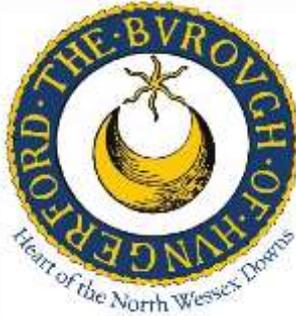


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 26th November 2018 at 7pm in The Library Building, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs, Hudson, Chicken, Downe, Cusack, Knight and Gaines
Also, John Willmott, Newbury News and Cllr Hawkins.

- 1. Apologies noted** – Cllrs Brookman and Simpson
- 2. Declarations of interest** – JW for item 7.
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on 22nd October 2018** - *Cllr Gaines proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Downe, 1 abstention, vote carried.*
 - Update on list of all WBC responsibilities in Hungerford
List had been circulated by the Town Clerk to all committee members.
- 4. Any update from John Willmott** –
A brief update was given. JW was still trying to get the pedestrian bridge re-painted, though GWR/Network Rail have responded that it is not scheduled.

Smarten-up Hungerford – currently have 30 volunteers and following a meeting it has been decided to start in the High Street and then back to where the volunteers live. Some discussion about High Street took place. Committee were reminded that T&M was holding an open forum meeting on 29th November at 7 pm.

Banners – the use of banners by local groups and businesses (local and further afield) was discussed. The regulation of the use of banners was discussed, including time limitation of their use and a development of a policy was suggested.

Action: Cllr Downe to produce a draft policy for consideration in January meeting.

5. Budget setting – review of the budget proposed for 2019/20

The suggested budget for 2019/2020 was reviewed by the committee. Some additional changes were requested including £2,000 to be placed in the pigeon control budget, Church Street toilet budget to be reduced to £12,000, and a removal of £370 from the toilet business rate budget. [Note added post meeting, business rate on toilets will be removed in 2020/21, hence toilet business rates need to be paid in 2019/20.]

Action: RFO was requested to provide a description for the ear marked reserves, so that councillors can understand what the money has been set aside for.

Action: Committee requested funds to be made available for pigeon control in 2019/2020.

Action: Deputy Clerk to pass on information to F&GP Committee.

Cllr Hudson proposed the budget for 2019/2020 and this was seconded by Cllr Gaines, with all in favour.

6. Hungerford Station –

Cllr Chicken reported that there was little additional information to add, until a telephone conference on 23rd January. The car park and electrics had been discussed and Network Rail was consulting with all departments and this would take 3 months.

Cllr Hudson asked about Adopt-a-Station. Cllr Chicken responded that this had happened, which allowed access to grants and following completion of H&S training, access to the station was allowed. Another benefit highlighted was that the group could act as the liaison point to get land maintained by GWR/Network Rail tidied.

7. Consideration of the clutter on the pavement of the High Street – to include Signposts and A-boards

Some councillors felt that the A-boards on the pavement showed the economically vibrant town, but it was understood that it could make it difficult to move along the High Street if you were a wheelchair user, were pushing a pushchair or partially sighted. It was suggested that a policy was developed to cover this aspect of the High Street. Cllr Hudson suggested that a High Street audit was carried out, which was well received, and this should include pictures of the issues in the area. JW volunteered to carry out this piece of work.

Action: JW to provide a status report on the High Street and for this to be put on the next agenda.

8. Issues raised by members of the public

- Canal footbridge: HTC had been copied in on an email to WBC about the state of the footbridge.

Action: Office to follow up on progress of the email.

- Lighting by the library bus stop: Member of the public raised that the bus stop by the library was dark and expressed concern about not been seen by the bus driver. Cllr Knight responded that the new shelter should have a solar powered light inside it.

9. Pigeons –

- Discussion on the costs of pigeon proofing: Still awaiting quote
- Feed-back on meeting with Network Rail on the railway bridge: Meeting taken place between T&M, Cllr Brookman and Network Rail. It was confirmed that there was no planned work to repair the netting on the under the bridge section which covered the road.
- Feed-back from the Chamber of Commerce meeting: None currently received.

Some discussion took place about the current pigeon situation in the High Street. Discussions centred round a short-term fix approach versus a long-term approach. Cllr Chicken proposed that a quote is sought for trap/dispatch and the Office would explore a long-term approach to the situation. Cllr Knight seconded this, with all in favour.

Action: Office to gain quote for trap and dispatch in the High Street.

Action: Office to distribute information on a long-term approach to the situation.

10. Noticeboard outside of the Library

Cllr Knight informed the committee that HTC was now using the noticeboard outside the Library building, but it was felt that a larger board was needed. As part of the purchase of the bus shelter there was some additional money available, which was going to be used to purchase two noticeboards (one for the bus shelter and one for HTC). It is intended to advertise local event in these.

11. Christmas lights

- Update on funding: Cllr Chicken gave an update on the street decorations, which was progressing well, with good communication between contractors, HTC and local businesses. Cllr Simpson and Knight have been visiting the local businesses and collection pots have been placed on the tills of Tesco. Councillors have offered to have collection pots on the night. The donations are being made on the Good Exchange.
- Schedule for the switch on event: Town Clerk has circulated schedule.

JW informed the committee that a risk assessment was being carried out for the Extravaganza by the organising committee.

Cllr Hawkins informed the committee that she would be leading Hungerford in Bloom next year. She is not on this committee but would like to attend these meetings when the Hungerford in Bloom is on the agenda. Cllr Hudson agreed to have Hungerford in Bloom on the agenda when required and Cllr Hawkins can attend when required.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm