

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 27th July 2020 at 7.00pm, remotely.

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

Also: Cllr Alford, District Councillor Claire Rowles, District Councillor James Cole (entered at 7.12pm) and representative from Newbury Weekly News. John Willmott (Smarten Up Hungerford) entered at 7.14pm.

In attendance: Sarah Hennessey (Deputy Town Clerk). Claire Barnes (Town Clerk) was present and then, having handed over meeting host to Deputy Town Clerk, left the meeting at 7.00pm.

The committee was advised the meeting was being recorded.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Noted from Cllrs Chicken and Hudson and District Cllr Dennis Benneyworth.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None.
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 26th May 2020.** *Cllr Downe proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, two abstentions, rest in favour.*
- 4. Update on actions from previous meetings.** The cabinet originally thought to belong to BT which is by the entrance to the Co-op garage is in fact owned by SSE. The cabinet has been re-painted.
No update regarding the potential moving of the taxi rank or pursuing GWR for use of an area near the cycle park at the station for a taxi rank.
No update regarding Cllr Fyfe's report to WBC on broken and clearance of road signage.
All other actions were completed.
Cllr Simpson advised she had received an email from Jenny Graham at WBC regarding two Customer and Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF) bids that had been submitted on HTC's behalf to GWR in September 2019. These bids were for funding for improvements to the station area. Unfortunately, GWR has put a hold on all bid funding at the moment, but they will keep in touch moving forward as our bids were of interest to them.
ACTION: Cllr Simpson will reply to Jenny Graham's email to thank her for her work on this.
There has been a complaint on social media regarding the accessibility of the wheelchair/pushchair ramps in the High Street as some appear to have obstacles in front of them. These ramps were part of the safety measures implemented when the shops reopened in June. Cllr Simpson has contacted our District Councillors who have received assurance from WBC that they will undertake any changes we wish to make regarding any of the safety measures in the town. There was also discussion regarding the red metal road signs throughout the town, some of which have been defaced. It was decided that these should be left in situ for now.
ACTION: Cllr Downe will investigate and inform the office of any actions needed; these will be passed on to WBC.
ACTION: The safety measures, in particular whether the coned off areas should remain, will be reviewed at the next H&T meeting in September.
- 5. Smarten Up Hungerford** – latest progress report from John Willmott. JW was thanked for his very thorough report which had been circulated. Work will start soon on the large planter planned to be sited opposite the Co-op garage and the tubs that will shortly be installed around the town in the High Street. The committee thanked the SUH team for all their hard work and efforts making the town look so nice.

JW left the meeting at this point at 7.23pm.

6. **COVID19. Any H&S issues of concern/impact on traders.** Some issues already covered above. Cllr Hawkins advised that HTC's risk assessments relating to Covid-19 need to be reviewed as often as necessary and to take account of any changes (e.g. seasonal, when government guidance changes etc).
ACTION: Cllr Hawkins will forward a list of examples of when we should look at our risk assessments.
ACTION: Put processes in place to ensure our Covid-19 risk assessments are periodically reviewed.
7. **Consideration for a 20mph speeding restriction in Hungerford** – refer to Marlborough TC's report. An assessment was undertaken in Marlborough which resulted in the implementation of a 20mph limit in the town. The committee agreed that there are key differences between Hungerford and Marlborough, but they felt it would be beneficial if a survey could be done to address the concerns and issues relevant to Hungerford. This issue was mentioned by many local traders when they were asked for their views regarding the safety measures to be put in place when lockdown was eased in June. The traffic situation in the town might also change when the Salisbury Road development is completed. District Cllr Rowles felt it would be beneficial to contact WBC to find out their view on this issue before any further action and she offered to do so.
ACTION: Item to be placed on next agenda.
8. **Discuss use of SID in Hungerford.** Cllrs Downe and Fyfe have used the SID three times at different places in the town. The results showed there were only 2 occasions when the recorded speed was excessive. WBC requested HTC use the SID to gain evidence of speeding on the common, in particular from the Inkpen gate to the crossroads as this area was not covered when WBC undertook their survey last year.
ACTION: Cllr Downe will investigate the possibility of using the SID along this stretch of road.
9. **Service Contract Tender for Public Toilets.** The current cleaning contract is due for renewal for 3 years from 1st September. The contract has been put out for tender and a report will be issued for discussion at the Extra Full Council meeting on 4th August.
10. **Christmas plans**
Discuss this year's events. The committee was asked to consider whether the usual events (putting up trees/lights and the switch on event) should go ahead this year due to uncertainty with the coronavirus situation. After some discussion regarding possible alternatives and depending on government guidance at the time, *Cllr Knight proposed to proceed with the installation of the trees and lights but instead of the usual switch on event, have a low-key event with local dignitaries. Seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.*
It was agreed that HTC will seek help with the funding of the trees/lights project in the usual way.
Christmas Lights update. Cllr Hawkins reported that, following a meeting of the working party in February, she will chase what outstanding actions remain to be done. Another meeting of the working party is due to take place.
11. **Discuss issue of Motorcycle noise.** Cllr Fyfe advised he has written to the local MP regarding the increased levels of noise and speed from motorcycles travelling around the town, particularly along the A4. He feels it is time to quieten motorcycles as part of a noise pollution effort. He received a response from Laura Farris saying the government is interested in taking steps to reduce noise levels overall. Cllr Fyfe has requested interaction from the local police. District Cllr Cole offered to contact the Public Protection Partnership (PPP) but is afraid that, without any evidence, there may be little they can do.
Post meeting note: Cllr Cole advised that the PPP website states that "Noise from moving vehicles" is investigated by the police and must be reported directly to them.
12. **Moving of bus stops from outside the Town Hall.** The H1 bus and the no. 20 public bus now operate from Church Street. The Ramsbury bus will make an application to pick up from Tesco car park in future. Wiltshire Council have requested a change to the school bus so it will use the Church Street stop when it starts operating again.
13. **Pigeon Working Party Update.** Cllr Downe reported that research has taken place on the premises along the High Street. We are still waiting to hear when GWR are able to replace the netting under the railway bridge over the High Street as this is one of the prime nesting places. Two main areas of concern are number 15 High Street and the Royal Mail sorting office, neither of which appear to have adequate

pigeon deterrent measures in place. *Cllr Downe proposed initiating letters to the owners of these buildings requesting their cooperation in dealing with the pigeon problem, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.*

ACTION: Cllr Downe will draft letters and forward to office.

The District Councillors left the meeting at this point at 8.32pm.

14. **Update on Hungerford in Bloom.** Cllr Hawkins reported that a Full Council meeting had taken place earlier to ratify the winners of the competition. The winners will be informed, and publicity will follow in the Adviser. She was pleased with the number of entries and the way the competition was run. Thanks were extended to Sarah Chatters and Cllr Hawkins for the immense amount of work they had put in to the competition.
15. **WBC Winter Service Plan - circulated.** Any comments by 31st July. WBC are not proposing any changes to last year's plan so in light of no changes to the plan, the committee had no comments to make.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm