

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES** of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs, Schlanker, Hudson, Simpson, Carlson, Alford, Greenwell, Armstrong, Cusack and Fyfe (entered later).

**In attendance:** Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), Co-opted member John Willmott, Newbury News representative and District Councillor Denise Gaines (DG).

**HT20230040. Propose election of Chair**

**Proposed:** Cllr Hudson

**Seconded:** Cllr Greenwell

**Resolution:** Election of Cllr Schlanker as chair.

**HT20230041. Propose election of Deputy Chair**

**Proposed:** Cllr Schlanker

**Seconded:** Cllr Simpson

**Resolution:** Election of Cllr Hudson as deputy.

**HT20230042. Apologies for absence – Cllr Winser, Cllr Knight.**

Cllrs Cusack and Armstrong were welcomed to the committee.

**HT20230043. Declarations of interest – None**

**HT20230044. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

**Proposed:** Cllr Greenwell

**Seconded:** Cllr Carlson

**Resolution:** Agree minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 as a true record, three abstentions.

**HT20230045. Update on actions from previous minutes not on this agenda.** The following actions remain outstanding -

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

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

**ACTION:** A bollard should be placed to run down the edge of the pub to protect the building from being hit by vehicles. Cllr Schlanker to look into.

**ACTION:** Response from West Berks Council (WBC) reference EV chargers. (Cllr Greenwell will take this forward with DG. The station location has been discounted due to the wayleave issue, but other locations were being pursued including Church St Car Park).

**ACTION:** Cllr Schlanker and DC Cole need to arrange a meeting with Thames Water. (DC Cole is now Cllr Cole. It was added that school alley also floods).

**ACTION:** DG is awaiting a response on tri-bins from Kofi.

**ACTION:** Clerk is waiting to hear back from BT about how often the phone box is used and if it is best to disconnect. New OFCOM regulations require a commercial review.

**ACTION:** Office to check who is responsible for the brick wall along the cuttings as it requires some repair and request Network Rail cutback the overgrown vegetation behind the railings. It was noted the railings need painting.

Cllr Fyfe entered.

**ACTION:** Cllrs Fyfe and Carlson have photos to send to Nick Coulson of the weeds coming through the newly surfaced footways.

Cllr Greenwell has checked the Priory to Lancaster path, and it is signposted clearly.

The litter pick took place. The Gigaclear duct is now live at Triangle Field.

Other actions are either on this agenda or have been completed.

**HT20230046. Safety of High Street and consideration of traffic calming measures – Update on outcome of working party meetings and agreement of actions.** Cllr Schlanker advised the working party met in April and talked through areas of concern from the Bear through to Atherton. A list has been compiled; some issues have been closed but the majority remain open. One concern is already being addressed being the potholes at the Bear. Resurfacing is scheduled. It was questioned if the piazza outside the town hall is still on the plan. Cllr Simpson advised this is on the town strategy list as an aspiration.

Cllr Hudson suggested focussing on just a few main priorities to try and get them resolved. It was agreed though there is a need to record all the issues.

**Proposed:** Cllr Armstrong

**Seconded:** Cllr Cusack

**Resolution:** To keep the full list as a tracker. Cllr Schlanker will share it with councillors requesting areas for prioritisation.

**Proposed:** Cllr Schlanker

**Seconded:** Cllr Armstrong

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Arrange to meet Jon Winstanley to walk the length of the high street identifying key issues.

It was noted at present HTC does not have any free reserves for new projects. DG added the budget for WBC has already been set.

It was agreed that the working party will not meet in June but will reconvene after a site meeting with Jon Winstanley.

**HT20230047. Parking on footways and verges**

**ACTION:** Cllrs Simpson and Fyfe will produce a definitive list of no parking areas required.

**HT20230048. Receive any updates on SIDs, new locations and speeding.**

Cllr Hudson advised the new SID and solar panel has now been installed on Charnham Street. BMW garage paid for the SID and HTC funded the panel. Traffic Technology who installed it also checked all the existing SIDs and they have now been reset to default to MPH not KPH. There was a problem with a Chinese chip error during Covid. The Salisbury Road SID is suffering from some damp so it may be replaced if there are further problems with it. The 2-year warranty is effective from April 2022.

**ACTION:** Carry out survey of SIDs in January 2024 before expiry of warranty. Add to future H&T and diarise.

Another couple of locations were suggested for SIDS being the A\$ approaching Hungerford from Marlborough and by Cobbs Farm. These would need to be agreed by WBC.

**ACTION:** Cllr Hudson will summarise on a spreadsheet the data gathered from the SIDs on a monthly basis, using averages.

**Proposed:** Cllr Armstrong

**Seconded:** Cllr Simpson

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Publish the SID data monthly on the Town Council website.

**HT20230049. Update on works to repair verges at Sanham Green –** The contractor has started depositing soil. He will be adding the drainage and tidying up. The work should be done by next H&T.

**HT20230050. Feedback from West Berks Council on availability of combined recycling/litter bins.**

Discussed above. Refer to item HT20230045 about tri-bins.

**HT20230051. Consider on-going maintenance costs of a changing place toilet facility.** The existing Church Street Toilets contract is up for renewal at the end of August. If we agreed to having a changing place facility, we would be responsible for the maintenance/cleaning costs. An indication of the additional cost to incorporate it in our existing contract has been requested and we wait to hear back. Cllr Simpson commented that the Action Plan will be discussed at Full Council and we will review existing and future projects then ahead of the budget setting.

**HT20230052. Receive any updates on footpaths and footway works.** Cllrs Schlanker, Fyfe and Hudson are considering the 140 actions on the WBC plan of footways and have plotted the area on a map. The core of the footpaths around the town have been surveyed. Others are welcome to walk the paths and feedback. Two key issues have been identified being the steps the other side of the A4 which are falling through (Strongrove north side) and a gate. WBC only have a team of three so Cllr Fyfe has offered to help with changing the signs if WBC supply them. It was noted that Southview path has not been maintained.

**ACTION:** Cllr Schlanker will share the spreadsheet with everyone and is currently looking at the best way of doing this.

**HT20230053. Any H&S issues of concern.** Canal and River Trust have announced that they will be removing 4 of the dog waste bins from along the canal in Hungerford due to the cost of maintaining them. There are two by St Lawrences Church, one to the east side of the High Street and one opposite the wharf. We have been asked if HTC would wish to take over the maintenance or if we know anyone who would. The Mayor pointed out that we have no budget for this. DG advised the reason larger dog waste bins are not provided is because they are significantly heavier than general litter.

**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson

**Seconded:** Cllr Schlanker

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Clerk to write to C&RT and Town & Manor to see if an agreement on sharing the cost could be reached. Clerk to find out anticipated timescale for the planned removal and what the plans are to inform the public. One abstention.

There have been complaints received about non delivery of post. Some residents have not received post in 2 weeks. DG advised WBC has written to the Postmaster General. The problem is nationwide and parcels are being prioritised.

The quality of service of the pharmacy has been raised. The Mayor has written to the MD and she will report back her response at Full Council in her Mayor's report.

It was queried if HTC has reviewed the location of the CCTV cameras in the high street following the recent spate of robberies. The Mayor advised the cameras captured plenty of footage and 3 arrests have been made as a result of CCTV. She advised that her complaint to TVP has resulted in a response from the superintendent who has taken it very seriously. The Mayor will report on this at Full Council.

Meeting closed 8.15pm.