

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 27th September 2021 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Knight, Chicken, Downe, Fyfe, Alford, , Shatford, Schlanker (Simpson and Winsor arrived after item 65. In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk) and Representative from Smarten up Hungerford

- HT20210063. Apologies for absence – Cllr Hudson**
- HT20210064. Declarations of interest – None**
- HT20210065. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 26th July 2021**
Proposed: Cllr Chicken
Seconded: Cllr Downe
Resolution: Minutes were determined as a true record.

John Willmott expressed SUH's concern of the state of several buildings and properties including the Co-op supermarket, the flat above the butchers, the old Barclays bank building (may be awaiting demolition), the Italian restaurant and its environs. Great Grooms trees are growing over River Dun and into the War Memorial Gardens and ruining the view along the river. JW advised that the owner was not prepared to help. Could Council offer to assist with cost? Could companies based at Charnham Park be asked to contribute to clearing the constant litter problem there?

One of the 4 planters at the Railway station keeps being vandalised and needs constant new plants. SUH has met with GWR to discuss this and several other matters and some help, may be forthcoming. The area behind the London bound platform shelter needs constant clearing. GWR understand the problem and would like SUH to consider taking on the responsibility of clearing it. SUH has concern over this and further discussion with GWR will take place.

SUH's budget of £4,200 plus VAT for 2021 included some new tubs and both summer and winter planting. HTC has suggested SUH apply to the Good Exchange to obtain matched funding. The Chamber has since confirmed that this should be possible. The summer planting was approximately £500 below the agreed budget. Please can HTC ensure this funding is earmarked. As SUH's activities are increasing a volunteer is needed to assist with fund-raising. They may have a new treasurer. The Chamber has confirmed insurance is in place for all SUH activities subject to risk assessments and method statements. JW reported that he had met with an ex-town mayor who felt strongly that Hungerford would greatly benefit from a "Piazza" and that it would greatly "Smarten Up" our town centre. Sunday working parties will resume on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10am.

Committee responded to JW's report. Two new bins have recently been situated by Charnham Park and this has reduced the litter significantly. Barclays and the Italian both have planning permission. Councillors met with GWR on Thursday. GWR thought the area behind the platform should become a garden if HTC can arrange on-going maintenance. A portaloos for lorry drivers at Charnham Park was suggested however this would cost and there would need to be a charge to use it. It wasn't thought it would be sufficient and there is a charged for facility at the services. This is a national problem. Is there a solution?

Cllr Knight offered to help SUH set up as a charity if they wished.

The Mayor passed on HTC's thanks to Smarten up Hungerford Team.

- HT20210066. Update on actions from previous meetings, not on this agenda (refer to report attached) –** Cllr Chicken is yet to liaise with the Bedwyn group but has advised GWR that we support appropriate connectivity signage. The Salisbury Road footpath was closed by WBC as it would be dangerous to open it with the works going on.
- HT20210067. Update on feedback from WBC on HTC’s requests regarding Electric Vehicle Chargers –** Cllr Downe advised the requests made to help encourage electric vehicle use have been either disregarded or ignored.
ACTION: Cllr Downe to draft a letter and request an urgent consultation.
- HT20210068. Hungerford in Bloom – Feedback from presentation of awards –** The Mayor advised the event was received well and there were some new entrants this year.
- HT20210069. Footpath surveys – Update on budgeted plans and proposed work from WBC –** A update from J Winstanley was read out. ‘We are currently going through the budget build process for the capital programme. I have included a funding bid for Hungerford footpath maintenance/ improvements, but I won’t be able to formally confirm if it has been successful or not until early in the new calendar year (there are numerous approval processes that this must go through). I am hopeful it will be successful but of-course it is very much dependent on other pressures across the Council.’
ACTION: Keep on agenda
- HT20210070. Update following meeting with GWR/NR on Rail station Improvements –** Cllr Chicken gave an update as follows:
1. He advised the installation of bike boxes at Hungerford Station had been approved by the Station Manager but need further permissions. At present requirements include CCTV and white lines. It was noted Newbury Station already have bike boxes in place.
 2. GWR and NR observed that parking was full at Hungerford Station and there is a lack of sufficient car parking.
 3. GWR and NR have discussions on-going over who is responsible for painting the footbridge.
 4. The Cuttings vegetation is overgrown. The off-track team clear this twice a year. They are reviewing when this is done to ensure it is most effective and are considering an extra visit. No-one other than NR is permitted on the area as it is trackside and on a steep bank.
 5. There is no large funding available. HTC can apply to Community Rail Network for a £1000 grant. Cllr Chicken wishes HTC to lobby government for a pot of money to apply to for station improvements. He has drafted a letter to the MP.
ACTION: Cllr Knight to work with Cllr Chicken on the letter and add to next agenda.
- HT20210071. Lancaster Park Roundabout (at Bewley site entrance) – Update on works –** Work started on 6th Sept and is due to take 5 weeks.
- HT20210072. Update on requested CCTV improvements –** Extra cameras have been installed opposite the library and outside the public toilets. Cameras opposite Park St junction are yet to go in. The Mayor advised CCTV cameras captured a branch falling into the road from the trees outside Great Grooms. The Clerk has applied to the tree officer for permission to trim back certain trees as they are blocking the CCTV signals.
- HT20210073. Update on funding for Tesco junction improvements and clarification of o/s S106 money**
Proposed: Cllr Chicken
Seconded: Cllr Simpson
ACTION: **Resolution:** Accept improvements to junction as per plans subject to WBC allocating S106 money to cover the costs.

HT20210074. Request from Hungerford Town FC to position signs in the town to show the direction to the football ground at Bulpit Lane – The Chairman of the football club has requested some brown signs be installed to help direct public to the club. Attendance is high, sometimes 700. The Football Club would be willing to pay. It was pointed out there is already a white sign at the end of Priory Road. One is required at Bulpit and one at the A4 Bear roundabout.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Knight

ACTION: Resolution: Support their request for 2 brown signs in town at no cost to the Council.

HT20210075. Adoption of Everland Road running from the Level Crossing to the bridge over the Kennet and Avon Canal – It was suggested if HTC adopted the road they could widen it and make it safer for lorries and have some safe in future development, however they would need to maintain it. Saxons and the garage paid for the resurfacing and would benefit from adopting it themselves. It was decided that there would be no benefit to the town.

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe

Seconded: Cllr Winsor

Resolution: Not to adopt the road

HT20210076. Options for adoption and relocation of the red telephone box in the High St – The phone box in the High St is listed and would need LBC to move it. The committee did not wish to take on the liability of the phone box or the on-going maintenance. After discussion:

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe

Seconded: Cllr Shatford

Resolution: Not to adopt the telephone box in the High St.

HT20210077. Any H&S issues of concern including COVID

It was suggested that HTC should look at introducing 20mph speed limits on all residential roads in Hungerford excluding A roads.

ACTION: Add speed limits to the agenda for next meeting and ask WBC what their policy is on this.

The option of a dovecote was discussed following suggestions by a few members of public that this would help with controlling pigeon numbers. The wharf is one of the prettiest areas in Hungerford and permission has previously been turned down to house a statue there. It is extremely unlikely a dovecote would be able to be placed there. There were no suggestions of other locations where this could be housed.

The Mayor added that all local organisation representatives have been in support of the recent cull and she has not received any negative responses from any of the local events she has attended.

- **Update on Tesco Line marking** – This is complete

Meeting closed 8.45pm