

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 22nd October 2018 at 7pm in The Library Building, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs, Hudson, Chicken, Downe and Gaines

Also, John Willmott, Newbury News and a member of the public

1. **Apologies noted** – Cllrs Brookman, Cusack, Knight, Simpson
2. **Declarations of interest** – None
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 23th September 2018** - *Cllr Downe proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Chicken, 2 abstentions, vote carried.*
Update on One-stop deliveries – Report received. Item not discussed further.
4. **Any update from John Willmott** – JW has obtained a group of volunteers to run ‘Smarten Up Hungerford’ and he now has a policy and has completed some works. He has been speaking with John O Gaunt School who have volunteered to help. Also, the Church would like help on 8th Nov at 9am to move the 12 tons of screed to repair the canal walkway between the church and High Street. Volunteers welcome. Some of the tasks that have already been completed include the removal of weeds where it was very overgrown on the railings on the River Kennet bridge. He is proposing to paint the railings and create and maintain flower beds. This requires co-ordinating with the owners, Town & Manor with whom a meeting is planned.
Concern was voiced over carrying out work that should be completed by West Berks Council themselves and therefore abdicating them from their responsibility. JW confirmed they are not carrying out any grass cutting that belongs to WBC.
Action: Clerk to prepare a list of all WBC responsibilities in Hungerford for ease of reference. JW has a list of all the required works.
Cllr Chicken suggested a community business could be set up to run combined services.
JW recommended continuing with the hanging baskets and improving on them. He also proposes to have flowerbeds made and permanent flower boxes to go on the railings.
5. **Budget setting** – Propose any amendments to the draft H&T budget for financial year 2019-20 (refer to spreadsheet) particularly considering the following: -
 - **Effect of Pigeons on the High Street** – (see attached report) – **Consider next course of action and effect on budget** – The pigeon report was read out and Cllr Brookman’s report was considered. After discussion it was agreed a united effort is required to install netting/spikes on buildings along with another cull. WBC environmental health should help. **Action:** Obtain a quote from a contractor for these works to back up the budget figure. It was agreed to add £2k

into the ear marked reserves as recommended to give a total budget of £4000 for pigeon control.

- **H1 bus route – Add an additional budget for a service on Mondays** – After discussion it was decided it was too expensive to pay for an additional Monday service as this wouldn't be subsidised by WBC. *Cllr Hudson proposed £4k, as suggested, is put in next year's budget to continue the H1 service for 2 days a week, seconded by Cllr Chicken, all in favour.*
- **Planters, soil and plants (see attached report) – Consider additional budget for planters** – Refer to discussion under agenda item 4. There is limited space for planters and there is concern over the impact on visibility for motorists and access for pedestrians. It was thought HTC may wish to contribute to the 12 flower boxes that JW is hoping to place on railings instead. It was agreed to increase the suggested budget from £3500 to £4500.
- **Public Toilets - Feedback from month's trial improvement and impact on budget to improve service** - Complaints about the cleaning have been received. The contractor is hoping to recruit a local cleaner who can be more active in checking the toilets. It was suggested we revisit this in a month or two to give some time for this to be put in place. An increase in budget can be considered later but for now is to be kept at £14k.
- **Lamp posts – Agree next batch for replacement and adequate budget** – As recommended by Cllr Brookman the committee agreed the figure should be increased from £6k to £8k to include to include the next batch (suggested Park Way) and any repairs that might be required over the winter.

In addition to considering the above, the budget spreadsheet was considered line by line. The budgets set for the Christmas lights were agreed but it was agreed to bring in £3500 from ear marked reserves in addition, rather than the £4k suggested in the draft.

Cllr Hudson proposed the three amendments as detailed above, (to the hanging baskets, Xmas Lights and Lamp posts) seconded by Cllr Gaines, all in favour.

All other items were kept as drafted. The budget will be revisited at H&T meeting in November.

6. Hungerford Station –

- **Update following conference call with Network Rail/Great Western Railway on parking (Cllr Chicken and Knight) – Refer to report attached.** In addition to this Cllr Chicken advised GWR are sorting a feasibility study and looking at grants. As members of ACORP we can apply to them for grants to provide plants for the station and to help with other improvements. Cllr Chicken hopes to move the fence to provide more area station side to include a toilet and sewage connection and provide electric/premises for the existing café trader.
- **Update on a Community Noticeboard (Cllr Chicken)** – Alison Stone (GWR) is arranging a community noticeboard to be put in place plus somewhere to display banners. It was noted the bridge at the station needs painting and is not on any work schedule which could be due to future electrification works.

7. Buses – Progress on the purchase of the bus shelter

– A new supplier (Externiture Ltd) has been approached as the previous company has gone into liquidation. The cost is £4085 plus VAT. The company can also provide two noticeboards for £230, one attached to the shelter and one for the library wall. The shelter is 3 bay and of aluminium construction. A member's bid has been agreed which is a matched funding offer. The committee wished to see an image of the shelter before agreeing it. **Action:** Add to Full Council agenda.

8. Fairview Road Footway – Update from site visit on the lack of visibility from the Fairview Road/Park Street/Station Road junction

– There is scope for extending the white line at the station road junction further out to give better visibility. There is also a possibility on the east side of Fairview Road to improve the path. **Action:** Wait feedback from West Berks Council.

A member of public who lives on the corner of Station Road opposite the old Police station site, offered to knock down his wall to provide better access, however his wall is retaining a bank, so this would prove expensive.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

Highways and Transport Committee

22/10/2018

Agenda Item No 6.

