

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JANUARY 2011**

**S.137 - APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – MILESTONES / FINGER POSTS**

**REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

1. Members of the Town Council will be aware that there are a number of highway milestones within the parish. In 2009, a “Painting Partnership” between the former Cornwall County Council and the Milestone Society (MS), a registered charity ([www.milestonesociety.co.uk](http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk)), was established to enable the society to take on responsibility for maintaining these milestones across the county for which the society received financial assistance from the County Council to cover travel costs etc.
2. This partnership has continued with Cornwall Council and each financial year the society, in consultation with the local Area Highways Engineer, agrees a programme of maintenance on selected milestones throughout the year. There are approximately 700 milestones across the county and around 70 are painted each year. This is the third year of the scheme.
3. Some members of the Council may recall that last summer a number of the milestones along the A3071 were repainted and this work was carried out by MS under the partnership arrangement.
4. Following contact with the society, I am pleased to report that the 11 milestones within the parish will be repainted during the 2011 / 2012 financial year, at no cost to the Town Council.
5. However, another aspect to the work of the MS is the refurbishment of finger posts. Finger posts within Cornwall are of unique importance as unlike finger posts in the other parts of the country they were originally fabricated by local foundries and as such are of significant historical importance.
6. There is one finger post within the parish of particular importance and this is the one located at the top of the Levant Road on the B3318 at Trewellard. The post was fabricated by the Holman foundry and therefore is locally significant. Unfortunately, the post has been damaged over the years and is currently missing two of its original fingers and is in need of some refurbishment and maintenance.
7. The partnership arrangement with Cornwall Council does not extend to the refurbishment of finger posts and MS has asked if the Town Council could offer financial assistance to enable works to be undertaken.
8. MS hopes that an offer of financial support would encourage other town and parish councils to offer similar financial assistance so that these valuable landmarks of Cornish local history can be protected from further deterioration.
9. The cost of the refurbishment works is anticipated to be in the region of £1,500 and this is based on costs for similar works carried out on a finger post on the Lizard in 2009. Andy James, Local Area Highway’s Engineer has also confirmed that if the Town Council decides to go ahead with the project he will offer some staff time to assist in fitting the new arms.

10. If the Town Council was agreeable an offer of assistance could be made under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to support the project.
11. The Council has also received a request from Home-Start Kernow, a locally based charity which provides a voluntary support service to communities in West Cornwall. The charity recruits trained volunteers with experience in parenting to offer friendship and support to families with at least one child under five who are facing difficulties.
12. The charity receives funding from Cornwall Council, and the Cornwall & IOS Primary Care Trust which is only secure until April 2011. The charity is also in receipt from Big Lottery funding towards a project to extend its work into other areas of Cornwall but without match funding the continuation of the project is in doubt.
13. The charity is looking for any financial contribution to help assist its work.
14. The Council has made the following previous financial contributions to the charity:-
  - April 2007                      £250
  - April 2005                      £150
15. The Council's instructions are sought.

Elaine Baker  
Town Clerk

Letter dated 10 January 2011 from the Chair of the Trustees – Home-Start Kernow.