

# 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](mailto:townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk)  
[www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk](http://www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk)

---

**DRAFT MINUTES** of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs Schlanker, Knight, Fyfe, Alford, Downe, Greenwell and Hudson  
**In attendance:** Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), Newbury News and 2 members of public.

**HT2023001. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Carlson, Winser and Simpson  
Also, from John Willmott

**HT2023002. Declarations of interest** – Cllr Hudson (item HT2023009)

**HT2023003. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Proposed:** Cllr Greenwell

**Seconded:** Cllr Downe

**Resolution:** Agree minutes as a true record.

**HT2023004. Update on actions from previous meetings, not on this agenda –**

**ACTION:** District Cllr Benneyworth (DB) to advise on installation of a litter bin at Salisbury Road - Deferred

**ACTION:** Cllr Knight to arrange display of the Wilton Windmill board at Farewise – Outstanding.

**ACTION:** Cllr Knight to firm up a date for the litter pick in the spring. Possibly 23<sup>rd</sup> of April – TBC.

**ACTION:** A bollard should be placed to run down the edge of the pub to protect the building from being hit by vehicles. – Outstanding.

**ACTION:** Response from West Berks Council (WBC) reference EV chargers – Outstanding. It was noted the WBC CEO is coming to our March Full Council meeting.  
Other actions are either on this agenda or have been completed.

**HT2023005. Safety of High Street and consideration of traffic calming measures** – Concerns have been fed back via the Town Centre Strategy consultation and the report is due back in March. Both groups present at the latest Town Strategy meeting wanted a 20mph limit in the high street. A community led campaign with the help of District Cllrs is needed to push forward for action. RH has applied to WBC for approval of two locations for SID cameras to be mounted in the high street.

Unfortunately, these locations have proved problematic due to visibility issues. It was suggested instead pressure cables could be deployed to obtain the speed data. Currently the data will be skewed due to temporary traffic lights in place. It was commented that many A roads in London are subject to a 20mph zone so this should be possible for Hungerford A roads too.

**A member of public** voiced concerns over the improper use of the temporary single lane/traffic lights in the high street. Drivers are parking in prohibited spaces, jumping the lights and signs have fallen down. It was suggested there needs to be a pelican crossing and pinch point at the end of school alley. The footway needs widening. An alternative for the roundabout could be considered along with the new type of sleeping policeman that is activated when hit at a higher speed. An integrated approach is needed throughout the high street.

**Proposed:** Cllr Greenwell

**Seconded:** Cllr Fyfe

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Increase scheduled H&T meetings to monthly for the next six months, alternating between a varied agenda and an agenda focussed on traffic.

**Proposed:** Cllr Schlanker  
**Seconded:** Cllr Greenwell

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Invite a representative from WBC highways and Chamber of Commerce to the meetings.

A spec is needed for a highways consultant to work on.

**HT2023006. Consider complaints concerning parking on footways and verges – A member of public** complained that this is occurring randomly throughout Hungerford. Police only act if the vehicle is causing an obstruction. It was decided against targeting specific areas which may be seen to be unfair and agreed the action that should be taken in the first instance is education. A government document Manual for Streets 2 was mentioned as being a useful guide.

**HT2023007. Receive updates on SIDs, new locations and speeding –** The SIDs are working well although we may wish to look at changing the type of batteries used as certain types do not last long in the cold. A new SID site has been approved by the water works at Salisbury Road. Also, a site by Cottrell Close heading west into town opposite Dobbies has been approved but a post is needed.

**Proposed:** Cllr Hudson  
**Seconded:** Cllr Greenwell

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Purchase a post costing £500 for siting of a SID by Cottrell Close.

**Proposed:** Cllr Schlanker  
**Seconded:** Cllr Fyfe

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Approach BMW garage about obtaining a fourth SID for placement outside their premises.

**HT2023008. Review of Local Council Risk System documents as required by audit.**

**Proposed:** Cllr Schlanker  
**Seconded:** Cllr Knight

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Accept risk registers, noting that each risk needs to be assigned.

**HT2023009. Canal dredging lorries – Route and damage.** The lorries are using Hornhill and Sanham Green as part of their route. These roads are too narrow and as soon as the lorries pass a vehicle damage to the verge is occurring.

