

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 24th June 2019 at 7pm in The Library Building, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Chicken, Knight, Hawkins, Cusack, Downe and Fyfe.

Also, present: West Berkshire District Councillor Dennis Benneyworth and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Noted from Cllrs Simpson, Hudson and Brookman. *Cllr Knight proposed Cllr Fyfe be co-opted onto the H&T committee, seconded by Cllr Cusack, all in favour.*
2. **Declarations of interest** – None.

The following items were taken now to enable the member of the public to leave afterwards.

8. **Taxi Rank – Suggestion of alternative sites for proposal to WBC** – Following historical issues with taxis and deliveries both using the layby, Cllr Chicken has been in contact with the Parking Manager and Transport Manager at WBC. He asked if it would be feasible to move the taxi rank from the current layby to outside the Town Hall, making the layby available all the time for deliveries. WBC have concerns about this but are willing to come and have a walk round to try and come up with some other ideas. The member of the public commented there are 198 taxis in the area with 4 companies regularly using Hungerford and they need somewhere to park. There is limited enforcement of the current arrangements by WBC. The local companies would like the taxi rank to stay where it is. One option could be to use the bus stop outside Hungerford Jewellers.
Action: Cllrs Chicken and Knight will meet with WBC and bring any proposals to the next meeting. Cllr Downe asked for clarification regarding deliveries to The Three Swans once the housing development at the rear is completed. **Action:** Office to investigate with planning department at WBC.

The member of the public left the meeting at this point.

9. **Pigeons – Update from District Councillors on action from Environmental Health Department** – Cllr Benneyworth has been in contact with the Environmental Health Officer at WBC and the matter is in hand. He will report back to the next meeting.
3. **Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 28th May 2019 and update on actions:** *Cllr Hawkins proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Downe, two abstentions, rest in favour.*
 - Request for WBC to make HTC aware of road closures in advance** – WBC have advised that consultation with Town/Parish Councils is not required but they do notify interested parties as soon as possible.
 - Improvement of green cabinet under railway bridge** – The cabinet has just been repainted and is looking smarter. SSE check their cabinets every 7 years and will renovate as necessary. If we need to report a cabinet that is in need of renovation, the relevant contact details are in the office.
 - Progress with issuing letters to premises in High St about delivery arrangements** – This issue is on hold.

-Site meeting with WBC regarding parking in Atherton Crescent – Cllr Chicken had a successful meeting with representatives from WBC. There are a number of improvements planned and WBC will be looking at creating additional parking spaces in this area.

-Grass cutting at Hungerford Wharf – WBC has an agreement to maintain this area with the Canal & River Trust. It is unclear what the schedule for grass cutting is. Cllr Benneworth will investigate with WBC and report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Hawkins thought it would be worth considering whether some of the areas maintained by WBC (e.g. some of the grassy banks) could be managed in a different way in order to encourage the growth of wildflowers and encourage biodiversity. If the committee could identify any such areas and bring them to the next meeting, or submit a report, a further discussion could take place to consider the next steps, in particular consulting full council prior to discussing with WBC.

-Disposal of old salt bins – one salt bin can be disposed of and the other will be relocated to the top of the alleyway opposite the primary school. 3 new bins will be placed around the town. **Action:** Cllr Knight will draft instructions for spreading the grit to go on labels in each bin.

Safety concerns for pedestrians at Bulpitt Lane Play Park/War Memorial Avenue – The warning signs have been ordered and will be put up once received. The office contacted WBC asking if they would consider resurfacing this area in the interests of safety. This is not something that WBC will undertake. A site visit was arranged for Thursday 27th June at 11.30am to enable committee members to get a better understanding of what is required in this area.

Guidance on A-boards from WBC – There is no official guidance from WBC. Representatives have visited the town twice and did not consider the A-boards to be an issue. They do a monthly inspection and if the boards start to become a problem, they will consider a leaflet drop to businesses. **Action:** Office to respond to members of the public who have complained about the boards.

Action: Contact WBC to ask if the results of their monitoring visits and the criteria they apply when carrying out an inspection can be sent to HTC.

Quote from BT for telephone box in High Street – the committee found the estimated quote (for just over £16,000) confusing. HTC might wish to consider adopting the phone box. We would then be responsible for the upkeep and the phone line would need to be disconnected. **Action:** Contact BT to ask if they would be willing for the phone line to be disconnected and would they be willing for us to adopt the box. What cost would this entail and would we then be able to move it to a location of our choosing?

-Request to WBC to consider reduction of speed limit across the common – WBC has included this on the programme for the next speed limit review provisionally scheduled for October. When this item was discussed by H&T, it included a request for a reduction of the speed limit through Lower Denford. District Councillor James Cole has asked if the review at WBC will also include Lower Denford. **Action:** Contact WBC to ask them to include Lower Denford in the next speed limit review.

Cllrs Downe and Chicken will be receiving SID training in August and will feed back any data they gather in time for the review. Cllrs Knight and Fyfe expressed interest in attending the SID training.

Action: Office to arrange.

4. **Smarten up Hungerford (SUH)** – latest progress report from John Willmott – JW was not present at the meeting.
5. **Hungerford in Bloom** – update from Cllr Hawkins – Closing date for entries was today and there has been a good response. The judging takes place on the 6th July with the prizegiving event at the Croft Field Centre on Saturday 3rd August at 10am. Eliane has kindly offered to sponsor this event. A number of local companies will provide some of the prizes.
6. **Railway Station update** – Cllr Chicken - There has been no response from NR. With increasing pressure for more housing in the town, it is essential to provide more parking spaces. If there is still no response from NR by the next committee meeting in July, Cllr Chicken feels this issue should be raised with the public, our local MP and District Councillors.
7. **Noticeboards under the railway bridge**
-Consider request for installation of new noticeboard for Hungerford Together – This would be under the railway bridge on the same side as the Arts for Hungerford and Chamber of Commerce boards. Cllr Cusack explained he is going through the formal process of registering Hungerford Together as a charitable organisation. The committee advised they would like to see more information regarding the

organisation (e.g. aims, objectives, constitution, registration) before considering this request further. A decision will be deferred until this information is received.

-Update on request from Wilton Windmill and Crofton Bean Engines request for sign – Still waiting for final visual of the sign before anything is agreed.

- 10. Armed Forces Day** – An itinerary for the day was passed around. Everyone was encouraged to go along and support this event.

Meeting closed 8.30pm