

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 7pm in The Library Building, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Brookman, Knight, Hudson, Chicken, and Downe.
Also, present John Willmott, Cllr Crane and John Garvey (Press)

- 1. Election of Chairman of The Committee:** Cllr Brookman was proposed by Cllr Downe as Chair of the Committee, which was seconded by Cllr Hudson. All in favour.
- 2. Election of the Deputy-chair of the Committee:** Cllr Hudson was proposed by Cllr Brookman as deputy-chair of the Committee, which was seconded by Cllr Downe. All in favour.
- 3. Apologies noted** – Cllrs Cusack & Finlay
- 4. Declarations of interest - None**
- 5. Minutes of meeting held on 23rd April 2018.**
Cllr Knight proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.

Update on actions from meeting held on 23rd April, which are not covered in the agenda

- **Flag Display – letter to staff.** A letter has been drafted and will be attached to the next pay slip. Deputy Clerk had spoken to Roger Ballard and updated him on the new flag calendar.
 - The committee discussed the issue as John Willmott expressed concern over the council's liability if an accident occurred. The steps that had been put in place to safe guard volunteers and employees were given.
 - The committee wished to take further steps and Cllr Brookman proposed that a named volunteer would not be able to scale a ladder but could assist an authorised employee provided that appropriate PPE is worn by both. This was seconded by Cllr Knight with all in favour.
- Action:** Office to draft a letter to named volunteer.

5. Hungerford Station

Report from John Willmott on station works– Four tubs have been planted on the station. Town Clerk has sent details of volunteers through to form a community team for the station.

Update on new shelter for the station – application is on short list and should hear shortly. Cllr Brookman due to meet representation of the construction company on 5th June.

Up-date on Adopt a Station –Cllr Chicken reported that by pursuing this it would allow the station to have plants and decorations, as well as being able to apply for grants. Membership of

ACORP is £29 + VAT per year. Cllr Knight proposed that we join this scheme, which was seconded by Cllr Brookman, with all in favour.

Action: Cllr Chicken to arrange membership.

Some discussion took place on the use of the membership of ACORP and adopting the station. Cllr Hudson asked for time to be taken to consider if the station was adopted by “friend” group or by HTC and if there were any implications. The opportunity to apply for grants under this initiative was welcomed as suggestions had been made about moving the fence on the London side to the other side of the redundant hut, allowing it to be used, space for disabled parking was also discussed, the lack of water provision at the station was raised.

Letter from Network Rail – a letter had been received from Network rail about vegetation clearance only the rail line. Concerns had been received by the office and through social media. Some discussion followed. Cllr Brookman asked to office to write to Network Rail to raise concerns.

Action: Office to write a letter to Network Rail about the concerns of several residents about heavy tree cutting in the nesting season. Reassurance was to be sought that they are complying with legislation about bird nesting.

7. **High Street Decorations** – Cllr Crane had spoken to Robert James from (T&M) who was concerned about the trees on the High Street. The land that the trees are planted on is owned by T&M. Previously, treatments by WBC had caused damaged to the trees and he was keen that this did not happen again.

Some discussion took place about the state of the town, with dirty signs, gully clearance, lack of grass cutting and tree surgery. JW asked who was responsible for the land by the bridge on the entrance to Hungerford and the area of land by the Co-op Petrol station. He was working with the Chamber of Commerce to have a “Welcome sign installed”. The state of the lamp-posts was briefly discussed. Cllr Crane informed the committee that he, on behalf of the Tourism and Economy Committee had been working for several years to get a “Welcome” sign installed and was working with the North Wessex Downs to install a sign stating “Hungerford – Heart of the North Wessex Downs”. John Willmott asked if a temporary banner could be put in place. The committee had no issue with this but we did not own the land.

The discussions became lively, with the need of the work to be carried out balanced by the need to work safety on the Highways.

8. **Pigeons in the High Street**

Letters sent to Network Rail – a joint letter has been sent to Network Rail from T&M, CofC and HTC. In addition, a letter with photos was sent from HTC. A response has been received that Network Rail would like to discuss the situation and dates are currently being sought for a meeting.

Feed-back on new signage at the Canal – The response from the Canal and River trust was shared with the committee and it was agreed that the office could pursue this further.

Action: Office to liaise with Canal and River Trust.

9. Buses –

- Alteration to the No. 46 bus stop remains on-going.
- *Update on progress of application for member’s bid to fund the new bus shelter*– Application had been accepted and DC Podger had signed the application, but no further news.
- *H1 extra service* – update from office to cover usage of the buses and the subsidy

The Office to provide a short report on the usage of the bus for one day, and Cllr Knight left that a more detailed report would be of benefit.

Action: Cllr Knight to approach the H1 bus driver to ask him to record numbers using the bus.

Office informed the committee that the subsidy was available for 2018/19, and currently there was no funding set aside for this in the following year by HTC.

Action: Office to place subsidy of the H1 bus on the associated action plan.

Some discussion followed on the type of service that should be provided and if it should be more flexible and the use of the local Handibus. Cllr Chicken raised about children that lived in outer villages that went to JOG school, who were unable to see friends after school due to lack of transport and if they would be able to access a more flexible bus.

- 10. CCTV** – Quotes had been received for the repairs to the camera outside of WHSmiths/ extension of the memory (£1920) and the new camera on the roundabout by The Bear Hotel (£5917.20). These quotes were discussed. Cllr Knight felt that money should be spent on the repairs as we needed to maintain them, he also reminded the committee that a grant was available to apply for in August which would help with the cost of the new camera. Cllr Knight proposed that the quotation for the repairs to the broken CCTV camera was accepted, which was seconded by Cllr Chicken, with all in favour.

Cllr Brookman informed the committee that he would speak to Town Clerk to go through the quotes in detail. He wished to confirm details of the internet connection.

Action: Cllr Brookman to speak to Town Clerk.

- 11. Electric charging points for cars (present by Cllr Downe)** – Cllr Down had spoken to WBC and it was confirmed that WBC were not actively looking into this topic. An experiment on street charging was taking place in one ward area of Newbury and WBC were waiting for feedback. Cllr Downe asked the committee if he could approach some of the companies who provide charging points to see if they were interested in installing a charging bay in Hungerford. (This would be in the WBC car park by The Cuttings, as the Library car park is too small). The committee were happy for Cllr Downe to approach the companies and he would feed back to the committee.

- 12. Christmas Light Funding Initiative – not discussed.**

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.