**Proposed:** Cllr Hudson  
**Seconded:** Cllr Fyfe

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Cllr Hudson will do a camera survey and write to Land and Water asking them to repair the verges

**HT20230010. Provision of bus stop at Kennedy Meadow or Lancaster Park –** Cllr Fyfe contacted WBC and the bus company to request some bus stops are included coming into town from the new developments on Salisbury Road. A bus stop is either needed at both locations or one stop could cover both. However, Wilts Council has advised that they plan to end the Swindon bus service that serves Shalbourne, and Ham and they are looking to replace this with a minibus prebookable service. WBC will therefore not be looking to progress the new stops. They have asked if HTC could make a contribution to Wilts Council which would include service to the existing bus stops and two at the new development at Salisbury Road. It was asked who is running the demand response service and if the destination needs to be in Wiltshire.

**Proposed:** Cllr Schlanker  
**Seconded:** Cllr Greenwell

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Write to Swindon bus service to find out more about the demand of the bus service. Could it be extended into Hungerford. Is it valid for trips wholly in Hungerford and what is the cost.

**HT20230011. Alternatives to H1 bus service and HTC contribution –** Cllr Knight advised the H1 passenger numbers are declining. The H1 is a service around the town. In 2021 the H1 service reduced to one trip a week on a Wednesday, market day. During Covid numbers dropped to 121 passengers a year. **(refer to attached reports)** The cost is £12.68 per passenger journey and most passengers are using their bus pass. HTC are due to contribute £5023 towards the H1 bus service for 2023-34.

It was suggested we would do better to subsidise the Handy bus.

**Proposed:** Cllr Greenwell

**Seconded:** Cllr Fyfe

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Cllr Knight to carry out a feasibility and value for money study with reference to the transfer of H1 funding to the handy bus.

**HT20230012. Consider quotation to enable Triangle Field CCTV footage to be viewed in the office –**

**Proposed:** Cllr Schlanker

**Seconded:** Cllr Fyfe

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Cllr Schlanker will speak to SMART about alternative methods of connectivity possibly utilising Gigaclear which should be available soon.

**HT20230013. Request for additional/better taxi rank and response from WBC.** A complaint has been received about the taxi rank not being available along with a request for another taxi bay in the high street. WBC will be enforcing the use of the existing shared loading/taxi bay. There is also a taxi bay in the station. The committee felt there was not a need for a further taxi bay.

**HT20230014. Consider requirements for coach friendly status –** It was agreed that this is not going to be possible for Hungerford. There is no space for a coach park and this status is generally achieved by much larger towns.

**HT20230015. Feedback from West Berks Council on availability of combined recycling/litter bins –** The item was deferred as DC Benneyworth was not present.

**HT20230016. Receive any update on footpaths and footways –** The A4 has been completed both ways and so too has the A338 north. The A338 south is ongoing. It was noted that the poor state of the footways and parking bays by school alley have been reported by a resident, but nothing has been done to date. It was asked if HTC could pursue this also.

**HT20230017. Any H&S issues of concern including COVID.**

**Flooding issues –** Drainage in the high street has not got the capacity required.

**ACTION:** Cllr Schlanker and DC Cole need to arrange a meeting with Thames Water.

**Complaint of a vehicle parked past Atherton roundabout near Pelican crossing.**

**ACTION:** Feed this into the discussion about pinch points.

**Complaint of speed, noise and size of heavy lorries/tractors using Priory Road**

No action was agreed. Agricultural vehicles need access to local farms. Parking in Priory Road helps with traffic calming.

**Two further complaints – vehicles taking no notice of pedestrian crossings including a request for traffic lights at zebra crossing by the telephone box.**

Traffic lights at the zebra crossing could cause further problems with traffic speeding away. This option is not recommended.

**ACTION:** Speak to Julie Lloyd about her past attempt to relocate the telephone box.

**Complaint that it is the second time that their house has been hit by a vehicle (nr chip shop)**

This was noted. For actions reference agenda item HT2023005.

Meeting closed 8.35pm.

### **Hungerford Town Council**

**Public Report to:**

Highways & Transport

**Agenda Item No HT20230011 H1 Bus Funding for year 2023/24**

## **Background**

HTC has been fully subsidising the H1 bus operation for the past 7 years to ensure that the service has remained in operation. The H1 bus service operates a limited service around the town on Wednesday only from 10.45am to 13.40pm. The service also use to operate on Fridays until March 2020. Up to this date West Berks Council funded most of the service costs with HTC making a contribution of just over £2000.

