

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 27th February 2017 at 7.25 pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Brookman, Simpson, Chicken, Crane, Knight, Colloff and Bumbieris

Also present: John Willmott (JW), Rod Desmeules (RD)

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Hudson and Wilson
- 2. Declarations of interest.** None
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 30th January 2017: (Cllr Bumbieris entered)**
Cllr Simpson proposed minutes of 30th January as a true record, subject to amendment to item 3 to read 'contract' instead of 'control' seconded by Cllr Chicken, one abstention and rest in favour.

Update on actions

- Rose of Hungerford have been given permission to install a noticeboard
- The Clerk will put the Toilet cleaning contract out to tender nearer the due date. A 3 year contract will be offered. It is thought not viable to charge for use of the public toilets due to cost of equipment.
Action: A lease for the toilets is needed. This can be tied in with the library lease.
- £1000 bid money has been returned to HTC and been earmarked for railway improvement. (JW entered)
- Signage for CCTV poles has been ordered and R Ballard will fit
- Feedback on Terms of Reference for the Committee – **Action:** Clerk to email out TORs and allow 1 week for any amendments to be submitted.

4. Hungerford Station

Update on Previous action:

- **JW to update on the shelter** – JW mentioned the good news that Hungerford will retain its direct link to Reading and Paddington using bi-mode trains. Should the trains go further than Bedwyn, through to Westbury? The existing shelter was wrongly glazed by GWR. Instead of a replacement to the arched roof the sides of the old structure were glazed. **Action:** JW will ask Paul Willis (GWR) when he meets with him this week, for the roof to be cleaned and the glazing to be kept as it will provide extra shelter. JW has asked for a spec of the decorating that GWR are carrying out. This is not available but he has learnt that the work doesn't include painting the pedestrian bridge at the station as this belongs to Network

Rail. The bollards are not yet done. RD thinks litter is being blown from the platform to the area behind the station. He volunteered to look after flower troughs when in place at the station. **Action:** JW to get these filled by Wyevale. Cleaning of the railings has been done a second time and now looks fine.

- **Cost of extending the shelter (Cllr Brookman)** – The London bound platform requires an improvement to the shelter. Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership spoke with Network Rail but there is nothing in the budget for Hungerford although passenger numbers are high and Newbury had a £6million grant. Cllr Crane said we need to raise awareness of this. We need to apply for the CCIF fund. Can Paul Willis give budget costs for extending the shelter and making it wind proof? JW will pass on photo of passengers waiting and figures (usage is 1000 passengers a day through Hungerford) to Paul Willis. A prefab on the existing site would be practical. Funding for a brick building with heating/waiting area/café is unlikely.
- **Access for litter pick** – Network Rail has agreed to provide some helpers on 2nd April. **Action:** HTC/Rod will meet with them as JW is away, to ensure they clear the correct area.

5. Waste

Update on Previous action:

- **Relocation of 2 rubbish bins (from Bulpit Park to the Rec)** – This has been completed.
- **Letter to resident re cricket pitch area** – has been sent.
- **Review of quotes and locations for two new dog bins** – **Action:** It was agreed to purchase one dog bin for now and place it by the wrought iron gate at the front of the Swimming Pool House.

6. Christmas lights discussion

- **Book date for the switch on in 2017** – Cllr Brookman advised there is always a risk the Xmas trees won't arrive in time for a switch on in November. RD advised cutting of the trees depends on the weather. Cllr Crane advised the Chamber of Commerce don't object to having the switch on in December. It is best to have the event on a Sunday when a road closure is not disruptive. The Church wish to avoid a clash with their advent service. All were in agreement that the Switch on should take place on Sunday 3rd Dec. Discussion also took place on fundraising for the event. Ideas included collection boxes, sponsoring of trees. The cost of the lights on the Town Hall exceeds the donation by the T&M. This needs to be addressed. Disabled access to the front of the town hall is needed. Income from traders at the Switch on was not forthcoming from T&M. Cllrs Simpson and Crane offered to help with the trees.
Action: Clerk to book date for 3rd Dec. **Action:** Clerk to check limits on collections applicable to HTC.
- **Consideration to the idea that the tender is for a 2 or 3 year contract** - It was agreed Clerk should arrange to tender for a 3 year and 1 year contract for the Xmas lights installation..
- **Early Tender will exclude trees (HTC to order)** - HTC will order trees
- **Removal of lights from pollarded trees** - £350 was paid for removal of the lights from trees that were being pollarded by Town & Manor.

7. Report on HTC street lighting following inspection by WBC

Update on actions – Clarification of report by WBC on lamp columns – Cllr Brookman has received sufficient clarification on how the columns have been classed into condition 1 to 4.

- **Report on those columns classed as condition 3** - Cllr Brookman advised there is one cracked column outside the nursery which needs attention. The other concrete columns are of a different and better design. The bracket lights have been checked.

- **Clarification from WBC, on if the precept applies to all resident to those who have lights outside and who pays the contractor** – Cllr Brookman has asked WBC and waits a response. We have money in the budget to replace 2 columns. Concern was voiced over the safety of concrete columns shattering if hit. Should there be a programme to replace these posts? **Action:** Cllr Brookman will enquire.

8. Car Park Charges – Transferred from T&E

- **Consideration of long term parking for train users** – The WBC parking consultation ends on 2nd March. Cllr Knight has presented a paper with revised charges and not had a response. Charges are scheduled to go up on 1st April. Oakes temporary car park will be developed in near future, losing parking spaces. **Action:** Cllr Brookman will write to WBC to ask for their views on provision of parking.

- **Car park spaces long term view** Land north of Charnham Park (belongs to T&M) could be potential parking area. JW advised a second layer at the station could be a solution if combined with development. The police station is for sale and can be sold for development. Other views were long term parking is too cheap and High St parking should be cheaper for the first 3 hours as 2 hours is not long enough to visit. It was pointed out that parking is only expensive in the High St. **Action:** Arrange spraying of weeds in the Cuttings. Look at cutting back area by substation by roundabout.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.