

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor  
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**MINUTES** of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.35 pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs Brookman, Whiting, Wilson, Simpson. Chicken, Crane and Knight

Also present: John Willmott (JW) and Geoff (The Advisor)

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs, Bumbieris, Hudson and Colloff
- 2. Declarations of interest.** None
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on September 26<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup> 2016:**

Cllr Brookman proposed minutes of Sept 26<sup>th</sup> as a true record, seconded by Cllr Chicken, one abstention and rest in favour.

Cllr Brookman proposed minutes of Oct 24<sup>th</sup> as a true record, seconded by Cllr Knight, two abstentions and rest in favour.

**Update on actions:** The GWR green colour has been confirmed for the station. Improvements to poor street lighting off Priory Avenue –The existing two street columns are owned by HTC and WBC are not interested in helping with extra lighting. **Action:** Defer item to next meeting.

**Action:** Arrange for a notice to go up advising that applications to erect a noticeboard need to come through the town council. **Action:** Cllr Crane will seek quotes from local carpenters for noticeboards. Over £5k has been received in pledges for the Christmas Lights.

**Cllr Crane left at 8pm.**
- 4. Coach parking – update –** The Ward members support a drop off zone but not parking. Cllrs Crane and Brookman will discuss further with M Edwards on Wednesday.
- 5. Pigeons in the High Street – Proposal for future culling –** Nothing agreed to be done until the New Year. At present the footway is being cleaned twice a day.
- 6. Dog Fouling – update –** New bin is being provided by C&RT in the new financial year to go on the west side of the bridge.
- 7. Update from John Willmott on station improvements –** JW is working on getting the existing facilities brought up to standard and regularly maintained as well as obtaining new facilities. Tomorrow JW is meeting with Cllr Brookman and Paul Willis from GWR. JW will speak to GWR about the white railings which have not been cleaned properly. **Action:** Clerk to ask maintenance man to finish clearing weeds in the Cuttings. JW will try to get laurels cut back and trackside cleared. A new roof for the shelter is planned for 12th December. Redecoration and repair of crooked post is being planned by GWR (no date yet). Wyevale is

providing plants for the tubs and Rod is to maintain. JW has read the Development Brief. No progress has been made with the majority of it. Cllr Brookman wished to have a taxi rank at the station. Paul Willis asked what we could do with the area to the North of the Station which is scrubland. Parking is an option or a taxi rank.

8. **Christmas Lights Switch on – Feedback and debrief meeting (taken after item 4)**– Cllr Crane wished to minute thanks to Cllr Rob Brookman and team for all the planning put into the Christmas lights. Thanks were expressed to the office staff for the reception. The road closure added to the atmosphere. Next year we will extend the road closure to 6.30pm to allow the crowd to disperse. Also look at having switch on a bit later, first weekend in December as trees are not ready early enough in November. Consider having a 2 year contract for the lights installation. It was useful to use A&M Electrics with certificated employees. Will contractors have ideas on how to save money over a longer contract? The amount of stalls at the Switch On could be increased.
9. **Budget – Christmas Lights 2017** – Expenditure agreed at £33,436 and Income at £5000
  - **Replacement of streetlights** - £2500 is needed to replace two columns with aluminium columns which are maintenance free, and LED lights
  - **Noticeboards** – Agreed to put sum of £2K into EMR to build up a fund.
  - **Pigeon Control budget** - £2400 agreed for next year
  - **CCTV** - £2000 agreed for a 5<sup>th</sup> camera
  - **Action:** Check toilet maintenance contract dates
  - **Action:** Update spreadsheet
10. **WBC Consultation Response on –**
  - Highway and Drainage Maintenance** – Area for concern regards drainage are Church St, A338, and Priory Avenue, going from Priory Close to Hillside Road, Croft Railway Bridge, and Oxford St to Kennet Court etc. **Action:** Cllr Whiting to provide map showing areas so Clerk can respond to consultation.
  - Highway Fees and Charges, including Parking** – Why a 60% rise? Income is only to be used for parking so should be in line with inflation. It is a disproportionate increase compared to other towns. It will affect footfall in town and impact on trade.
  - Home to School Transport for Post 16 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

This is an additional hardship placed on families that have to travel to Newbury or further. If an increase is to be made it should be gradual and phased.

**Meeting closed at 9:15 pm.**