

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**DRAFT MINUTES** of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs, Hudson, Knight, Cole, Simpson, Fyfe, Schlanker, Carlson and Reeves

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), a representative from Newbury News, and a member of public.

**HT20240013. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Alford, Winsler, Armstrong and Cusack  
Also, from DC Vickers, DC Benneyworth and DC Gaines

**HT20240014. Declarations of interest** – None

**HT20240015. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.**

**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson

**Seconded:** Cllr Knight

**Resolution:** Agree minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 as a true record, one abstention.

**HT20240016. Co-opt Cllr David Reeves to the H&T Committee**

**Proposed:** Cllr Knight

**Seconded:** Cllr Carlson

**Resolution:** Co-opt Cllr David Reeves to the H&T committee

**HT20240017. Update on actions from previous minutes not on this agenda.**

Traffic Technology have been contacted about the problems with the SIDs. Details have been put in writing so are documented ahead of the warranty expiring. Traffic Technology are yet to carry out a site visit.

**ACTION:** Cllr Hudson will send the downloads of data to Traffic Technology.

The following response has been received from WBC following our request for a 40mph limit between the current 60mph and 30mph limit on the A4 from Newbury westbound towards Hungerford. *I would say other measures rather than a change in the speed limit are probably best for that location as I can't see it meeting any of the criteria for a lower speed limit as set out in National Guidance. We are just preparing the list for schemes for carrying out during the next financial year (subject to funding and resources) so I will add it accordingly.*

**ACTION:** Clerk to query why it doesn't meet criteria and draw attention to the A4 eastbound approach which does have those speed limits in place.

It is understood the general rubbish bins in Hungerford are to remain following the outcome of the WBC budget consultation.

Questions have been raised about the types of EV chargers, but we are still awaiting the information. (refer to item HT20240019).

All other actions are on the agenda or are complete.

**HT20240018. Receive any updates on SIDs, new locations, speeding and a 20mph zone including survey of SIDs ahead of warranty expiry.**

Copies of the data retrieved from the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) was distributed during the meeting. **Please see attached report.** These were talked through in detail. In particular the data received from the camera recently placed in the high street was scrutinized. The data has been averaged over three weeks. Unfortunately, there are some gaps due to a white van parking in front of it and it is difficult to find another suitable SID site on the high street. The camera can't be raised any higher without replacing the pole which would be too expensive.

**ACTION:** Cllr Hudson will move the SID to Charnham Park to capture speeds coming in from Marlborough. Then it will be moved to the Common in time for the cows returning.

Cllr Hudson advised the solar panels had been working well however damp has been getting in some of SIDs affecting their workings.

**ACTION:** Cllr Hudson will investigate if an adaptor can be used to access the power from lampposts to power a SID. This would be useful for the SID near Cottrell Close.

**HT20240019. Progress on EV Chargers, since contractor's recent site meeting** The following update has been received: *we are waiting for Swarco to work up a detailed proposal based on the site visit but the initial feedback is that a new feeder pillar is required. They are aware of a delay on feeder pillars from the manufacturer and we are waiting to hear any indicative timescales they can provide. We are going to be having weekly meetings with Swarco and so will keep the pressure up and be able to provide additional details as we receive them.*

**HT20240020. Future maintenance of HTC 31 x streetlights** – The 31 lights left in HTC's ownership are all the old Sodium lights. WBC will not adopt these as they can't be updated to their required specification due to spacing etc. HTC has been paying WBC for the maintenance of the lights however from April 2025 we will need to instruct our own contractor to maintain them as WBC will no longer be offering the service. It was queried if WBC are legally responsible for the delivery of lighting and what would be the impact of taking the lights away. What happens if HTC do not take on the service? It was suggested we look at appointing a lighting expert to consider options and may wish to do a public consultation ahead of any changes.

**ACTION:** Clerk to put the above questions on streetlights to WBC for their response.

**HT20240021. Consider increase of CCTV admin charge.** The time taken for staff to search for CCTV footage following public requests is significant and the charge for this is currently only £10. The Clerk advised CCTV requests are for footage of incidents and images are sent either directly to the police or insurance company. It was queried how subject access requests would be dealt with without compromising confidentiality and how would redaction etc be dealt with.

**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson

**Seconded:** Cllr Cole

**Resolution:** Office to increase the charge to a suitable rate after liaison with Newbury Town Council and West Berks Council. Clerk to check requirements under GDPR.

**HT20240022. Consider potential solution for protection of Plume building from traffic.** Locations for placement of a bollard were discussed but not thought feasible. Weight restrictions are difficult as the road leads to a protected employment area. The only solution would be to relocate that area. After discussion it was agreed not to take any further action on this issue.

**HT20240023. Request Town Strategy consider taxi rank space in High Street** –There is a shared space (taxi rank/unloading bay) in the high street, but complaints have been received that this is always full when taxis need it and it is being blocked by parked cars. Enforcement is failing to remedy the problem and road markings to make the use clear are not possible in a shared bay. It was agreed another location is needed for a taxi rank and this should be pursued by H&T not the Town Strategy group. WBC has advised there is no space for a taxi rank in Church Street Car park. Another option discussed was the bay outside the kebab shop which is rarely used by buses.

**ACTION:** Clerk to approach WBC to see if a change from a bus stop to a taxi rank is possible.

**HT20240024. Receive any updates on footpaths, signage and footway works including to The Croft.** HTC started the process of applying for improvements to The Croft footways two years ago and spent time meeting with WBC and consulting with residents to get the best solution for all. The plan retained as much parking as possible (losing only 3 spaces) but provided a safe route to the nursery and surgery for prams and wheelchairs, and also to church and other community centres. WBC were in full support and the scheme was agreed and allocated a budget to be completed within this financial year. Now seemingly because an engineer has left, we are being advised that the original project plans are not possible and to obtain the required safety improvements would mean the loss of much more parking.

**ACTION:** Clerk to request an urgent site meeting with WBC at The Croft to discuss this further.

**HT20240025. Parking on footways and verges and update on installation of bollards.** Cllr Schlanker has spoken to Jon Winstanley (WBC) and the easiest way to stop the parking on footways is to install bollard(s). The Clerk has requested this be done by the butchers where many slabs have been broken.

Another concern are the large A boards on the footways. The WBC licensing policy lays out the rules for A boards on the footways. The Mayor was advised by a member of WBC that businesses need a licence to put up an A Board (*this has since been found to be incorrect*)

**ACTION:** Check with West Berks Council the rules around businesses leaving their bins permanently out on the footway in the high street. Is this permitted?

It was suggested letters should go out from WBC to all residents in the high street advising of the rules. Nick Dale (WBC) has agreed to look at the potholes in the layby at the top of the high street.

Pat Doyle addressed the committee concerned with the state of the slabs in the high street. Some have been removed and some are not laid properly so have become smashed and broken. Pat pointed out that York Stone is porous and gets slippery so should be pressure washed regularly. He advised Marshalls produce a mock York stone in 4 or 5 shades specifically for conservation areas which has more grip and is cheaper.

HTC advised they agreed to the broken slabs being replaced on a temporary basis with tarmac on grounds of safety whilst stone slabs were being sourced. The footway looks unsightly as is a mix of different slabs. Contractors should replace broken stones on a like for like basis. York Stone is appropriate for Hungerford being in a conservation area.

Avonline has advised they are struggling to source a readily available and affordable York stone to replace the broken slabs in the high street. They were not willing to consider a local stonemason's supply as they would need to be cut to size and this would be too expensive.

**ACTION:** Cllr Hudson to provide a contact for John Lloyd who sourced York Stone for our town previously.

**ACTION:** Clerk to write to WBC requesting reinstatement with York Stone and passing on our contact.

**ACTION:** Investigate jet washing of the York stone.

**HT20240026. Any H&S issues of concern –**

**ACTION:** Office to report the sunken manhole cover at the junction between the high street and church street.

**ACTION:** Advise WBC the path at Penny Farthing Close is overgrown and covered in mud. It needs to be cleared and bushes cut back. It could have been from the recent flooding.

**ACTION:** Cllrs Schlanker or Simpson to send in photos of overgrown mess. Trees have been cut back by the old bus stop opposite priory road/high street junction and the debris left.

