

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

THE MAYOR
CLLR MARTIN CRANE OBE
28 COTTRELL CLOSE
HUNGERFORD
BERKSHIRE
RG17 0HF
TEL: 01488 684804
martincrane41@sky.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.UK.NET

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

Present: Cllrs Roger Thompson, Crane, M Wilson, Bumbieris, Brookman, Hudson (arrived late) Podger (arrived late), Small (arrived late), Anthony Buckwell and also John Garvey and Geoff Adams

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Benneyworth
2. **Declarations of interest:** None
3. **Minutes of meeting held 20th January 2014.** Cllr Crane proposed the minutes of the last meeting as a true record, seconded by Cllr M Wilson, 3 abstentions, rest in favour
4. **Co-opt Rob Brookman as member of H&T.** Cllr M Wilson proposed Rob Brookman to join the H&T committee, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour. (Cllr Podger entered).
5. **Performance against budget to date.** (Cllrs Small & Hudson entered). Grand draw and calendar card sales profit is yet to be transferred. **Action:** Check with Jeff. Seat repair budget will be moved to R&A from next year. Income over Expenditure is £2,283 at this stage. Excellent donations have kept us on budget for Christmas Lights and Hungerford in Bloom.
6. **Progress report –**
 - Electrification** - Hungerford won't get this in first phase. We need to keep pressing. Government has strict capping on expenditure. **Action:** - Write to R Benyon MP and ask for an update and reiterate our support for electrification.
 - Brown Signs** – The brown signs don't include the word 'Hungerford' and just show symbols. The signs are disappointing and non-informative. The one by Texaco is a bit better than the one on the motorway. We could look at designing our own sign in the future although previously the cost was looked into and was around £40k.
 - Cold Harbour Road** - There is an increase in traffic and parking along this road which is due to the new Lindley Lodge and Redwood House development. This has been raised with M Edwards (WBC). WBC doesn't have a budget for improvements at present. On 16th April Cllr Thompson has arranged to meet with ME at WBC. Cllr Thompson will be standing down from Chair come May and invites others to become involved. Cllr Rob Brookman will be able to attend the WBC meeting.
 - Hill Side Road potholes & Priory Road Footway** – The road resurfacing plans for 2014/15 will be received soon. Road works in Park Street are very dangerous with a lack of pavement. These are supposed to be low impact road works. It is half way across road by the junction to the station and on one of the most utilised roads in Hungerford. The works ends in 3 days' time. **Action:** - Make contact with WBC. HTC are not happy about impact or lack of awareness. **Action:-** Check road work notices on WBC website each month. Prospect Road access is poor and has been reported to WBC who needs

to suggest improvements. Can we boycott Wales & West as track record in town is very poor? Utilities have to notify local authorities and have to give a period when they will work. Utilities have to comply with LA requirement but the LA hasn't been monitoring enough (only 10% of works are checked). Sanden Close and Homefield Way – what is the long term plan for resurfacing improvement?

Bridge St Crossing - Is money being allocated this year? A petition received 400 signatures. District Cllr Podger is chasing the drawing from the engineers. It is important the District Cllrs are at the meeting with ME. **Fairview Road** -Junction from Park Street to One Stop Shop is very narrow with parked cars. Options are; a one way system but this would speed up vehicles so discount this idea, and prohibition of HGV (7t +) however the main HGV is delivery to One Stop and this is allowed regardless. **Action:** - Ask for planning conditions to be imposed in new development. Look at timing and consider resident's permits with 1 hour visitor limit along Fairview.

Traffic liaison for REME parade (WBC, Police and RBL) – not discussed

H1 bus route to include transport to Redwood House and Lindley Lodge – not discussed

Charnham Road bypass (Cllr Crane) Diverting HGVs away from Town Centre via Charnham Park is not appropriate at the moment due to the amount of parked cars and 2 HGVs can't pass. There is a traffic bottle neck at the Bear. Cllr Crane thinks all through traffic should be diverted. Cllr Small disagrees and believes it could kill the town. It was suggested HTC ask WBC to do a study to evaluate and consult with retailers etc. Cars parked along Charnham Road are owned by those that work down that end of town so they have nowhere else to park. Look at long term possibility. The Town Plan survey shows 81% were in favour of diverting traffic. **Action:** - Investigate.

Chewing Gum - A complaint has been received regarding chewing gum on the pavements. Machines to remove it are very expensive. We could create awareness of the problem using the website.

Northview Heights – Not discussed

Road Damage at level crossing - Action: - Write a letter to Network Rail about the pothole.

Stronggrove Hill - Speeding on A4 It was suggested we buy a speed reactive sign costing £2.5k. A company that supplies them can offer a service to move the sign around to different locations, for a cost. **Action:** - Cllr Hudson will investigate this and bring more info to next H&T. We could apply for a grant. To help reduce A4 speeding we could consider installing a 'rumble strip' at the 30mph entrance. The speeding limits need to be staggered from 60mph to 40mph to 30mph.

Catholic Church – It was suggested extra parking could be provided at the football club for the church **Action:** - Write to the diocese and speak to HFC.

The paving damage outside the Three Swans still hasn't been repaired. **Action:** - Write letter to M Edwards. The driveway hasn't been raised due to legal problems but why can't the other slabs be replaced?

7. **West Berks Council Budget cuts - Public toilet additional contribution – Proposal on new specification.** It was agreed at F&GP that the £9.2k grant received from WBC can be used for the public toilets apart from £1K which will be earmarked for Centenary Commemorations. Cllr Small left. **Action:** RH to shrink WBC public toilet spec to 3 pages – Clerk to forward to him. WBC needs to know by July if we wish to take on the running of the contract. Put on the agenda for next meeting and then to Full Council ahead of July. Look at challenging the rates and finding the split between rates and insurance.
8. **Hungerford in Bloom Competitions protocol.** Everyone is encouraged to grow red plants to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. HTC will look at having 2 categories for small and large gardens and will award less certificates this year. Could there be a prize for the best poppy patch? **Action:** - Bulk buy poppy seeds from Garden Centre. Alison Stone is arranging flower troughs at the station. **Action:** - Cllrs Wilson and Podger to progress the competition arrangements.

9. **Litter in the town – Review problem areas and consider actions.** We make use of community payback team so don't need a litter pick. Litter is bad at; Canal Walk, The Cuttings and between Triangle Field and JOG school. **Action:** Get onto community payback team.
10. **Risk Assessments – To be agreed and signed.** Already agreed at F&GP
11. **Town Plan H&T actions.** Discussed under item 6
12. **Update on Station Precinct. (Taken after item 6)** Can we buy Oakes car park?! A Buckwell declared an interest. HTC has looked at development on a holistic basis. The cost to change access rights is £600k and the perceived development value is £2m. Oakes Bros car park is not used fully and rarely more than 20 cars are in 90 spaces. Other commuters may have season tickets for the other car park so are not yet using it. We cannot be sure long term parking is such a problem. There is a need to monitor car parking when the Oakes Bros car park closes in 2 years. The station area requires a bus turning area and taxi rank. A revised St Johns planning application has been received. HTC approved their application 2 years ago. **Action:** - Sovereign own land behind Port Down and could provide a solution to the access problem. A Buckwell & Cllr Crane will follow through on access problem.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm