

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 26th September 2016 at 7.50pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Brookman, Chicken, Simpson, Colloff, Crane, Wilson and Knight. Also present Cllr Small for item 9.
Also present: Geoff (The Advisor)

- 1. Co-opt of John Willmott onto the Committee.** He will contribute to the discussion on trains and the station. However, he will hold a non-voting role. Proposed by Cllr Brookman, and seconded by Cllr Crane. All in favour.
- 2. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Whiting, Bumbieris and Hudson.
- 3. Declarations of interest.** None
- 4. Minutes of meeting held on 25th July 2016.** Cllr Crane proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Chicken, all in favour.
- 5. Update on actions**

Hungerford Station – Cllr Brookman met with Alison Stone (GWR) Paul Ellis, but without Network Rail who cancelled their attendance the day before the meeting. GWR have some works programmed for this financial year, with regards to the station area. The station is to be painted.

Action: Cllr Brookman to confirm the colour of the paint, as Cllr Crane asked for it to be GWR green.

Tenders are being sought for the work. Discussion took place about the tree cutting and the vegetation in the sidings. This had not been discussed as it was Network rails responsibility.

Ice on Footbridge – A new ice warning sign has been seen in the railway car park and it was asked if this could be applied to the bridge in Hungerford. Cllr Brookman stated that this would be handy as every pavement can be slippery.

Speeding in Charham Park – Cllr Brookman has requested that the area has a speed restriction of 30 miles per hour throughout the area, not a split speed zone. This will go to the West Berkshire Review meeting for speed limits in October.

- 6. Pigeons in the High Street** – Cllr Brookman had spoken to Mick Quelch, the environmental health officer at West Berkshire Council. He has received a number of complaints about buildings in Hungerford High Street, and has spoken to a person associated with the building.

MQ advised Cllr Brookman that the pigeon numbers should be reduced and discussed a number of different approaches. Cllrs discussed methods of disposal, the legal case for removal of pigeons, and follow up actions after the cull and timing as it would be nice to have the area clear before the Victorian Extravaganza. Proposed by Cllr Brookman that the pigeons are removed using a trap and dispatch method.

Action: Office to source two comparable quotes for trapping to be presented at full council meeting.

Action: To discuss with Town and Manor and Chamber of Commerce the splitting of the costs.

Action: Office to contact Network rail about repairing the missing spikes and netting under the bridge.

Cllr Colloff left at 8:05 pm

7. Dog Fouling – The map of the dog bin locations had been sent to the councillors. A report had been made to councillors that a man running along the tow path had collected 120 bags of dog waste from the side of the tow path and from the bushes. He left these by the dog bin.

Action: Office to contact the Canal and River Trust to inform them of the problem with excessive disposal in the undergrowth.

Cllrs ask if the Trust could cut back the hedge to restrict people disposing of waste in this area. Location of dog bins in Hungerford remains on hold to the next H&T meeting.

Action: Dog bin location to be reviewed at the next meeting.

8. Hungerford footway lighting –

Replacement value of lights for asset list – out-standing and to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: agenda item for the next meeting.

Poor street lighting off Priory Avenue/Road ? Helen please confirm – An area off of Priory Avenue which forms a square is made up of a number of houses and bungalows. There are two street lights positioned in the road, but these lights leave one section of the street in the dark. This was discussed.

Action: Cllr Brookman to contact West Berkshire Council.

Location of the cracked concrete lampposts – The lamp-post was identified to be No. 4 and is located outside the Nursery school. The cost to replace this is approximately £1100, using a West Berkshire contractor. It was noted that all the columns are due to be inspected by West Berkshire in November/December. It was felt that the results of this inspection should be reviewed and put in a budget request next year to carry out column repairs/replacements.

9. Parking issues

Update on parking in Charnham Park area – West Berkshire parking scheme which covers 40 locations in the district has been put forward. Currently waiting for outcome as Charnham Park is included in this.

Member of the public joined for the item below

Coach parking for visiting parties near the High Street – Discussion was held with video input from coach drivers about the lack of coach parking near the High Street. Visitors need to be able to exit the coach onto pavement and have access to toilets. Church Street car park was discussed as an option, though alterations would be required (trees, loss of spaces, gradient of the exit route). Suggestion was made by Cllr Knight to utilise the space on Church Street which is utilised by bus No.20, and to follow the bus route to remove the need for

turning. It was thought that there was sufficient space to fit in a coach bay behind the bus stop. A drop off point was also discussed. It was suggested that the drop off bay could be by No 5 and coaches can park in Charnham Street and return back to collect their passengers. It is hoped that the town could be marketed as coach friendly.

Action: Cllr Brookman to write to West Berkshire Council to request the parking bay and the drop off bay.

Cllr Small and member of the public left at 8:40 pm

Parking at the Football Club for home matches – H&T were informed that TFM had offered parking at the TF for £50 fee. This was discussed and left that it was not appropriate as JOG school does not charge for use of their car park during events. Suggestions were made about signage and use of parking wardens.

Action: Invite Hungerford football club to attend the next meeting of H&T to discuss parking.

10. Notice boards underneath Hungerford Railway Bridge – Notice boards are in a poor state of repair, and a design in aluminium frame was presented to the committee. It was suggested that committee budget for the replacement next year.

Action: Can it be determined what gives permission to users to put up boards?

Do we have an agreement of licence with Network rail and what are our rights?

11. Update on the pedestrian crossing in Bridge Street

This has been installed and is working well.

11. GWR's Community Fund Live for funding applications – Funding request was made last year but was unsuccessful. New ideas were requested for this year's bids.

Action: place on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Invite John Willmott to attend the next H&T meeting.

12. Update on Christmas Lights

Details of MC for the evening – Adam Winslett has agreed to MC the evening and will receive a fee.

Christmas Lights working party opening of tenders – Discussion had been held by the working party and it was decided to make a small reduction in lights, but it would generally be the same specification as in previous years. Tender had gone out and was due in on Friday 30th September. The tenders would be opened at 10 am Monday 3rd October.

Action: Office to arrange meeting and confirm time and place with the working party.

Cllr Crane informed the Committee that he was in the process of drafting letters for pledges towards the lights.

Approve advertising costs of switch on event – The cost of advertising the switch on event in a pull-out supplement of Newbury Weekly News was discussed and approved.

Action: Office to draft advertisement for the event.

13. Police Speed Watch scheme – The committee was informed about a speed watch scheme which required 5-6 volunteers to perform after a period of 3 months training. These volunteers could be councillors or members of the public. Additional speed restricting ideas were discussed including speed limits advertised on lamp posts and wheelie bins.

Action: Cllr Knight will find out more information and details and report at the next meeting of H&T

Meeting closed at 9:03 pm.