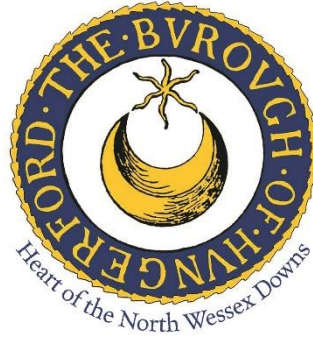


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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APPROVED MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 27th May 2025 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs, Hudson, Simpson, Reeves, Cole, Alford, Montgomery, Winser and Carlson. In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), John Willmott and three prospective councillors

HT20250032. Propose election of the following positions and received signed acceptance of office forms:
Chair and Deputy Chair of Highways and Transport

Proposed: Cllr Hudson

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: Elect Cllr Keates as Chair

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Winser

Resolution: Elect Cllr Hudson as Deputy Chair

Cllr Hudson announced the sad loss of ex-councillor Rob Brookman. He was a valued member of the council and had previously chaired this committee. A round of applause took place for Rob for all he did.

HT20250033. Apologies for absence – Cllrs Keates, Fyfe and Armstrong.

HT20250034. Declarations of interest – None

HT20250035. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on Monday 24th March 2025

Proposed: Cllr Carlson

Seconded: Cllr Cole

Resolution: Agree minutes of 24th March 2025 as a true record.

HT20250036. Update on actions from previous meetings, not on this agenda

ACTION: Office to contact the church warden about the possibility of ARMCO being installed to the canal bank.

ACTION: Cllr Cole to chase up cutting back of the overhanging trees opposite ASDA garage.

ACTION: Office to find out what the spec is for the new cycle shelter being offered by WBC for Church St car park.

ACTION: Include in budget for next year the cost to replace more CCTV links.
Other actions are complete or on the agenda.

HT20250037. Consider quotation for large Christmas Trees from preferred supplier

Proposed: Cllr Winser

Seconded: Cllr Carlson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Appoint Elveden to supply large Christmas trees including the installation of the two largest trees as per the quotation submitted of £4,732. It was noted there is no increase on last year's prices.

HT20250038. Receive any updates on SIDs and speeding - Cllr Hudson advised there is a problem with the SID on the Common which the Town & Manor are dealing with. Replacement of batteries in all the SIDs needs doing more often.

ACTION: Escalate to Stuart Gorley for permission to be reconsidered for use of an adaptor on lampposts to trickle charge the SIDS.

HT20250039. Receive any updates about Britain in Bloom – Cllr Montgomery held a meeting a couple of weeks ago which didn't attract any new volunteers. However, he is progressing well with the preparation and is half-way through the pre-judging paper which covers the background of Hungerford, its 'history', 'flourishing today' and 'planning for the future'. On the judging day itself there will be a 15 min presentation held in the church focussing on a tour of the town and how Hungerford looks through the year. This can include subscription services such as the allotments and the fisheries. Some of the old wooden tubs are being reused and 8 of these will be filled with flowers and placed around the Croft green, and 4 will go along Canal Wharf. Diccon Dadey will be lending us a sculpture of a red kite to go on the roundabout opposite Asda. The Mayor is hoping HTC can purchase the sculpture so it can remain in situ. Paul Hendry (WBC) is arranging a one-off mow of the Wharf and Atherton crescent. It was suggested to include Lockdown woods in the presentation due to its link to the community. The Mayor and Constable will welcome the judges.

ACTIONS: We are still waiting for WBC to sort the signs on the roundabout which are bent. We should also speak to the streetcleaner to ensure the pigeon mess is cleaned away for the day. Cllr Montgomery will check the trees overhanging the river next to the Bridge St War memorial. Cutting back of the trees next to the Welcome to Hungerford banner is required. Cllr Simpson will chase up the cleaning/repair of the Charnham Park stone sign. Approach Forbes so see if he would volunteer to be responsible for photography on the day.

ACTION: It was suggested a Britain in Bloom Award winners sign is produced to go on the gateways to the town. Add this to the next H&T agenda for consideration. Also look at moving the Great West Way sign further south on the A338 so it encompasses Lancaster Park.
Cllr Montgomery was thanked for his fantastic progress with Britain in Bloom.

HT20250040. Await revised plan for safety improvements at The Croft from WBC. Cllr Hudson explained that we wished The Croft to be safer for pedestrians. WBC had come forward with several options, but they were losing too much parking.

Proposed: Cllr Hudson

Seconded: Cllr Montgomery

ACTION: **Resolution:** It was agreed that only a modest improvement should be made which would be to extend the double yellow line under the railway bridge which is likely to only lose a couple of parking spaces.

