

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 17th November 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Brookman, Wilson, Thompson, Benneyworth, Bumbieris and Hudson (arrived late)
Also Martin Bakker, (Martin and the Magpie) and Mark Townsend 1st Direct Cars

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Crane, Podger
- 2. Declarations of interest.** None
- 3. Minutes of meeting held 20th October 2014.** Cllr Wilson proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Wilson, 2 abstentions, 1 in favour.
- 4. Discuss options for including loading bay in taxi rank.** Standing orders were suspended for Martin Bakker to speak. Martin outlined the issues he has with daily deliveries to his flower shop with no allocated loading area available. The options are stopping on the yellow line right on the crossing, parking on the pavement with risk of cracking slabs and causing inconvenience to pedestrians or using the taxi rank illegally, none of which he is happy to do. He has asked the advice of WBC who confirmed there he has no alternative. He did suggest the idea of a shared taxi rank. Mark Townsend, 1st Direct Cars, arrived. Mark felt that a shared rank would not work due to the fact that many delivery lorries would be longer than one space, but he did think a timed rank for loading between certain times could work. Mark has spoken to the other taxi companies who use the rank, DJ Hungerford Cars, Town Taxis and Portdown Cars and they all would like to see a rank outside the town hall, to free up space under the bridge and the only additional changes needed would be a de-restriction order of the bus and taxi lane (which is often ignored). Mark also pointed out that the signage for the existing taxi rank is poor and Martin said many people came into his shop asking where the rank was! Mark said his preferred location for a taxi rank would be at the station and has written in the past to FGW to request a rank there, but the reply was that it would cost them revenue. **Action:** HTC to write to FGW requesting a two-bay taxi rank. If this is not forthcoming, request WBC to provide a two bay rank in Station Road car park. In the short term write to Alex Drysdale, WBC to introduce deliveries before 10am in existing taxi rank, and improve signage.
- 5. Propose H&T Budget for 2015/16.** After brief discussion, Cllr Bumbieris proposed budget of £46,420 net costs, seconded by Cllr Thompson, all in favour.
- 6. Christmas lights update.** 4thD Landscapes send Claire daily updates. As of Friday 14th November, the vast majority of the electrical work is complete, and all is within schedule. Cllr Benneyworth commented that it is heartening to see things going so well. The switch on

is on 30th November and entertainment is organised. The lights will be switched on by Sarah Brinkley, JOG school headteacher.

- 7. Update on A338 speeding issues.** Cllr Brookman emailed Sargent Paul Morgan on more than one occasion requesting accident records, but so far has had no response. In the last 9-12 months there have been 4 road closures known and another one last week. The road is notoriously dangerous and 2 BT poles have been knocked down recently which causes inconvenience to many. Suggestions included reducing the speed to 40mph, ensuring visibility is not impaired by ensuring hedges are cut back and signs not obscured, reconfiguration of the worst corner which results in cars ending up in the Acworth's field. **Action:** request accident information from Alex Drysdale, WBC. Cllr Benneyworth pointed out that speeding at the south side of the town remains a problem and further investigations should be made there also.
- 8. Fairfields Development.** Paul Goddard, WBC, confirmed there is a condition on the planning approval that there must be a construction plan and that has not been received yet, so there are no further comments to make at this time.
- 9. Park Street update.** In passing, Andrew Garrett said he had got a price of £50,000 for the scheme before sorting Rod's tree, so in reality nothing will be done until the station development happens. Cllr Hudson commented that it would be interesting to see what scheme was costed. **Action:** Contact Thames Valley Police Station Properties to ensure they are aware of HTC's interest in the site, copying in Anthony Stansfeld.
- 10. Protection of historic paths.** The Ramblers, West Berkshire Group, wrote to HTC highlighting that under provisions in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) a time limit of 1st January 2026 has been set for historic paths to be recorded or lost forever. **Action:** Deputy Clerk to email all relevant parties to see if anyone is interested in following this up.
- 11. Town Symbol.** It was agreed that it looked a bit shabby but should be dealt with by T&E.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm