

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 26th March 2018 at 8pm in The Library Building, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Brookman, Knight, Hudson and Downe.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Whiting and Chicken
2. **Co-option of Cllr Finlay** – *Cllr Finlay was not present at the meeting and therefore was not co-opted onto the committee.*
3. **Declarations of interest** - None
4. **Minutes of meeting held on 26th February 2018.**
Cllr Downe proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Downe, all in favour.
Update on actions from 29th January
 - **Creation of working party to meet in January 2018 to fund raise towards the Xmas lights 2018** – **Action:** Cllr Finlay to arrange – no fundraising action has been arranged yet (Information via email). **Action:** Town Clerk to send a letter to Cllr Finlay to ask if was going to carry out his action. A reply was received from Cllr Finlay that he has expressed an interest in E&P and H&T committees (Information via email).
 - **Update on action of car park solutions for consideration if parking at Oakes Bros site is lost.** Cllr Chicken – **Action:** Outstanding action on car parking.
 - **Action Plan** – comments have been received and it was requested to be sent out to the committee. **Action:** Office to send out the amended plan to the committee.
 - **Review of Crime reported in Hungerford** – report produced by office did not reflect the use of the CCTV camera to investigate the crimes. **Action:** Office to summarise the use of the CCTV cameras by the police when investigating crime. Discussion took place on the use of a grant to purchase an additional CCTV unit to place at the roundabout by The Bear Hotel.
 - **Lamp-posts:** an update was given on a meeting with Nick Dale from WBC about the upgrading of the 105 lamp-posts owned by HTC. It is intended to run a 10 year replacement programme, starting from April 2018 to allow hand-back to WBC. This can only occur once the lamp-posts are upgraded. Seven street lights in Cold Harbour Road will be upgraded first. Cllr Downe raised about the upgraded lamp posts being able to be used to charge electric vehicles. Some discussion followed and Cllr Brookman offered to investigate this. **Action:** Cllr Brookman to feed-back at the next meeting.
5. **Hungerford Station – update on station works**
Adoption of Hungerford Station and update on signing with ACORP – No update provided.
Action: Update to be provided at the next meeting.

The re-painting of the passenger overbridge was raised and it was confirmed that GWR are responsible for its re-decoration and this will be carried out in the new financial year.

6. Christmas lights – handover training

Cllr Brookman confirmed that this was his last year involved with the Christmas light display, and was hoping to hand this over. The role involves helping to prepare the tender, reviewing the tender, briefing contractors, transporting of lights and daily visits during installation period. A document has been prepared and Cllr Brookman was asked to circulate it to all councillors.

Action: Cllr Brookman to circulate document.

7. Bus-stop and coaching –

Cllr Knight updated the committee following talks with Clive Tombs

- *Update on response from Thamesdown Transport for the No. 46 to stop outside the library:*

Following the switching from the T&M steps to the library as a bus-stop for one bus, it was now being investigated to see if the No.46 bus could also use the library. CT was speaking to the operator Thamesdown Transport.

- *Update on discussions held with Clive Tombs (WBC) about coach drop-off and bus shelter:*

Where the bus stop is by the library there is no shelter, though it may be possible to fit one in the space available. The District councillors were happy to support a members bid to help pay for this.

- *H1 extra service – update on costs of running on Mondays and financial implications:*

Cllr Knight has been approached to have the H1 run on a Monday as well as Wednesdays and Fridays. The bus is a welfare bus and is used in different areas by others. It is reckoned that the additional cost for the bus, for the extra day, would be approximately £1500. Cllr Knight was waiting to hear from Clive Tombs.

8. Consideration of the future role of HTC in Hungerford Car Parks

This was discussed with discussion on a park and rail scheme, the possibility of having a decking on the car park in the station, and the possible loss of the parking at the Oakes Brothers Site. It was thought that car parks should be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that it requires time to think about and plan for the further of car parks in Hungerford.

9. Review of issues affecting the High Street

- **Update on pigeons – agreement of actions following meeting with T&M and others -**

Actions from the meeting: Remain out-standing

Action: DC to arrange publicity in the Newbury Weekly News, Here and Now in the Hungerford Advisor, Penny Post, social media such as Hungerford Ladies Page, twitter, HTC website. Publicity to emphasise the need not to drop litter, particularly food litter, around the town. Don't overfeed the ducks because this attracts vermin such as pigeons and rats. Businesses such as pubs, restaurants. These can be addressed with a letter drop explaining the need to keep food waste bin areas clean and tidy.

Action: DC to draft letter to all food outlets in the town explain why we are trying to reduce the pigeon population in the town without the need for regular pigeon culls. Feeding pigeons and excessive quantities being fed to ducks in the canal area.

Action: DC to enquire cost of purchasing 3 post mounted signs either side of the canal bridge close to the towpath. We will probably need permission install these from the Canal and River Trust.

Action: DC to draft letter to Network Rail requesting that they complete fitting netting on the underside of the bridge all the way across the road. Letter to emphasise health concerns.

Action: A trial of preventative measures recommended by a pest control specialist company to be carried out at the Corn Exchange. HTC will help the T&M with the costs of doing this but this will need formal financial approval by HTC and trustees of the T&M. WBC advised that it will probably be necessary to carry out a cull for any preventative measures to be effective.

Action: T&M to arrange a site meeting with a pest control company to discuss options, including the use of fire gel, and obtain a quotation. A representative from HTC to be invited to the same meeting. Once preventative measures have been installed and proved successful, then HTC can encourage other businesses in the town to remove their roosting sites using a similar methodology.

Action: Businesses which have been highlighted as having poor pigeon defences will be approached in person to have the issues raised. Businesses can be invited to view the work carried out at Corn Exchange when completed.

Action: Caroline Grey was asked to prepare a paragraph to use to explain the issues caused by feral pigeons, with reference to health issues, effects on the environment and general H&S from slips.

- Update on approach used in Ramsbury to control dog fouling: response had been received and was circulated to the committee
- Proposal for purchase of updated dog fouling signage (report attached): Not discussed. An email sent out from WBC about on the spot fines for dog fouling was discussed. It was felt that control should be through persuasion.

Action: Office to refer to WBC site and liaise with Penny Post to raise awareness.

Action: Town Clerk to be asked about the process for getting the signs put up.

10. Hungerford in Bloom 2018

- *Update on response from HADCAF:* HTC were unable to use this as advertising as the document was about to go into print and office were unable to finalise information.
- *Update on community interest:* A list of possible contacts had been generated and these will be approached during April.
- *Proposal of the types of classes to be judged in 2018:* not discussed.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.