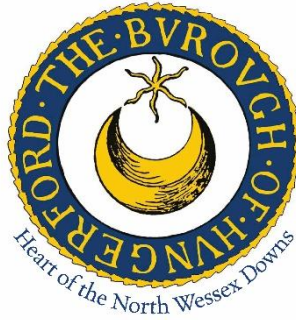


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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
www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 22nd July 2019 at 7pm in The Library Building, Hungerford.

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

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Noted from Cllrs Hudson, Cusack and Brookman and John Willmott.
- 2. Declarations of interest** – None.
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 24th June 2019 and update on actions:** *Cllr Downe proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, one abstention, rest in favour.*
 - District Cllr Benneyworth to clarify the schedule for grass cutting at the Wharf** – Cllr Benneyworth is away but has clarified there are 8 cuts throughout the year. The Canal & River Trust has an agreement with WBC who provide the maintenance of this area.
 - Cllr Knight to draft instructions to place on salt bins** – KK provided draft instructions. Suggested amendments were to correct the telephone number and advise the bin will be refilled when HTC is notified and that the grit is for public areas only. Instructions to be on plastic plates and rivetted on. *Cllr Knight proposed the text including these amendments and he will obtain quotes to bring back to September H&T meeting, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.*
 - Results of WBC monitoring visits for A boards** – WBC do not keep written records.
 - Speed limit review** – The panel will consider our request for a reduction in the speed limit to both the Common and Lower Denford at their meeting in October.
A member of the public has expressed concern about speeding traffic in Church Street. It was suggested this area should be checked once councillors have received their SID training in August.
 - Development behind the Three Swans** – Deliveries will be to the rear of the premises once the development has been built.
- 4. Smarten up Hungerford (SUH)** – latest progress report from John Willmott – JW was not present at the meeting.
- 5. Signs obscured by vegetation** – Cllr Fyfe has produced a map and photographs of sites showing road signs obscured by foliage and signs with information missing. **Action:** Cllr Fyfe will send details to the Clerk who will forward a report to WBC for their action.
Thanks to Cllr Fyfe for his work on this matter.
- 6. Safety concerns for pedestrians at Bulpit Lane Play Park/War Memorial Avenue – outcome of site visit by councillors** – A report was circulated (and is attached). The current gate at the exit of the play park into the football club car park has a broken spring – this has not yet appeared on the ROSPA report. The main concern is the safety of pedestrians exiting the play park on to the road and although extra warning signage has been installed, other options should be considered e.g. moving the gate, improving the gate, extending the barrier. **Action:** Office to look at costings to move the flow of pedestrians to a safer area.

Cllr Chicken proposed R&A would like to improve the safety of the play park, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.

7. **Wildflower Areas – Suggestions of locations to be received from Councillors** – Various areas were suggested. Cut areas at the end of the season. Wait and see the response from the public.
Action: Cllr Hawkins to send an email to the office clarifying the areas.
Action: Office to contact Jon Winstanley to see if these areas are possible.
8. **Options for BT payphone** – A report was circulated (and is attached). *Cllr Fyfe proposed no further action on this matter, seconded by Cllr Downe, Cllr Chicken in favour, one abstention, one against.* This can be considered again in a year's time. There is no budget at present.
9. **Pigeons – Update from District Councillor Dennis Benneyworth on action from Environmental Health Department** – This item was deferred.
10. **Noticeboards under the railway bridge**
-Appearance and improvements required – Cllr Fyfe has concerns regarding the internal content of the noticeboards which is old and out of date. **Action:** Clerk to write to the noticeboard owners asking them to improve the appearance of their noticeboards.
-Consider request for installation of new noticeboard for Hungerford Theatre Company – *Cllr Knight proposed the Theatre Company can install a new noticeboard, seconded by Cllr Fyfe, all in favour.* **Action:** Advise the Theatre Company of this decision.
11. **Taxi Rank – Suggestion of alternative sites – Update of outcome of meeting with WBC from Cllrs Chicken and Knight** – Local taxi firms are struggling to use the current bay as it is also being used for deliveries. A telephone number (01635 519213) has been given to taxi firms for them to report all parking issues to a WBC enforcement officer.
12. **Hungerford in Bloom – Agree purchase of vouchers –Update from Cllr Hawkins** - Judging has taken place with a high standard this year. The prize giving event will take place on Saturday 3rd August with the winners receiving various prizes including garden vouchers. *Cllr Hawkins proposed purchasing £125 of garden vouchers from Dobbie's Garden Centre, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.*
Action: Cllr Hawkins will purchase the vouchers.
Thanks to Cllr Hawkins for all her hard work.
13. **Railway Station update and raising of profile** – Cllr Chicken – Network Rail will not provide extra parking at the station as they have an interest in using the land currently. WBC LEP money could be available if a car park was part of a bigger project. Would providing toilets, a café or possibly a tourist office be a sufficiently large project? GWR may help with the cost of the feasibility study required if they run the car park. Cllr Chicken is waiting to hear from Jenny Graham and would like to postpone raising the profile until there is more news on the LEP money.
14. **Hungerford Footway Lighting – Consider quotation for upgrade to Park Way lighting** – This item was deferred.
15. **Highway and Winter Service Plan – any comments please by 30th August** – This plan from WBC contained information on grit bins. Cllr Knight will redo the wording on his instructions and circulate to the committee.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Bulpit Playpark

