

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES** of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange complex, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs Brookman, Crane, Chicken, Simpson, Colloff, Bumbieris, Wilson and Knight  
Also present: Geoff (The Advisor)

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Whiting, Hudson
- 2. Declarations of interest.** None
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016.** Cllr Chicken proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour. Cllr Crane will speak to District Councillors to arrange meeting for Tuesday or Wednesday.

**4. Update on actions for Hungerford Station - meeting with representatives, salt bins**

Cllr Brookman has arranged a meeting with GWR and NR for 28 July. John Willmott is unable to attend however Cllr Crane, Alison Stone and others will.

**5. Raised tree surrounds – To be inspected by HTC**

Reports have been received of people tripping o/s Three Swans and Swift Cleaners. Cllr Simpson and Brookman inspected the surrounds. There is no raised surround o/s Three Swans anymore and there is a substantial fence around the tree o/s Swift Cleaners. There are other raised surrounds e.g. outside chemist. Unfortunately WBC does not have money to remove all the raised surrounds and fit metal grills flush to the pavement. The trees are owned by T&M.

**6. Hungerford Bus –changes to No. 1 timetable timings**

The H1 bus is a half hourly service on a continuous circular route whilst the train is an hourly service. The H1 service cannot be started any earlier due to earlier commitments for the vehicle. Cllr Brookman cannot see any way that these timetables can be brought together but is open to suggestions.

**7. Ice on the footbridge – update on response to letter**

WBC has effectively admitted that gritting the footbridge is their responsibility. They are unwilling to put up warning signs because it would set a precedent and there would need to be

warning signs on all footpaths and roads. Cllr Brookman has written to WBC pointing out that HTC will not be responsible for any future injury claims.

8. **Pigeons in the High Street – update on quotes and approaches.** It was decided to keep Pigeons under the H&T committee. Is it HTC's problem or WBC? Both Marlborough and Newbury Town Council do not pay for culling or trapping of pigeons. They only protect their own buildings with netting/spikes and leave other property owners to deal with their properties. Mess on the pavement is dealt with by the local authority. Choices of controlling numbers of pigeons include: Trap and dispatch, Hawk, Falcons, Shoot, Birth control.  
Cllrs thought the quotes obtained were a lot of money as the pigeons are not on Town Council property. Cllr Crane and Brookman will speak to Network Rail about the few holes under the bridge where they roost and property owners may be interested in using the quotations.
9. **Dog Fouling – response from Here and Now article, location of dog bins to be reviewed –**  
**Action:** Clerk to circulate map of dog bins and add to September agenda. A new location was suggested by the canal footbridge.
10. **Hungerford footway lighting – update on ownership,**  
**- discussion on types of lighting to allow response to WBC to be prepared.**  
Cllr Brookman advised HTC owns 105 street lights a legacy from Hungerford RDC days. 36 are lamp columns and 69 are mounted on wood poles. WBC inspects, maintains and repairs these using their term contractor and the cost is included as 'special expenses' in the Council Tax. WBC has agreed to send a simple condition report after the inspection in November /December each year. Once we are in possession of the condition reports we can decide what replacements are required on safety grounds. Replacement of equipment is at HTC cost. WBC will not take ownership of the columns on a piecemeal basis and would only do so if all columns are brought up to the same standard as their own.  
**Action:** Consider replacement value of lights for asset list. **Action:** Cllr Simpson to advise name of the road that is badly lit off of Priory Road. Add to next agenda. **Action:** Confirm the locations of the concrete lampposts with cracks to Cllr Brookman and wait for condition report.
11. **Speeding in the Charnham Park area – discussion about the complaint received –** Speeding has been reported past Little Rainbows in Charnham Park. Under our Transport Improvement programme we have said that we would like a 30mph limit in that area. The clerk has asked TVP to carry out a few speed checks which they agreed to do. Cllr Brookman has asked WBC to consider a reduction in speed limit from 40mph to 30mph which they will do once they have carried out a speed check which will be after the school holidays. **Action:** Cllr Brookman will look at parking near Berkshire Labels which is happening too close to the junction.
12. **Consider the specification of Christmas Lights.** Xmas lights costs go up every year. There is some feedback that lights are over the top. One option is to provide a budget to contractors to see what they can do for a set price. Other suggestions were to just have one main tree and lose the one by the canal. The amount of lights could be reduced by having them more spaced out. Cllr Crane suggested looking for sponsorship per area/street and invite companies to sponsor. The cost is mainly labour and so saving money on the cost of trees is not going to make much impact.  
A working party needs to be set up. The first meeting is scheduled for 31st August. Cllrs Crane and Simpson will attend. **Action:** Clerk to invite Rod and ask for volunteers from the Town Council to join. Items for discussion include, reducing cost of lights,

entertainment, celebrity and fundraising. **Action:** Clerk to request Adam to MC and supply sound system. **Action:** Cllr Crane will invite a celebrity guest to switch on lights.

- 13. Advertising underneath Hungerford Railway Bridge** – HTC received a request for another noticeboard to go under the bridge. Previous requests have been received and due to lack of space refused. **Action:** Clerk and councillors to consider options to improve the noticeboards under the bridge and bring to next meeting.

**Meeting closed at 8:10 pm.**