

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** held on Monday 26th February 2018 at 8pm in The Library Building, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Brookman, Knight and Downe. Also present John Willmott.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Hudson and Chicken
2. **Co-option of Cllr Cusack and Finlay** – *Cllr Brookman proposed Cllr Cusack joins H&T committee, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour. Cllr Finlay was not present at the meeting and therefore was not co-opted onto the committee.*
3. **Declarations of interest** - None
4. **Minutes of meeting held on 29th January 2018.**
Cllr Brookman proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Downe, all in favour.
Update on actions from 29th January
 - **Creation of working party to meet in January 2018 to fund raise towards the Xmas lights 2018 – Action:** Cllr Finlay to arrange. Remains out-standing. **Action:** Town Clerk to send a letter to Cllr Finlay to ask if was going to carry out his action.
 - **Update on action of car park solutions for consideration if parking at Oakes Bros site is lost.** Cllr Chicken - Outstanding action on car parking.
 - **Update on request for financial input from WBC (via members' bid) towards shelter cost and update on CCIF bid.** HTC has been short-listed for the CCIF bid, so no money will be sought from the WBC (members' bid).
 - **Lamp post at the Tally Ho!** - This is still not fixed, by Cllr Brookman will contact WBC on 28/02/18 to give permission to go ahead with the quote to replace the lamp post.
 - **Request for plaque on the war memorial avenue pillar, naming soldiers** - a plaque is present on the War Memorial naming the soldiers on the east side. No further action required.
5. **Hungerford in Bloom– Future scope of the competition**

A document had been prepared to summarise the competition last year and the type of competition that would be liked to be run this year, as it reaches its 10th Year of running. Cllr Brookman would like to see the competition take place again in 2018, which was supported by Cllr Knight. It was suggested that the entries from Bearwater were judged as individuals and not as a community entry. It was suggested that the Office approach a number of other community groups to see if they would like to enter this year.

Competition could be tied in with HADCAF.

Action: Office to contact HADCAF organisers to see if can be part of the event.

The range of classes was discussed and in 2018 will include Private front garden display, private back garden display, school class, community and commercial entry.

Action: Office to approach community groups to determine interest

Action: Office to generate a summary of the classes

6. Review of Action Plan associated with Committee

- Update on rating definition: a definition has been provided to the committee
- Date of next Parish Grant. Action: Office to email date to the committee.

Committee were asked to review the action plan and return comments to the office by Monday 5th March.

Action: Committee members to send comments back to Office.

7. Litter Pick – defining of areas to be targeted

The areas to be targeted are the Canal path, High Street, The Cuttings, Fairview Road, Priory Avenue, Station Car Park, Church Street and Prospect Road.

John Willmott reported that the area behind the Station (north bound) was to be cleared by GWR using contractors. This was welcomed by the committee.

8. Bus-stop and coaching –

- **Update on response from Thamesdown Transport for the No. 46 to stop outside the library.**
- **Update on discussions held with Clive Tombs (WBC) about coach drop-off and bus shelter**
- **H1 extra service – update on costs of running on Mondays and financial implications**
- **Consideration of the future role of HTC in Hungerford car parks**

This was not discussed and it was requested that it was placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. Review of issues affecting the High Street

- **Update on pigeons – agreement of actions following meeting with T&M and others - Cllr Brookman** gave feed-back on the meeting with representatives from T&M, Chamber of Commerce and WBC Environmental Health. T&M are keen to take positive steps to clean up their building. It is intended to seek advice of a specialist contractor to help in the approach taken. Once the work is completed it will be used as showcases to other businesses of how to pigeon proof their property. It is intended that some contribution will come from HTC towards the cost.

Actions from the meeting:

Action: DC to arrange publicity in the Newbury Weekly News, Here and Now in the Hungerford Advisor, Penny Post, social media such as Hungerford Ladies Page, twitter, HTC website. Publicity to emphasise the need not to drop litter, particularly food litter, around the town. Don't overfeed the ducks because this attracts vermin such as pigeons and rats. Businesses such as pubs, restaurants. These can be addressed with a letter drop explaining the need to keep food waste bin areas clean and tidy.