Since April 2020 HTC has paid the whole cost of operation (£4530) but the service now only operates on Wednesdays (market day)

Recent information of passenger numbers received from West Berkshire Council has shown a decline in passengers carried. In year 2019/20 – 1722 passengers used the twice weekly services, today that number is just 357 per year but note only operated weekly.

## **Objective**

The cost per passenger journey that HTC pays was £1.32 in 2019/20 next year with an 11% cost rise required the estimated journey cost per passenger will be £11.70.

HTC has set aside the budget for the running costs of £5033.00. The question to ask is this now value for money with so few passengers carried.?

I have been speaking to the H1 bus drivers over the past few months on average they are carrying only 6 passengers on the bus on a Wednesday. Most if not all passengers are travelling to/from Redwood House to the Town Market using their subsidy bus pass.

## **Options**

- 1) Retain the H1 service at an annual cost of £5033 (year 2023/24)
- 2) Withdraw the service from April 2023
- 3) Approach CHAIN to ask if they could provide a service from Redwood House to the market on a Wednesday. I have already discussed this option with Ted Angell the Handybus co-ordinator. CHAIN already operate to Redwood House into the town for market days so additional service could be possible. From the annual bus subsidy saving CHAIN could be offered extra grant money to cover its costs.

Benefits:

- Annual cost savings to HTC and the rate payer.

## **Recommendation**

If CHAIN can operate extra services between Redwood House and the Town on Wednesdays to covers the loss of the H1 service then recommend withdrawal of the H1 bus service from April 2023.

**Signed:** Keith Knight 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

# H1 Hungerford Town Bus Service - Times

## Wednesdays only

<u>Hungerford, adj Library</u>	10:45	11:30	12:00	13:00
<u>Hungerford, nr Coldharbour Road</u>	10:52	11:37	12:07	13:07
<u>Hungerford, adj Library</u>	11:00	11:45	12:15	13:15
<u>Hungerford, adj Marsh Lane Railway Bridge</u>	11:05	11:50		13:20
<u>Hungerford Sanden Close east end (adj 5)</u>	11:10	11:55		13:25
<u>Hungerford, adj Library</u>	11:15	12:00		13:30
<u>Hungerford, adj Charnham Park</u>	11:18			13:33
<u>Hungerford, adj Library</u>	11:25			13:40

## H1 Hungerford Town Service -Passenger Figures

Year	Passenger Totals	Services PW	Services Per Annum	Average Passengers carried per day	Annual Cost to HTC	HTC Cost Per Passenger	Comments
2019/20	1722	2	102	17	£2,265.00	£1.32	Operated Wednesday & Friday (subsidy paid by HTC most cost provided by WBC)
2020/21	121	1	51	2	£4,530.00	£37.44	HTC fully paid for service from April 21 Reduced to just Wednesdays (pandemic effect on pax numbers)
2021/22	540	1	51	11	£4,530.00	£8.39	
2022/23	268	1	38	7	£3,398.00	£12.68	* 9 months figures only annual cost to HTC still £4530
2023/24 projection	430	1	51	8	£5,033.00	£11.70	**projection based on small increase in passenger numbers

From April 2019 to the end of March 2020 there were 1,722 times people boarded the service. However, the service ran twice a week over this period.

April 2020 (when the service reduced to one day a week) to the end of March 2021 the number was 121. This was of course due to the pandemic.

From April 2021 to the end of March 2022 there were 540 times people boarded the service.

For the three months April, May and June 2022 the total was 115  
For the three months July, August and September 2022 the total was 76  
For the three months October, November and December 2022 the total was 77.

**Matthew Metcalfe Senior Transport Officer**

The annual cost of the H1 Local Bus Service is £4,530. This rate was set in April 2020. We are happy to charge this same amount for the current financial year, 2022-23. Going forward, we would ask for an increase in the annual amount of 11.1%. This is the % our Financial Department have come up to reflect the increases in prices the Council has faced in delivering services. This would increase the price of the H1 service in 2023-24 to £5,032.83 per annum. This would be the first increase in the price since it was set in April 2020.