Background.

HTC and HTC health and safety consultants have identified the risk of injury from traffic to users of the Bulpit playpark.

HTC is required by The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 Sections 2 and 3 to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to our employees and to others not in our employment but who may be affected by our undertaking/activities. Bulpit playpark is part of the HTC undertaking and therefore the requirement to identify hazards and assess risks to those who may be affected applies.

Playpark

The main hazard is traffic entering or leaving the general car park or Hungerford Town football club. Those at risk include all users of the play park. Pedestrians exiting the playpark are required to walk towards the exit of the football club and then into the general car park where a choice will be made as to whether to cross the road to exit towards Priory Road or walk behind or in front of the parked cars to exit towards Coldharbour Road.

A site visit by Cllr Keith Knight and Cllr Sally Hawkins took place on Thursday 27th June 2019 to consider the options available for removing or reducing the risks.

Current Control Measures

- Barrier in front of the exit gate to prevent running from the playpark into the path of traffic entering or leaving the football club car park.
- The exit gate closes against the barrier to prevent walking round the barrier towards the football club therefore directing pedestrians towards the exit of the football club and into the general car park where a choice will be made as to whether to cross the road to exit towards Priory Road or walk behind or in front of the parked cars to exit towards Bulpit Lane/Coldharbour Road.

Options

- 1) Remove risk - it is not possible to completely remove the risk to the users of the play park on exit from the area.
- 2) Reduce risk to as low as is reasonably practicable:
 - Mark out the car park so that it is clear where cars may park
 - Mark a "pedestrian crossing" from the current exit of the play park to the west side of the car park. The intent would be to indicate to traffic that pedestrians may need to cross.
 - Install a path directly from the entrance across the current grassed area on the east side of the car park to link with the Bulpit Lane pavement.
 - Move the current exit to the Memorial Avenue fence. This would remove the need for pedestrians, particularly those heading towards Bulpit Lane/Coldharbour Road to access either the general or football club car park at all.
 - One or a combination of a number of the options may provide a solution.

Public Report to: H&T 22nd July 2019

Agenda Item No 8: Red Telephone Box

Background Complaints have been received about the location of the telephone box in the High St. It is close to the pedestrian crossing which is a safety issue as it obscures the drivers' view (travelling north) of pedestrians emerging on to the crossing from the east footway.

Reference to Action Plan Aim - Improve health and safety for road users and pedestrians, residents and visitors.

Objective Make the crossing safer by considering the following: -

Options (including quotations)

- 1) Campaign to Retain Payphones view the risk as minimal. The phone box does not obstruct the view of southbound drivers at all. It does slightly obstruct the view of northbound drivers, but a pedestrian would have to walk half-way across the crossing before he/she encountered any risk of being struck by a northbound vehicle and, during the walk, he/she would be clearly visible to the driver.
They recommend we consider widening the pavement (and narrowing the road) next

to the phone box. This would encourage pedestrians to stand further to the west when waiting to cross, so they would not be hidden by the phone box.

- 2) **Relocate the phone box.** There are various options;
- a) **Request BT relocate it and pay them to do so subject to obtaining listed building consent. The phone box could be kept as a working payphone.** An estimation of costs was provided by BT of £16,062 incl. VAT which is reclaimable.

 - b) **Hungerford Town Council would be allowed to adopt the telephone box providing there is no objection to the removal of the public telephony.** As the nearest public telephony is over 400 metres away OFCOM regulation will require BT to consult with the local authority. If HTC are allowed to adopt (for £1), providing listed building consent is granted we can resite the box to a place of our choice using our preferred contractor. Please note: As the telephone box is a cast iron structure there is the possibility the kiosk could fall apart when lifted.

Available budget (£s) including cost centre Contingency budget

Health & Safety and Legal implications HTC are not liable at present but would be following adoption

Consultation: Required with WBC and BT.

Recommendation(s)

Speak with other councils who have carried out a similar project

Decide what we want to use the telephone box for – consider public feedback

Signed: Town Clerk 16/7/19