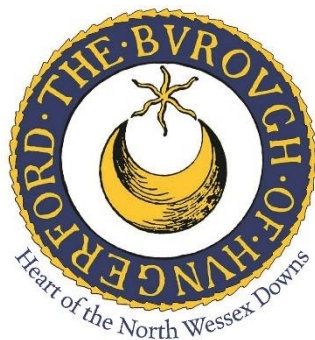


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2024 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs, Hudson, Simpson, Fyfe, Reeves, Carlson, Coulthurst, Alford and Armstrong (arrived later)
In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk)

Cllr Simpson thanked Cllr Hudson (Deputy Chair) for stepping in to chair this meeting following the resignation of Cllr Schlanker.

HT20240055. Apologies for absence – Cllrs, Montgomery, Cole, Keates, Winser and Knight
Also, from DC Gaines

HT20240056. Declaration of interest – None

HT20240057. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 22nd July 2024

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Reeves

Resolution: Agree minutes of 22nd July 2024 as a true record, two abstentions.

HT20240058. Update on actions from previous meetings, not on this agenda.

Clerk had requested WBC (West Berks Council) send letters to all high street properties with rules around A boards, about not leaving bins out, and not parking on footways. WBC had advised they were currently filling a vacant position, and this role will include monitoring commercial bins being left out across all town centres in the district. They were hopeful that we will see improvements over the coming months. The clerk reported she has received no update on this.

ACTION: Cllr Winser has been tasked with chasing removal of bins through the Town Strategy group.

Clerk had requested WBC clean the York Stone twice a year to stop the buildup of slippery algae. We also requested use of a machine to clean the Bridge St Paving. WBC advised they do not have the equipment to wash or scrub pavements as this is not included in the service they provide with Veolia. However, they will liaise with Veolia and their colleagues in Highways to explore any possible actions they can take ahead of October. The Clerk reported there is no update on this yet.

ACTION: Clerk to continue to chase as response on pavement cleaning from WBC.

ACTION: Cllrs Keates (not present) to research how York stone is cleaned/maintained elsewhere.

The EV chargers have been installed in Church St Car park, but we are waiting for them to go live which is scheduled for October.

Putting together an information sheet on benefits of a 20mph speed limit was discussed. Data is awaited from areas where it has been in operation e.g. Wales.

ACTION: Cllrs Hudson will gather information. Add to next H&T November agenda.

Our request for a speed limit change at Hungerford Newtown was declined by WBC. This is a really dangerous road. Do we raise this with the Police? Cllr Fyfe had been advised it depends how

the accidents are recorded by the Police on what action is taken. WBC promised to improve the signage and cut back the vegetation.

ACTION: Add Hungerford Newtown accident spot to next H&T November agenda.

ACTION: Cllr Fyfe will recirculate his PowerPoint so councillors can add any other incidences they are aware of such as the lorry reported backing into the Care home.

Cllr Coulthurst has emailed Britain in Bloom to find out criteria for entering. She was told to join Thames and Chilton but is still awaiting details.

ACTION: Cllr Coulthurst to chase again for info on entering Britain in bloom.

The third recycling bin is yet to be relocated.

Gritting of bus routes was queried. We have since been advised - *Church Way, Church Street and Atherton Road already feature on the secondary treatment and snow clearance networks, and we are proposing that this will remain the case for the upcoming 2024/25 season. There are many other similar roads within the district that don't feature on the primary treatment network and with such a large network, it is unfortunately unrealistic/uneconomic to be able to treat all bus routes as primary salting routes.*

Cllr Reeves has sent his presentation in directly.
All other actions are on the agenda or are complete.

HT20240059. Receive any updates on SIDs and speeding.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Hudson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Agree expenditure limit of up to £500 to include new batteries for the SIDs and a light column convertor.

Cllr Armstrong arrived.

The committee discussed purchasing another SID (Speed indicator device). RH reported that there had been resident requests for them. By Cottrell Close, Salisbury Road southbound and Charnham Lane eastbound are ideal locations. It was agreed funding could be sought from businesses or residents that will benefit.(e.g Fuel stations, garage forecourts, etc)

Proposed: Cllr Hudson

Seconded: Cllr Coulthurst

ACTION: **Resolution:** Purchase another SID at a cost of approx £2,000.

ACTION: Draft letter for funding requests specific to locations. Councillors offered to deliver them.

HT20240060. Two new tri-bins have been installed: at Skate Park and on junction of Priory Avenue, for collecting general rubbish and recycling. The third new bin is being re-sited. This was noted.

HT20240061. Receive any updates on safety improvements at The Croft following our site meeting. The options were considered at the meeting and discussed.

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe

Seconded: Cllr Carlson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Write to WBC requesting they proceed with option 1 which retains the most parking. One abstention.

HT20240062. CCTV requirements.

Triangle Field – Note: Gigaclear Broadband is now up and running. Next Step is to connect it to the CCTV cameras which is being actioned. SMART have been appointed to progress this.

Croft Field Centre – Consider quotation of £792.86 plus vat from our existing contractor SMART to install an extra camera to give coverage of the outside of the building, car park and majority of the field.

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Appoint SMART to install a CCTV camera at the Croft Field Centre at a cost of £792.86, details as per quotation.

HT20240063. Consider request from Hungerford Food Community to install a noticeboard under the bridge. Noticeboard would be in keeping with existing boards.

Proposed: Cllr Hudson

Seconded: Cllr Carlson

ACTION: Resolution: Approve request from Hungerford Food Community to install a noticeboard under the bridge, subject to specifications (size/type) to be confirmed by Cllr Coulthurst.

ACTION: Contact Network Rail about the pigeons roosting under the bridge, the dirty bridge wall and rats in the area.

HT20240064. Receive any update on the outcome of the parking consultation. The outcome of the on-street consultation is that WBC has agreed to make a change to the proposed charges and NOT charge for evening/overnight parking on street.

ACTION: Thank WBC for their consideration and not implementing the above. Also request that the car park evening/overnight charge is not implemented. Regardless that they have the power to impose it they don't have to. They won't earn much money from the charge, but it will upset a lot of people.

HT20240065. Upcoming events: Christmas Light Switch on – Smart Electrical has been appointed for a 3-year contract. The switch on date is Sunday 1st Dec 2024, 4pm to 5pm.

HT20240066. Any Health & Safety issues of concern including issues raised by Smarten up Hungerford. The clerk referred to an email received from Smarten up Hungerford that she had responded to. A couple of new points to add were that some of the trimming at Station car park had been done. Also, the mini roundabout by the garage needs tidying and committee thought laying stone with a statue in the centre as suggested by SUH was a nice idea.

It was noted that there is a Sustrans meeting on Monday at 10am. It was thought important that a councillor attends.

Confidential PART 2

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

HT20240067. Installation of costs have been received from Volker for future street lighting. Note: WBC has agreed to extend provision of the street lighting service until April 2026 using Volker. The service will be limited to fault repairs only. (No-upgrades). However, energy bills will become the responsibility of Town Council from April 2025. Thanks were extended to Cllr Reeves for his part in obtaining the extension. Cllr Coulthurst advised the 4% escalator in the cost indication received was too high.

ACTION: Cllr Coulthurst will identify any outstanding issues following the meeting with Volker.

ACTION: Office to price up cost of new energy bills.

Meeting closed at 8.53pm