**ACTION:** Clerk to chase up work to the bus stop wall which has been temporarily braced and fenced off.

**ACTION:** Clerk to forward photos of lorries parking overnight in Charnham park to WBC with request for a sign to prohibit it.

**ACTION:** A request for 20mph in Church Street has been received. Advise the concerned resident to consider carrying out a petition.

Meeting closed 8.47pm.

SID Sites in Hungerford: Data Summary															
Site	Direction	Speed Limit	Site Ref	1 SID No.	2 Date from	3 Date to	4 ave speed	5 max speed	6 Speed 15%ile	7 Speed 50%ile	8 Speed 85%ile	9 % > speed limit	10 Speed In	11 Speed out	12 % reduction
A4 Charnham St, West of BMW	Westbound towards Marlborough	30		749	23/07/2022	27/07/2022	28	72	22	29	34	36.7	28	28	0
				751	30/11/2022	15/12/2022	25	77	19	26	32	28.6	25	26	-4
				19577	15/05/2023	24/07/2023	27	98	21	29	34	35.1	27	28	-4
A4 Cotterell Close	Eastbound towards Newbury	30		749	27/07/2022	22/10/2022	24	86	16	24	31	18.7	24	26	-8
				749	22/10/2022	30/11/2022	24	77	16	26	31	18.8	24	25	-4
				749	30/11/2022	24/12/2022	24	64	16	24	31	17.3	24	26	-8
				749	09/03/2023	12/03/2023	23	62	14	24	31	16	23	25	-8
				749	10/07/2023	24/07/2023	24	70	16	26	31	21.2	24	25	-4
A4 Garden Centre	Westbound towards Hungerford	30		749	16/05/2023	16/06/2023	34	101	26	34	44	69.6	34	28	18
				749	16/05/2023	10/07/2023	34	90	26	36	45	71.4	34	28	18
				749	17/11/2023	18/01/2024	34	101	26	34	44	70.3	34	27	21
Site	Direction	Speed	Site Ref	1 SID No.	2 Date from	3 Date to	4 ave speed	5 max speed	6 Speed 15%ile	7 Speed 50%ile	8 Speed 85%ile	9 % > speed limit	10 Speed In	11 Speed out	12 % reduction
A338 Salisbury Rd, south of Priory Rd	Northbound towards town centre	30		750	18/07/2022	27/07/2022	26	55	8	29	34	40.9	26	24	8
				750	27/07/2022	22/10/2022	26	82	3	29	34	39.7	26	24	8
				750	22/10/2022	30/11/2022	21	86	3	26	31	26.3	21	20	5
				750	30/11/2022	15/12/2022	23	60	3	26	32	30.3	23	21	9
				750	10/03/2023	17/03/2023	25	65	3	29	34	38.3	25	23	9
				15067	10/07/2023	24/07/2023	32	72	27	31	37	70.3	32		
				15067	02/08/2023	26/08/2023	30	82	26	29	36	49.7	30		
	19577	09/12/2023	19/01/2024	25	72	3	29	34	38	25	24	4			
A338 Salisbury Rd, south of Priory Rd	Southbound away from town			750	17/03/2023	SID DATA ERROR									
Common, 100m west of Kintbury Gate	Westbound towards town centre	30		751	22/07/2022	21/09/2022	27	70	16	29	36	39	27	26	4
Common, Park Street, 100m west of Inkpen Rd	Eastbound towards Kintbury	30		751	21/09/2022	22/10/2022	29	72	21	31	37	53.4	29	26	10
				751	22/10/2022	30/11/2022	28	75	21	31	37	50.5	28	25	11
				751	16/05/2023	16/06/2023	29	73	21	31	37	51.2	29	26	10
				751	16/05/2023	09/07/2023	28	72	13	31	37	51	28	26	7
				751	09/07/2023	24/07/2023	25	67	3	29	37	46.9	25	23	8
				751	10/08/2023	17/11/2023	25	68	3	29	36	42.2	25	23	8
A338 High Street	Northbound	30		751	01/03/2024	22/03/2024	22	47	16	22	26	4.7	22	20	9
Notes:		See Explanation page for details. The highlighted rows refer to recent data.													