It was suggested that The Croft may be a suitable place for a 20mph zone however it was thought that if one zone was agreed many others would be requested and warning signage may be a better option.

HT20250041. Respond to BT Consultation on Hungerford High Street telephone box. BT propose to remove telephony and lock the kiosk. Deadline to respond is 15/06/2025 by email to btp.authorisation.team@bt.com Committee decided not to comment.

HT20250042. Consider adopting the telephone box for £1. Details can be found here.

[Adopt a Kiosk Scheme](#) | [Buy a BT Phone Box](#) | [BT Business](#)

Planning advises, as this telephone box is grade II listed, moving it would require [listed building consent](#) (for which there is currently no fee), and likely also planning permission via a [Full Application](#) at a cost of £293 (if we are just decorating it), or £588 if we are selling from it as it would be a change of use. The applications would need to be accompanied with a clear justification for its removal and new location. They suggest submitting a [pre-application](#) to ascertain the likely acceptability of this. The cost would fall under 'Other Developments' for a pre-application costing £204 set fee plus £174 per hour for the conservation officer's time.

Highways advise, as long as it is not impeding pedestrians, access or visibility splays then they probably wouldn't have an issue. If planning is needed, there is a need to formally consult, and other factors may come to the fore.

Transport costs - This is a matter lying outside the remit of WBC and as such they cannot advise. HTC would be responsible for transport costs.

After discussion it was agreed there is no suitable budget at present to take on the costs incurred with adopting and moving the box.

Proposed: Cllr Hudson

Seconded: Cllr Cole

ACTION: **Resolution:** Agreed to wait the outcome of the BT consultation and see the public response. Prepare for potential removal and relocation of the phone box next financial year. Endeavour to carry out a survey of the public's view.

HT20250043. Receive any feedback from West Berks Council on devolution of services e.g. gully and ditch clearing, sign cleaning, overhanging trees – Cllr Fyfe is writing a paper on this but is away at present. There was a complaint on Facebook about the dirty state of a road sign. Thanks were expressed to Adam Winslett for cleaning it for free. Cllr Cole suggested that HTC do take on some of the services and pay for them as we would get support. We would need to consider a budget for next financial year. Cllr Reeves recommended waiting to see what comes out of the devolution process with the change in councils and see what public support there is.

ACTION: Add this item to the Sept H&T agenda and try and obtain more info in the meantime.

HT20250044. Any H&S issues of concern including;

- **Closure of high street for gas works** – These works are likely to happen in January 2026. Confirmation of the date should be received soon.
- **Complaint about pigeons** – We have received complaints about the costs of cleaning their excrement, damage to buildings and health and safety issues. It has been suggested that we consider the use of pigeon contraceptives to control the population, which is a humane method. This has been successful in Brussels. A local falconer could also help scare off the birds.

Proposed: Cllr Winser

Seconded: Cllr Hudson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Clerk to obtain quotes for both methods.

- **Request for double yellow lines opposite Tarrant's Hill – Refer to photo (below).** It was noted that cars are parking opposite the junction to Tarrant's Hill making access to the road difficult and dangerous.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Carlson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Put in request to WBC to install double yellow lines opposite Tarrant's Hill.

- **Hedge obstructing line of footway in Church Way – Refer to photo (below)**

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Hudson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Write to both parties (Sovereign and WBC) stressing the importance that action is taken to remove the hedge and install a footway. It is hazard with pedestrians walking in the road and buses passing.

- **Pedestrians walking northbound on A338/Hungerford Newtown verge**

We have done all we can to create awareness of the issue. A response has been received from the Carehome whose staff sometimes have no option but to walk along the verge.

ACTION: Clerk will forward the letter to WBC along with another request for them to cut back the verge where possible to create some escape areas from the traffic.

- **Poor state of garages in Park Way and Orchard View Close** – It was noted the area has some deprivation and some of the garages are private. Cllr Fyfe has documented all 107 garages and requested that WBC review which are theirs and put in place the improvements highlighted.

ACTION: Clerk to chase District Cllr Denise Gaines for progress of the above.

- **Priory Road charging point.** A visitor of a resident had attempted to use the charging stations at Priory Road and Bath Road (near BMW). Unfortunately, both charging spots were occupied by regular cars that were not using the chargers. She suggested that adding road markings might prevent this issue in the future. Councillors felt that marking every parking bay would be expensive and time consuming. There are plenty of apps and websites available to check charging options to enable planning in advance.
- **Grass cutting** – Cllr Reeves has circulated the schedule of the 5 cuts planned for Hungerford. With his lobbying for a closer cut in urban areas the cut height has been reduced. Outside of dense urban populations the cut is raised for the bees. He will try and get our October cut done last to see us through the winter / early spring.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

