

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Keith Knight
3 Wessex Close
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0NT
Tel: 01488 644671
cllrkknight@gmail.com



The Town Clerk
Mrs Claire Barnes
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 29th January 2018 at 7pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Brookman, Knight, Hudson, and Chicken. Also present Cllrs Downe, Winser and Finlay, and John Willmott.
Emma Morris (GWR) and Paul (ACORP) and James Denholm

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr M Cusack
2. **Co-option of Cllr J Downe** – *Cllr Brookman proposed Cllr Downe joins H&T committee, seconded by Cllr Chicken, all in favour.*
3. **Declarations of interest** - None
4. **Minutes of meeting held on 23rd October 2017 (meeting on 20th November was not quorate).**
Cllr Chicken proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Hudson, all in favour.
Update on actions from 23rd October
 - **Update on total pledges received towards the Christmas Lights** – Clerk advised £5014 had been received exceeding the £5000 budget.
 - **Creation of working party to meet in January 2018 to fund raise towards the Xmas lights 2018** – **Action:** Cllr Finlay to arrange.
Action: Clerk to add Hungerford in Bloom high up on the next H&T agenda.
Permission has been given for a noticeboard to be erected by the church.
5. **Hungerford Station - Adoption of Hungerford Station (invited contributor from GWR Emma Morris)**

A Power point presentation was provided by the Community Manager for GWR, Emma Morris and Paul from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships. ACORP represent 50-60 Community Rail Partnerships. 5 are in GWR. 1300 stations have been adopted. ACORP works with all rail providers. This was initially to stop rail services from being closed and stations from being shut. Now they are seeing an increase in passenger travel and the aim is to make stations more inviting, safer and friendlier for the community.

Franchises usually run for 7-8 years and they put money towards Community Rail Schemes. GWR is in the franchise process at the moment so make sure you request this when responding to consultations.

An example was presented which listed many ways in which a station could be improved. These included: schemes to boost train travel, a walks panel (as an app), interconnecting buses between stations, cutting down overhanging vegetation, displaying a mural, a cafe, bike hire, community garden, signage, and a waiting room (this would have to be on GWR land not NR). Network Rail has 5

volunteering day a year for every member and these could be utilised. Incredible edible is a national scheme where fruit and herbs are grown at the station and the planters double up as bike racks.

You could involve the local schools and the police who can provide a safety talk and show students how to travel safely to school on the train and how to purchase tickets.

Cllr Hudson commented that the local sixth form had closed and students now have to travel to Newbury to the nearest 6th form. The annual train pass is expensive and an adult fare is charged. Can they help with this?

Paul advised it is the local authority's responsibility but if the school has many travelling this way perhaps a group discount could be arranged. It was noted that fare evasion is not a problem.

Redundant buildings can be converted as part of the adoption scheme. There are none of these on Hungerford station. Cllr Chicken asked what permission would be needed for a portacabin. Paul replied a business plan would be needed and we would need to secure funding.

Cllr Hudson advised a station development brief had already been drawn up which went to WBC. John Willmott carried out a thorough study of the station recently. It is in a poor state despite a repaint and there is still no news on the bridge being repainted.

HTC can join ACORP which costs £25 annually and this provides access to events, resources and grants.

Paul advised you need to identify what you have at the station and what you want to achieve. It has to be community led. 'Action days' can be promoted.

Hungerford Station is well used with 370,000 passengers annually. Is there any guarantee of money?

ACORP has a small pot of funds and so do GWR. This would be available for improvements to the station, the car park and the development area. Aspirations could include a volunteer program, a walking route or guided walks to and from station, NWD marketing, advertising of festivals, extending Hungerford in Bloom to the station to include planters with water harvested from the shelter roof, involvement of other groups such as schools, local pub and garden centre.

There are opportunities to include other businesses alongside the existing Carpuccino, such as bike hire, car wash and valet. Volunteers can be encouraged to regularly report problems such as broken benches and lights.

The Community Rail Partnership could see the linking up of Hungerford with other villages such as Kintbury and Bedwyn. The Regional Strategic Development Manager would work with us, rather than Emma on this. She works at the volunteering level.

Would it help communications with Network Rail and GWR if we were to adopt our station? Emma replied they cannot change the rules but they will help facilitate.

- **Report from John Willmott** - He advised the bridge painting is GWR's responsibility. Paul Willis at GWR has been helpful and does chase the work to be done. However all work that has been done is of poor quality and John has asked when the next decoration is due to which he has had no answer. Paul Willis is trying to get GWR to take on NR work. We need to take NR up on the 5 days volunteering. The litter is still bad and the station floods around the exits. The roof shelter has not been cleaned properly.
- **Update on action of car park solutions for consideration if parking at Oakes Bros site is lost.** Cllr Chicken - Outstanding action on Car parking. Cllr Hudson has spoken with Anthony Buckwell and is still waiting to see what happens with Oakes Bros temporary car park. The parking cost has risen to £4.20 a day compared to the GWR/NR car park which is £2.50 a day. The temporary car park could be closed now the Oakes Planning application has been refused.
- **Update on request for financial input from WBC (via members' bid) towards shelter cost and update on CCIF bid.** The Clerk is chasing WBC directly for access to the member's bid to support the GWR grant application. Prices have been obtained to extend the shelter and we are still waiting to hear from GWR if the CCIF application has been successful. The date has been delayed.

