

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**DRAFT MINUTES** of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs, Hudson, Knight, Cole, Simpson, Fyfe, Carlson, Reeves, Armstrong, Cusack, Coulthurst and Keates

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), and a representative from Newbury News.

**HT20240027. Propose election of the following positions and receive signed declaration of office forms:**

Chair and Deputy Chair of Highways & Transport Committee

Two proposals were put forward for chair. After a brief discussion, the following decision was made through a paper ballot vote.

**Proposed:** Cllr Coulthurst

**Seconded:** Cllr Hudson

**Resolution:** Elect Cllr Schlanker of Chair of H&T Committee.

Also considered was a proposal by Cllr Knight for Cllr Coles as Chair seconded by Cllr Armstrong.

**Proposed:** Cllr Fyfe

**Seconded:** Cllr Coulthurst

**Resolution:** Elect Cllr Hudson as Deputy Chair of H&T Committee.

**HT20240028. Apologies for absence – Cllrs Schlanker, Montgomery, Alford, and Winsor**

Also, from DC Vickers, DC Benneyworth and DC Gaines

**HT20240029. Declaration of interest – Cllr Hudson (resident of Sanham Green)**

**HT20240030. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson

**Seconded:** Cllr Reeves

**Resolution:** Agree minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 as a true record, four abstentions.

**HT20240031. Update on actions from previous meetings, not on this agenda.**

Cllr Hudson has spoken to Traffic Technology about the SID data and has moved the SID to Charnham Park.

**ACTION:** Cllr Hudson is finding out if an adaptor can be used to access power from the lampposts for the SID near Cottrell Close.

WBC are considering if a change is possible from a bus stop to a taxi rank outside the Kebab shop. They have put this on the list as medium priority.

**ACTION:** Cllrs Schlanker and Hudson will attend a meeting with Gareth Dowding WBC to discuss why the agreed safety improvements at The Croft haven't progressed as promised. Meeting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am at junction of Church St and The Croft. Cllr Keates, Armstrong, Cusack may also. It was commented that someone needs to be killed before WBC take any action.

**ACTION:** Clerk requested WBC send letters to all high street properties with rules around A boards, about not leaving bins out, and not parking on footways. Clerk to chase WBC for any progress.

**ACTION:** Clerk requested WBC clean the York Stone twice a year to stop the buildup of slippery algae. We also requested use of a machine to clean the Bridge St Paving. Clerk to chase response from WBC.

Clerk advised WBC the path at Penny Farthing Close is overgrown and covered in mud. It needs to be cleared and bushes cut back. It could have been from the recent flooding. WBC have replied they have closed the enquiry.

Clerk chased up work to the bus stop wall which has been temporarily braced and fenced off. WBC advised this is low priority due to limited budgets.

All other actions are on the agenda or are complete.

**HT20240032. Receive any updates on SIDs. Consider requests for 20mph zone in Sanham Green and Church Street** – Cllr Hudson suggested we purchase another SID as a budget has been put aside. He mentioned that there have been some issues with downloading data to the App. It is unclear if this is caused by lack of battery power. The batteries only last 3 days when sited on a busy road.

**ACTION:** Contact Traffic Technology to see if there is an internal battery which retains the data.

Cllr Hudson advised the data collected does show that the SIDs are effective in slowing vehicles. He would like some volunteers to help him download the data and interpret it.

A SID at Church St would be useful as we have received complaints and a request for a 20mph. A discussion took place concerning 20mph limits. It was thought that although they may slow traffic it has not been proven that they reduce road traffic accidents which are caused by driving without due care and attention. Their impact on the environment was queried with cars using higher revs.

Although London has successful 20mph limits they only work when policed. Putting in one 20mph limit could result in a plethora of requests. Ramps are an alternative which are used in Thatcham.

**ACTION:** Invite Church Street residents to attend the next H&T committee meeting to put forward their case.

A request was put in for a 30mph limit at Sanham Green. We were advised this was going to the WBC review Panel 18 months ago.

**ACTION:** Chase WBC to find out how the 30mph limit request for Sanham Green has progressed.

**HT20240033. Progress on EV chargers.** Weekly meetings are taking place with SWARCO. WBC advised ‘no installation date can be given until the details of the feasibility report are understood and an order has been raised. I am aware of the EV event that is being planned in Hungerford for 26th June. Whilst I cannot commit to the EVCPs being installed by then, we will endeavour to have information available by this date of the installation period and exactly ‘what is coming’ and how people will be able to make use of the charge points.’

**HT20240034. Preparations for Christmas Lights 2024. Improvements and issue of tender.** Cllr Keates advised A pre-survey went ahead with Shield and our maintenance man. WBC requested detritus was removed from the streetlights. Each lamppost now has a socket. Wherever possible lighting will be taken from the streetlights. Boxes are now mounted on buildings, not posts. The boxes contain timers, and some were damaged by condensation. This has been largely sorted. Plugs need to be purchased and put in place. Photo sensitive light sensors have been suggested by Shield going forward. If we want this, we can swap timers with sensors as they wear out. The short to the earth on the main tree is a problem. It has been suggested the cable goes overground and to streetlights like all the other trees to save expensive work underground. Cllr Armstrong added that cabling needs sorting by cottages in high street numbers, 67,68 and 69. Cllr Keates can sort it.

**ACTION:** A survey needs to happen by Shield asap, so the report is back to the office by 14<sup>th</sup> June so the tender can be prepared in good time.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Keates for his work.

**HT20240035. Receive update on CCTV coverage.** The Clerk advised CCTV footage is now up and running from the Croft Field and viewable in the office. It was mentioned that CCTV coverage is needed at the top (south) end of town. There was support for ANPR cameras in town, possibly two, subject to funding.

**ACTION:** Consider ANPR cameras in more detail, including locations and any Police grants available.

**HT20240036. Future maintenance of HTC 31 x streetlights – Report from Cllr Schlanker. (refer to attached)** The report was considered and discussed. Questions were asked if the lampposts are safe and do the public want to retain them and should there be a public consultation.

**ACTION:** Request WBC conduct a survey to determine the current condition of the lampposts.

**HT20240037. Receive any updates on footpaths, signage and footway works, including to the High St and The Croft** – York stone has been laid in the High Street on one side of the road so far. The sub-structure has been re-laid so is better. There are concerns that anything driving over the new stones will crack them. It was queried what the specification was. The ducts are very shallow.

**ACTION:** Cllr Keates will write a summary to feedback to Avonline.

Thanks were expressed to John Lloyd who sourced the York Stone.

**HT20240038. Parking on footways and verges and update on installation of bollards**

**ACTION:** Chase DC Benneyworth for progress. Bollards are required to protect identified areas of grass.

**ACTION:** Cllr Reeve is meeting with Countryside on 6<sup>th</sup> June and will mention this.

**HT20240039. Any Health & Safety issues of concern - None**

Meeting closed at 9pm

## **Hungerford Street lighting**

Interim Report for HTC Highways and Transport Committee

**In January of this year West Berkshire Council served notice that they would no longer maintain HTC street lighting after April 2025. This note provides members on the background, current state and proposed next steps to keep the lights running after April 2025**

### **Background.**

HTC has an inventory of streetlights that we adopted a long time ago. We had an agreement with WBC that these old lights would slowly be upgraded as part of the rolling improvement plan and then passed from HTC to WBC. This has seen a steady decline in the number of lights so that today there are 31 lights that still our assets. HTC paid WBC to maintain the lights.

In 2022 WBC council informed us that they would not take over the remaining 31 lights. The reasons given included lights in a rural location and not located being on a highway.

In January of this year, we were also informed by WBC that the maintenance agreement in place for the remaining lights would be terminated in April 2025 and that HTC would need to find and then contract with a new supplier to support the 31 lights.

### **Current State**

I have attempted to plot the locations of the 31 lamps across the Parish and if you zoom into the map, I've included you can see how they are distributed.

A majority are located in two zones with two smaller clusters:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>
Marsh Lane	10
Hungerford Newtown 8	
Upper Eddington	3
Near JOG pub	3

The balance of the lights are spread across the town.

21 on the lights are attached to building on a pole brackets  
10 are 'classic' lighting columns

A couple of observations as I've looked at the lights is that one or two are in a poor state of repair including one at Marsh Lane that seems to be held together by insulation tape.

#### Current status

1. We do not have a statutory duty to provide street lighting.
2. As the owner of the lights we have a duty of care to ensure that they are safe and do not cause a potential accident by falling off a wall or becoming 'live'
3. The line items in the H&T budget that currently cover the run costs of the existing lights for this year that include running costs (power and maintenance) which is paid to WBC (Line item 4365)
4. We have limited capital in ear marked reserves for repairs and replacements
5. We do not currently have a maintenance contract in place for 25/26

#### Next Steps

1. That a proposal is passed by this committee to:
  - a. Review all the lights and locations and see if any or all can be removed and to understand to cost of removal
  - b. To ask Claire to ask for quotes for the maintenance of the 31 lights
  - c. That the chair of H&T should review the current budget costs with F&GP including the purpose of the line items in the current budget and start to plan for FY25/26
  - d. That this report is circulated to full council for information and discussion
  - e. Clerk and the Chair will report back to this committee at the next FTC meeting.