crossing main road. Council agreed to do what they could.
- June 1959 Norfolk County Council representative asked to meet members of the P.C. on the spot.
- March 1960 Extract read from the Planning and Highway Committee regarding the main road near the two shops.
- March 1960 Annual Parish Meeting. Danger at the crossroads discussed. Council agreed to pursue the matter further.
- August 1960 Letter to the Highways Committee pointing out that there had been four accidents this summer and asking for crossroads to be moved further south.
- July 1960 Clerk to write to the Highways Committee asking them to meet Parish Councillors on the spot to discuss a road junction or children crossing sign.
- Nov. 1960 An extract from the Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee of the Docking R.D.C. was read regarding the crossroads near the Post Office. A recommendation that the kerbing should be moved back on the west side of the road and an island formed at the crossroads was supported by the Divisional Surveyor, and the matter was being taken up by the County Surveyor. The Highways Committee had recommended that no action be taken on the Council's request for a road sign to be erected at the junction from Back Lane on to the A149 near Long Row. The Clerk was instructed to write to the A.A. asking for their help in this matter.
- Nov. 1960 The danger at the Post Office corner was discussed and the Parish Council requested that the proposed improvements be carried out as soon as possible.

May 1961 Letter from A.A. saying no action could be taken.

May 1961 Letter from Mr. Jackson saying improvements to Post Office corner were likely to be dealt with in the near future.

Sept. 1961 Report from Divisional County Surveyor saying that the matter of the Post Office corner was at present before the Highways Committee.

March 1962 Mr. Jackson stated that major improvements to the P.O. corner were not likely to be carried out for some time due to the high cost involved.

July 1962 Extracts of the Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee were read regarding A149 junction and P.O.

June 1963 The Clerk was instructed to write to the County Council requesting further information on the proposed by pass road.

Aug. 1963 MR. J.C. Bate of Norfolk County Council Highways present, who said that the proposed by pass would not start before 1968.

April 1964 It was decided that a request be made for two large ROAD NARROWS signs to be erected on the main road near the P.O.

June 1964 Clerk reported no reply to the above. An extract from R.D.C. Highways Committee was read stating that the attention of the Police Authorities be drawn to the danger caused by the parking of vehicles on the main road and asking them to consider NO WAITING signs at this point.

April 1964 It was stated that the by pass was in the next 5 year programme.

Sept. 1964 A lengthy discussion took place regarding the main road following a fatal accident. It was decided that the following suggestions should be sent to the Highways Committee of the D.R.D.C.

1. An island be erected and the kerbing put back.
2. That NO PARKING signs be erected between the two shops.
3. That 40 m.p.h. speed limit signs be erected on the main road.
4. That a ROAD NARROWS sign be erected on the Snettisham side of the corner.

April 1965 It was decided to press again for a 40 m.p.h. limit.

- March 1966 It was agreed that a speed limit should again be requested.
- May 1966 A reply from D.R.D.C. said that a request for a speed limit had been passed to the Highways Dept.
- Aug. 1966 It was agreed that Mrs. Wilson be asked to seek further information as to why our request had been turned down.
- March 1967 Council agreed to again request a speed limit of 40 m.p.h. and press for a sign saying CHILDREN CROSSING for the summer months.
- Sept. 1967 A letter from Norfolk C.C. to Docking C.C. was read stating that the Police could see no reason to provide a speed limit of 40 m.p.h. and the County Surveyor concurred with this view. After much discussion the Council requested the Clerk to write again in stronger terms to the R.D.C. It was the unanimous decision of the Council to request a 40 m.p.h. limit, a NO OVERTAKING sign and two CHILDREN CROSSING signs.
- March 1968 Matter of speed limit left in abeyance awaiting a reply from Docking R.D.C.
- May 1968 Letter from Docking R.D.C. saying the Chief Constable again did not consider there was a need for a speed limit.
- Feb. 1969 It was suggested that further street lighting could automatically command a speed limit. Clerk instructed to write to Docking R.D.C. who were in favour of a speed limit for further information on this point.
- March 1969 After general discussion regarding failure to obtain a speed restriction a strong protest was made that in spite of support from N.C.C., the Chief Constable always obstructed the request. It was decided to write to the Ministry of Transport asking why it is possible for the Chief Constable to do so.
- August 1969 Clerk asked to write to Ministry of Transport enquiring the minimum number of street lights needed to enforce a speed restriction on the A149.
- Nov. 1969 Letter received from Divisional Road Engineer explaining that the N.C.C. and the Chief Constable of Norfolk had to approve a speed limit on the A149. Clerk instructed to write to the Chief Constable asking why the speed limit cannot be approved, pointing out the number of accidents.

- Jan. 1970 Letter received from Chief Constable stating that the final decision on a speed limit does not rest with the Police but has to be judged on criteria laid down by the Ministry of Transport with regard to the number of accidents involving personal injury. A list of accidents for one year was enclosed. It was decided to write to the County Surveyor asking how many accidents there has to be before any action can be taken.
- April 1970 The County Surveyor says that his department have decided that the speed restriction should not be considered further. It was decided to ask for double white lines at the approaches to the crossroads.
- May 1970 Clerk asked to write to the National Association of Parish Councils for advice on the best way to tackle this problem.
- Aug. 1970 Letter in reply to the above. In view of what had been done already, they could not hold out much hope, but suggested Council should write to the County Surveyor asking for a copy of the report he received from his traffic engineer.
- Nov. 1970 County Surveyor said that there had been a report but he was not prepared to let the Council have a copy.
- July 1971 There had been two more accidents along the A149 through the village. Matter to be brought up at next meeting.
- Jan. 1972 A letter was received from County Surveyor Docking R.D.C. setting out a plan indicating the length of road near the Post Office on the A149 as being a proposed No Waiting area. Mr. Firth asked to follow this up with R.D.C.
- March 1972 A Minute from Docking R.D.C. was read out which referred to a letter from the County Surveyor who said that the speed limit and waiting prohibition were not feasible for this stretch of road, and the only answer would be the proposed by pass which would possibly start in the next seven or eight years.
- May 1972 Minute received from Docking R.D.C. stating that the by pass will possibly be started in eight to ten years and when complete will alleviate most of the main road problems at Ingoldisthorpe. Council disagreed and pointed out that there were plans for 100 more houses which would increase the number of people using this road and the number of children crossing to the recreation ground.
- Sept. 1972 Letter from Docking R.D.C. saying they saw little point in raising this matter again with the County Surveyor although they were sympathetic to the Council's views. They had decided that when all speed limits came up for review they would ask for the problem to be looked at again.

- Jan. 1973 After applying to the N.C.C. for permission to erect a mirror near the Post Office, the Clerk received a reply stating that under no circumstances would this be permitted.
- March 1973 Proposed speed limit. Letters regarding this matter were read. It was hoped that further developments might ensue following photographs and reports in the press.
Clerk was instructed to write to the Chief Constable asking him to come to Ingoldisthorpe to view the problem.
- May 1973 /received
A letter from the Police stating that they would be willing to meet on site, providing that a representative of the County Surveyor was also present, but the County Surveyor will not change his original position regarding the criteria necessary for a speed limit to be imposed. Docking R.D.C. decided to continue pressing for a speed limit.
A Minute from Docking R.D.C. suggested the rerouting of Hill Road across the pond to ease access to the main road.
Clerk instructed to write to Docking R.D.C. giving them all the details.
- Aug. 1973 It was decided to try and encourage the County Surveyor in the above realignment.
- Dec 1973 After discussion it was decided that Mr. Firth should raise the point at the next R.D.C. meeting about the speed limit and try to open negotiations in conjunction with the improvements to Hill Road corner, as there had been a number of accidents.
- March 1974 There being no further suggestions from the Meeting as to the course of action the Council should try and take, it was decided to leave it on the agenda.
Mr. Thaxter, the W.N.D.C. representative, offered to keep pressing the point at W.N.D.C. meetings.
- June 1974 Mr. Thaxter stated that he had written to the Planning Committee about this matter. He had been told that if the speed was restricted to 30 m.p.h. through Ingoldisthorpe this would in combination with the restriction through Dersingham and Snettisham make such a protracted length of road under restriction that motorists would not comply and the Police would find the restriction impossible to enforce.
Mr. Firth said that he had been informed that a comparison had been drawn with Middleton who had recently been granted a speed limit. Clerk to write to Parish Clerk at Middleton requesting information. It was proposed that the Clerk should be asked to write to the M.P. for this area, and this was carried unanimously.

- Sept. 1974 Replies received from Mr. Brocklebank Fowler and Middleton Parish Clerk - no details given. Replies received from N.C.C. Highways Dept. regarding the possibility of having white lines and NO OVERTAKING signs stating that before this can be done orders have to be made.
- Oct. 1974 Correspondence from Mr. Heal, Divisional Surveyor, read. It was decided to write to Mrs. Clifton Brown regarding the need for a speed limit. It was decided to enquire about the possibility of the existing warning signs approaching the Post Office crossroads be changed for more adequate modern illuminated M.O.T. signs.
- Dec. 1974 Letter from Divisional Surveyor read. Clerk asked to contact Mr. Heal for a further explanation of his letter and the possibility of a meeting.
- Feb. 1975 Al49 Hill Road junction. Clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr. Ralph of N.C.C. Highways Dept. and had been told that a meeting would be arranged within the next fortnight. Sub Committee was formed to deal with this matter.
- It was stated that if the Council had not enquired of the County Council what was to become of the pond, this Council would not have known of the plans of the County Council to direct Hill Road Al49 junction re alignment through the pond until it was too late to do anything about it. There had been no liason between the County, District, and Parish Council to ensure the re alignment plan was in the interest of all concerned.
- March 1975 Clerk had corresponded with the local M.P. and the Highways Dept., who all seemed to agree that there was no need for a speed limit. This view was also backed by the Police Authorities pointing out that things would be better after the proposed re alignment of the Al49/Hill Road junction. Mr. Swannell proposed that a petition be raised to support a letter from the Parish Council to the Dept. of the Environment. Motion carried unanimously. Items to be stressed - heavy traffic, caravans, transporters, bigger population, danger to elderly people crossing the road.
- May 1975 Petition raised in the village handed with Press coverage to Mr. Chester (Agent to Mr. Christopher Brocklebank Fowler, M.P.) who had assured the petitioners that this matter would be pressed and if turned down would not be forgotten. Reply awaited from Mr. Chester. Mr. Thaxter said he would follow up.
- May 1975 Hill Road/Al49 junction. Clerk asked to write to W.N.D.C. and N.C.C. as to whether the junction will be re aligned or not.

May 1975 (cont)

Council decided to enlist the help of Mrs. Clifton Brown. Sub Committee formed to meet her on site.

July 1975 Hill Road/A149 junction. An extract plan received. Clerk asked to write to the Highways Dept. accepting this plan. Speed limit to be brought forward to next meeting.

Oct. 1975 Hill Road/A149 junction. Letter written in reply to Council's letter of August 1st to Highways Dept.

Nov. 1975 Clerk asked to write to N.C.C. to request that the GIVE WAY sign at the junction of Hill Road and A149 be replaced by a STOP sign.

Clerk asked to write to N.C.C. for their views on 'Sleeping Policemen' as Council understood they had recently been provided at Stradsett.

March 1976 Mr. Swannell had raised a petition of over 600 names, which had been sent to our local M.P. Mr. Fowler had replied that he had placed the matter in the hands of Mrs. Clifton Brown who would keep it under surveillance. Letter read from Divisional Surveyor, Highways Dept. stating re our request for a STOP sign, that before a decision could be made full consideration would have to be given to the Council's request for a speed limit. With regard to the Council's request for Sleeping Policemen, it was not the policy of the Highways Dept. to provide these other than at black spots.

May 1976 Speed Limit to be brought forward to next meeting.

June 1976 Clerk asked to write to the Divisional Surveyor asking his advice on what steps the Parish Council can take to stop vehicles parking on the A149 outside the P.O. and the shop. Clerk asked to write to Divisional Surveyor, Highways Dept. asking for a reply of May 24th.

Aug. 1976 Letter received from Mr. Heal, Highways Dept. saying that to restrict parking outside the P.O. and shop a traffic order is required. He had referred the matter to his Head Office for consideration by the Traffic Management Section. Clerk to write to Mr. Heal asking if he had heard from them. Letter from Mr. Heal saying that authorisation is required from the Dept. of the Environment for the siting of a STOP sign. Clerk asked to write and ask if he had now had a decision on the matter.

Sept. 1976 No reply from Mr. Heal, Highways Dept. 16th August. Clerk asked to write for a reply.

Oct. 1976 Letter from Mr. Heal saying that the Police do not consider the suggested waiting prohibition necessary. Clerk asked to write to the local Chief Constable asking why he did not think it necessary. Letter from Mr. Heal saying that the Council's request for a STOP sign would not receive the Dept. of Environment's approval.

Nov. 1976

Meeting brought forward as three accidents, one fatal, had occurred during last week.

Letter from Chief Superintendent of the Police saying he was unable to give any support to any waiting restrictions near the P.O.

It was proposed that Mr. Greenwood and/or Mr. Stockwell should take this matter up with the various committees. Mr. Sanger said that he would put this matter on the agenda of the Northern Area Road Safety Committee.

It was proposed that the Council should ask for planning permission to erect a mirror near the P.O.