6. **Lamp posts – Consider plans to upgrade old style lampposts** Out of the 102 lamp posts that HTC own, 35 are columns and the rest are bracket mounted. Two brackets have failed. HTC would like to transfer these assets to WBC but they will only accept them if they are brought up to their spec. HTC lamps are sodium type and those are no longer available from the manufacturer so we will be going over to LED and the Tally Ho! may be the first to receive an LED lamp. WBC needs a whole street to adopt as they won't adopt lamp posts individually. This is costly. Radley Road has 6 lamps and would cost £800 each.
 - **Agree quote to replace lamppost at Tally Ho, Hungerford Newtown** - HTC is still waiting to hear from SSE on the cost to replace this. The one at Cold Harbour has been replaced.
 - **Update on removal of telephone box at Tally Ho, Hungerford Newtown** The pub has a telephone box outside it. The shelter is still there although the telephone went some time ago. The shelter is collecting litter and is an eye sore. The Clerk advised the shelter is on BT's list to remove. **Action:** Chase
 - **Update on Bulpit Lane lamppost replacement** **Action:** Check if the damaged Bulpit Lane lamp post has been replaced.

7. **Review of issues affecting the High Street**
 - **Pigeons - Update on future control strategy** - Cllr Brookman is meeting with Town & Manor and West Berks Council on the 7th Feb.
 - **Complaints of dog fouling** - There is a dog fouling meeting being set up with Town & Manor, the professional dog walkers and the vets. Cllr Brookman will also attend this. There is a dog-fouling problem with the area around the primary school and Fairfields. It was commented that perhaps we need more signs. Ramsbury have many in comparison. Dog bins are on every exit to the common. **Action:** Cllr Downe will take a photo of the signs in Ramsbury.
 - **Church Street Public toilets – Update on condition of cleanliness** - Since the new contractors were appointed there has been some vandalism however there has been none recently

8. **Transport issues**
 - **Bus service H1 – Request for an extra days service** The Mayor received several requests, during his civic events, for the H1 bus to run an extra day of the week. It runs Wednesdays and Fridays. They want it to run on Mondays also. **Action:** Clerk to investigate the cost of this and what we are currently financially committed to and for how long.
 - **Bus stops – Change from Town Hall to Church St** - The Number 20 Hungerford to Marlborough bus route now terminates at the library not the Town Hall. The Number 46 and the H1 are the only ones that stop at the Town Hall. We could try and move the Number 46 to the library to free up the Town Hall for a coach stop. Town & Manor doesn't object to this. John Willmott commented that there was a lot of support for the area outside the town hall to become a seating area.
 - **Locations for Coach parking in town centre** - It was agreed a coach drop off point at the Town Hall would be better than a stop. **Action:** Write to Thamesdown Transport to request the 46 stops outside the library. **Action:** Cllr Knight to discuss the coach drop-off with Clive Tombs (WBC). The land is owned by Town & Manor but its function is a public highway.
 - **Consider purchase of a new bus shelter for Church St** - As the Library bus stop will be more regularly used, a shelter could be installed. A bus shelter was put in at Priory Road free of charge. **Action:** Cllr Knight to speak to Clive Tombs.
Cllr Brookman is set to meet with the Transport Dept. at WBC with District Councillor Paul Hewer and will speak to them about a members bid.

9. **Update on CCTV coverage in Hungerford** - The CCTV at the Skate Park is now installed. We are waiting for a response from the Police on an increased annual contribution. There will be a small electric cost to the Swimming Pool House tenants which HTC will need to reimburse.

10. **Provision and storage of gel bags for residents – Consider need** - There has only been one request in the past for use of these. There was some localised flooding about 10 years ago and there has been a drainage problem in the past. There are 3 rivers in Hungerford and the town is low lying however there is a side flow through Eddington. Radley Bottom was the only flood area identified in the last plan. *Cllr Chicken proposed we don't spend money on new gel bags, all in favour.*
11. **Request for plaque on the war memorial avenue pillar, naming soldiers** Cllr Simpson is speaking to a member of the Royal British Legion that requested this. A meeting should be arranged with the Royal British Legion to see if a plaque is required and where it could be placed.
12. **Review of Action Plan associated with Committee - Feedback required** As part of HTC's accreditation we need an Action Plan. **Action:** Councillors were requested to look at the plan and respond to the Clerk with any suggestions within 2 weeks. It was noted that the Priority rating needed a definition as this should be by urgency not by date. **Action:** Clerk to include a definition. Many of the Town Plan actions are complete. **Action:** Clerk to find out when the next Parish Plan grant is available
13. **Litter Pick – Suggested date Sunday 8th April 2018 - Action:** Put on next H&T agenda to define a list of areas to cover such as the Triangle Field and John O Gaunt School area. It was suggested that areas could be colour coded. **Action:** Clerk to speak to Network Rail to see if they can come and help and provide access to the area behind the station.

Cllr Knight is helping to promote the offering of free water by Hungerford shops. Cllr Chicken will help kick off promotion of the Station Adoption. **Action:** Clerk to sign HTC up to ACORP.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.