Hungerford Station

Background

We had a meeting with GWR and Network Rail in September to look at carpark options. This latest meeting was a follow up on that.

Objective

A new carpark in the Station area to replace the current temporary carpark situated to the left of the Railway Inn

Options

Two areas were considered, at the meeting. The favourite being an area to the south of the track, at the east end of the current carpark. This piece of land stretch is between the industrial area and the track.

The second favourite area is to the north of the track behind the platform. This can be used for drop-off, disabled parking, taxis, and cycle parking.

Please see attached images

Financial and Legal implications

Not known at this stage.

Reference to Council Strategy, where relevant

N/A

Consultation Meeting was attended by:

Tom Pierpoint, from GWR, and Luke Chard from Network Rail, Rob Chicken, Keith Knight

Other information

The current situation, following our recent telephone conference call is that Luke will distribute a notice to all departments in Network Rail asking if anyone needs this land for any purpose. This process normally takes about 3 months to complete, and we have scheduled another telephone conference call in January to find out the results of this.

With regard to the minor works we wish to carry out on the north side, i.e. move the rail adjacent to the barriers so that area becomes 'platform side' as opposed to 'track side', in preparation for building a permanent snacks and drinks kiosk together with a toilet.

Luke is pursuing these items separately and we are hoping to get a power supply for the snacks van soon, as a first stage in this exercise.

Recommendation(s)

N/A

Signed:

Rob Chicken
22/10/2018

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

Highways and Transport. 22nd October 2018

Agenda Item No 5

State item

Background

The number of pigeons in Hungerford has caused considerable problems for many years. A trap and dispatch was carried out in September 2017 resulting in the removal of 105 birds. A meeting was held in February 2018 between T&M, Chamber of Commerce, HTC and WBC Environmental Health team and it was decided to fire gel the T&M building to see if this was effective. For a three-month period, the fire gel was observed to be effective, but this caused the pigeons to move their roosting perches to other buildings. HTC have received a number of complaints about the effect of pigeons. (see Appendix 1)

Objective

Create a clean High Street to allow people to walk in a safe environment.

Options

1. We leave it as it is e.g. trap and dispatch every two years – The population levels will return to original levels as populations are sustained by the amount of food available to it.
2. Mixed response of some businesses “pigeon proofing” their buildings – the population will move to those businesses not protected.
3. All properties in the High Street work together to pigeon proof their properties after a trap and dispatch has been carried out.

Financial and Legal implications

1. Last trap and dispatch was £2000
2. Fire gel: <https://www.pestcontroldirect.co.uk/bird-free-optical-gel-fire-gel-for-pigeon-control.html>
15 dishes cost £46, should last 2 years.
3. https://www.birdspikesonline.co.uk90/Bird-Spikes/Defender4-Bird-Spikes-Steel?gclid=EAlaIqobChMI3riSk-eK3glVRrnACh07xAUKEAYYBCABEgK72fD_BwE

Pigeon spikes: 900 strips would be 300m of spiking costing £1170 (have to include glue and cost of installation).

Netting: <https://www.pestcontroldirect.co.uk/bird-pest-control/bird-netting.html>

Range of sizes depending on building

Reference to Council Strategy, where relevant

Maintaining High Street, clean and safe environment

Consultation:

A consultation of businesses in the High Street would be needed, possibly by Survey Monkey to see if there was an interest to protect their properties. Cost of defences and installation should be split.

Other information

The risk is that if the pigeons are left the population level will remain and the appearance of the Hungerford will deteriorate considerably. There is a risk of incidents and accidents in the areas that have a high level of excrement. The benefits are the community of Hungerford working together and creating a safe environment.

Recommendation(s)

Option 3 is recommended, but happy to discuss how to move this forward to resolve the problem.

Signed: Philippa Adams 16th October 2018

Photographic evidence

Pigeon mess outside TSB bank (8th October 2018)



Area under the Railway Bridge



Area under the Railway Bridge, by the large map of Hungerford

Complaint made into the office



A visitor to Hungerford came into the office on 12th October to report that they had fallen over in the pigeon excrement outside No. 5 High Street.

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

H&T 22nd October 2018

Agenda Item No 5

Floral displays in the High Street – consideration of alternative display types and the effect that is created in the town

Background

HTC is considering altering the type of floral display in the High Street. Costings for three-tier planters have been researched

Objective

Council is looking to achieve an attractive atmosphere to Hungerford, creating a feel-good factor and help to attract trade to the High Street. It has also been shown to lift spirits and give a reminder of the seasons. Office was asked to find further information about the planters.

Options

1. Planters from Wybone are made of glass fibre, free delivery on orders over £500
2. Planters from Amberol are made of polyethylene, delivery costs £45 per pallet.
Different planters could be considered which are street level (promenade planter, £390.75; metre square planter, £288.75)

Financial and Legal implications

Gold lettering effect

1. Wybone - Place a Perspex plate on planter with gold lettering (£30)
2. Amberol – Town crest £36.25 for 1 and £23.65 for 2-5
Wording for one side (Promenade £65.20; square £39.40)
Wording for 2-5 sides (Promenade £53.60; square £33.60)

Reference to Council Strategy, where relevant

Creation of a wellbeing environment.

Consultation: Committee to consider the information, in conjunction with previous reports

Other information

Recommendation(s): The best option, based on the above information

Signed: Philippa Adams 16/10/18