Action: DC to draft letter to all food outlets in the town explain why we are trying to reduce the pigeon population in the town without the need for regular pigeon culls. Feeding pigeons and excessive quantities being fed to ducks in the canal area.

Action: DC to enquire cost of purchasing 3 post mounted signs either side of the canal bridge close to the towpath. We will probably need permission install these from the Canal and River Trust.

Action: DC to draft letter to Network Rail requesting that they complete fitting netting on the underside of the bridge all the way across the road. Letter to emphasise health concerns.

Action: A trial of preventative measures recommended by a pest control specialist company to be carried out at the Corn Exchange. HTC will help the T&M with the costs of doing this but this will need formal financial approval by HTC and trustees of the T&M. WBC advised that it will probably be necessary to carry out a cull for any preventative measures to be effective.

Action: T&M to arrange a site meeting with a pest control company to discuss options, including the use of fire gel, and obtain a quotation. A representative from HTC to be invited to the same meeting. Once preventative measures have been installed and proved successful, then HTC can encourage other businesses in the town to remove their roosting sites using a similar methodology.

Action: Businesses which have been highlighted as having poor pigeon defences will be approached in person to have the issues raised. Businesses can be invited to view the work carried out at Corn Exchange when completed.

Action: Caroline Grey was asked to prepare a paragraph to use to explain the issues caused by feral pigeons, with reference to health issues, effects on the environment and general H&S from slips.

- **Rising level complaints about dog waste on pavements**

- **Information on signage used in Ramsbury.** Cllr Downe provided a montage of photos of the variety of the dog fouling signs displayed in Ramsbury.

Action: Deputy Clerk to contact Ramsbury Parish Clerk to clarify their approach to dog fouling.

Action: Deputy Clerk to research into the type of signs available and costings.

10. Discussion on CCTV coverage in Hungerford – is the level of coverage sufficient at the main exit and entrance points to the town?

The committee discussed the number of entry points to the town which included A4, A338, Church Street and Park Street. CCTV is used to monitor anti-social behaviour. Each camera costs approximately, £2K and it is possible that we could make an application through the members bid of WB to fund additional cameras.

Action: Cllr Brookman asked for the crime rate to be monitored.

Action: Office to place on the agenda for the next meeting.

11. Lamp posts –

Consider plans to upgrade old style lamp-posts - Discussion took place on this item, referring to financing of replacements. When the lamp posts on a street are up-graded they can be returned to WBC. There are some second-hand units which may be available to use reducing costs.

Action: Place on the agenda for Full Council and F&GP.

Update on the replacement of the lamppost at Bulpit Lane – being progressed.

Telephone Box at TallyHo, Hungerford Newtown – no information available.

12. Hungerford Station –

Adoption of Hungerford Station and update on signing with ACORP – No update was provided due to Cllr assigned task was on holiday.

Action: Place on the agenda for the next meeting.

JW provided an update on the station works, which included re-doing of decorative work, painting of the railings and the re-cleaning of the shelter roof. Clarification on the green paint has been sought from Cllr Crane. The laurel bushes will not be cut down. Floral displays will

soon be in place. JW intends to put together a schedule of work to send to Network Rail and GWR to show the status of the works. It was suggested that the Hungerford Users Group was re-started.

Action: update on works to be placed on the next agenda.

13. Christmas lights –

The date for the Christmas light switch on was confirmed as Sunday 2nd December 2018.

Action: Office to confirm date with T&M and inform St Lawrence's Church

Hand-over training for the installation of the lights was not discussed.

Action: Office to place on the agenda for the next meeting.

14. Trade boards in the High Street

An email received from the member of the public was discussed, and the committee were mixed in their views to the presence of the Trade Boards. JW commented that general maintenance in Hungerford High Street was poor and also the route down from the M4 was poorly maintained.

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm.