

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor  
Cllr Helen Simpson  
57 Fairview Road  
Hungerford  
Berkshire  
RG17 0BP  
Tel: 07920 110380  
Cllr.helen.simpson@hungerford-tc.gov.uk



The Town Clerk  
Mrs Claire Barnes  
The Library  
Church Street  
Hungerford  
Berkshire RG17 0JG  
Tel: 01488 686195  
[townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk)  
[www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk](http://www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk)

---

**MINUTES** of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 at 7pm in The Library Building, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs Hudson, Chicken, Downe, and Knight

Also, present: Representative from Smarten Up Hungerford, Cllr Hawkins, Newbury News and a member of public.

**Public Forum** – Concern was voiced from a member of public over the planned closure of the M4 for various dates between April and July and the rerouting of traffic. HTC has not been consulted on these closures. Cllr Hudson advised Highways England would be very reluctant to close the motorway. Closures are over weekends and in the evening and are necessary for improvements. Both directions will be closed at the same time. The property is 2 Charnham St, Hungerford. It is felt that not all drivers will turn up Eddington road to re-join the M4 and will continue along the A4. It was suggested a diversion around Charnham Park could be considered.

**Action:** Clerk to write to West Berks Council (WBC) and to copy in Highways England expressing concern over the effect of diverted traffic on this listed property which is also in a conservation area. The house could be badly affected by vibrations, noise and air quality. Hungerford Town Council support the request to have the situation monitored by survey before and during the works to note the volumes of traffic, noise and classification of vehicles.

- 1. Apologies noted** – Cllrs Brookman, Cusack. Gaines
- 2. Declarations of interest** – None
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and update on actions:** *Cllr Chicken proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.*
  - update on green cabinet under railway bridge** – NR and GWR have advised the cabinet is not theirs.  
**Action:** Office to establish who owns it.
  - update regarding complaint from member of public about congestion in the High Street** – Although the restrictions are signed, cars park in the spaces and then lorries delivering double park. **Action:** Clerk to write to various premises to ask if they can put out cones to reserve the spaces for deliveries to help avoid congestion.
  - update on contact with WBC regarding parking in Atherton Crescent** – WBC has advised some S106 funds may be available. **Action:** Set up a site meeting with WBC.
- 4. Salt Bins – Receive update from Cllr Knight on condition of the bins and proposed new sites** – Cllr Knight handed out maps of the locations of the current salt bins and suggested three more are required for the Cuttings, Church Lane and the back of Crown Mews. It was also suggested that one is needed for the alley way that runs to the school past the Fairfield allotments. One spare salt bin has already been acquired. *Cllr Knight proposed the purchase of 3 more salt bins for the locations mentioned, costing approx. £75 each plus the cost of the salt, seconded by Cllr Chicken, all in favour.*
  - **Display public guidance on bins about spreading the grit** – **Action:** Cllr Knight will draft instructions to go on labels on each bin.

5. **Christmas Tree Lights –**
  - **Propose quote to waterproof the connectors –** *Cllr Chicken proposed proceeding with quote (option 2) provided by Shield Electrical of £1894.05 to replace the sockets with 46 waterproof connectors, seconded by Cllr Knight, subject to this being all the connectors, all in favour. Money is available in ear-marked reserves. **Action:** Clerk to instruct contractors.*
  - **Propose quote to remove the rest of the lights from the growing trees –** It was decided not to proceed with this for the time being and keep it under review.
  
6. **Safety concerns for pedestrians due to lack of pavements/walkways at the Bulpit Lane Play Park/War Memorial Avenue – consider improvements to the area –** Cllr Hawkins advised the play park can get busy and cars park outside. Without footways in place this can be dangerous for families and young children exiting the playground. Is there any improvement that can be made to mitigate the risk? **Action:** Office to establish who owns that piece of road, consult our H&S experts and ask WBC if they would carry out a site visit.
  
7. **Smarten up Hungerford (SUH) – latest progress report from John Willmott (JW) –** SUH has 30 volunteers of which 10 are very active. They are cleaning railings, signs and bins. The Beavers have offered to do a litter pick. The CEO of WBC wished to meet with JW and wants to become a volunteer. Various companies have agreed to supply some planters. JW, Cllr Hawkins and the Clerk met with Windowflowers about flowers in the High St. JW is keen to get planters installed on the bridge. Also, he is hoping to create beds of flowers at the welcome entrance to Hungerford using sleepers. Trees hanging over the River Dun look untidy, need attention and spoil the view. The owner of the trees doesn't wish to clear them. **Action:** Office to write to the owners of the waterway T&M to see if they can help. Approaching town from Marlborough, the Hungerford sign has been repainted by JW's daughter. Many thanks were expressed to her.
  - **Propose HTC's contribution to Smarten Up Hungerford –** *Cllr Hudson proposed £1000 of the hanging baskets budget be used for planters on the bridge and £400 is allocated per year for flowers at the station, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.*
  
8. **Railway Station update –** The shelter at the station is complete. JW has been in touch with GWR about the concrete at the base of the posts that would have been better covered by the slabs. We are still waiting to hear if or when the railway bridge is scheduled for repainting. Cllr Chicken advised the waiting time to hear back from Network Rail about use of some of their land for car parking is 5 weeks. Unfortunately, we can't have an electric point from the station as this could affect the signalling. Any supply would need to come from outside the station.
  - **LEP update –** The planned meeting was cancelled by WBC. Another date is awaited.
  
9. **Banner Policy – consider adoption –** It was decided there is plenty of legislation in place already should we wish to remove banners. The document will not be adopted but should be kept on file for future reference.
  
10. **Telephone box in High Street – consider moving the box away from the pedestrian crossing –** This would require a planning application and WBC would consider H&S. Cllr Hudson advised installing barriers is not an option. The current location of the box compromises safety as it is impairing the vision of the driver approaching the crossing. If agreement was given BT would charge us to move the box. They indicated it would cost several thousands. It has been there since 1955 and is listed. **Action:** Office to invite the BT commercial field officer to come and view the box and provide a quote to move it.
  
11. **Discuss possibility of reducing the speed limit across the common and through Lower Denford to 30mph (following comments received at the Annual Town Meeting) –** Town & Manor and the Downgate both wish the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph. It is also in HTC's Town Plan. **Action:** *Cllr Hudson proposed writing to Jon Winstanley at WBC to pursue the reduction to 30mph in the area mentioned above, seconded by Cllr Chicken, 3 in favour, one against.*

Meeting closed 8.55pm