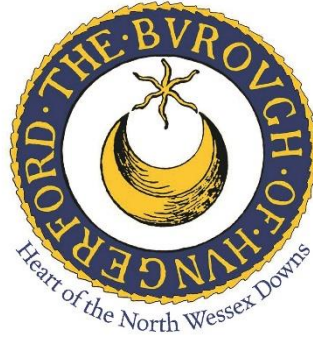


# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**DRAFT MINUTES** of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs, Keates, Simpson, Fyfe, Reeves, Coulthurst, Montgomery, Cole and Winsler.  
**In attendance:** Claire Barnes (Town Clerk)

**HT20240068. Elect new chair**

**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson

**Seconded:** Cllr Coulthurst

**Resolution:** Elect Cllr Keates as the new chair.

**HT20240069. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs, Knight, Hudson, Carlson, Armstrong and Alford.

**HT20240070. Declaration of interest** – None

**HT20240071. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**

**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson

**Seconded:** Cllr Coulthurst

**Resolution:** Agree minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 as a true record, four abstentions.

**HT20240072. Update on actions from previous meetings, not on this agenda.**

WBC (West Berks Council) has instructed WH Smith to move their bins around the back of their property. Other enforcement letters are going out to businesses to do the same. Residents are also being letter dropped to keep their bins off the high street. Where that is not possible, they will be asked to use a bin bag to put out only for the day of pick up. Cllr Cole proposed a thanks to WBC for actioning this.

The Clerk has put Tactical Cleaning in touch with WBC to provide a quote for pavement cleaning in the high street as nothing was heard from Veolia industrial.

**ACTION:** Write to Newbury News about the lack of Network Rail action in response to our request for renewal of the broken spikes (pigeon proofing) under the railway bridge.

It was noted Town & Manor are reviewing the pigeon deterrents they have in place on the town hall.

**ACTION:** Cllr Fyfe will recirculate his PowerPoint about the accident hotspot at Hungerford Newtown so councillors can add any other incidences they are aware of such as the lorry reported backing into the Care home.

Cllr Coulthurst has spoken to Thames and Chilton to find out about Britain in Bloom. She will be visiting Amersham in mid-Dec with the Deputy Clerk to learn from their experience as they have been entering the competition for a while.

Four new batteries for the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) have been bought and a new SID ordered.

**ACTION:** Cllrs Keates and Coulthurst will progress with funding requests to support the cost of the SIDs. The CCTV camera in the Croft Field is up and running.

A request was put to WBC to not implement the evening/overnight parking charge in the car parks. Unfortunately, they have proceeded with it. Information on parking permits has been received from WBC. The maximum permitted per household is 2.

**ACTION:** Cllrs Coulthurst, Keates and the Clerk will revisit the Volker costs provided for streetlighting to see if all our questions have been answered.  
The RFO has priced the energy costs.

**HT20240073. Receive any updates on SIDs and speeding. Update on purchase of equipment** – Whilst four batteries have been received for the SIDs another four are needed. An adaptor to enable a SID to be powered by a lamppost is being sought. Solar power is an option for SIDs that are permanently placed as the additional equipment makes them difficult to move.

**ACTION:** Order four more SID batteries and obtain an adaptor.

The Town & Manor are pursuing a 20mph limit across the Common and are looking into installing sleeping policemen. This is a long slow process.

Cllr Hudson has put together an information sheet on the benefits of a 20mph speed limit. Cllr Reeves has responded to this. There is not enough data to view the success of the 20mph limits in Wales yet. This could be reviewed in 6 months' time. It was noted that both Marlborough and Kintbury have 20mph limits and there is a demand from the residents of Church Street, Hungerford for one. There is already natural traffic calming in Church street with the residents' parking spaces narrowing the road. It has been suggested that a raised area in the high street could be put in place to slow traffic however this is thought to be cost prohibitive.

**Proposed:** Cllr Coulthurst

**Seconded:** Cllr Montgomery

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Investigate moving a SID into Church Street to collect our own speed data.

**HT20240074. Receive the following update on safety improvements at The Croft following our site meeting.** *D Wilding from WBC advised his colleague is just revising two of the option drawings based on the TC's preference to retain all current on street parking. Once the design option drawings have been revised, these will be issued to an independent road safety auditor for their assessment and recommendations. Hopefully by early January 2025 (due to the Christmas period) we should have an indication of what scheme is potentially acceptable given the road safety auditors report findings.*

**ACTION:** Defer this item to H&T in January.

**HT20240075. Receive any update on the outcome of the parking consultations.** In response to our request not to implement the changes to the parking meters for the car parks, WBC advised: *For the off-street car parks, this has already been agreed and the necessary legal orders amended. The tariff changes will be implemented from w/c 18 November.*

WBC further advised: *It is worth noting that we are all awaiting the details of the Council's budget consultation which is launching on 11th Nov. I am not expecting parking charges to be listed individually but I expect there will be a general statement above all fees and charges increasing for 2025/26. It would be worth looking out for this and responding accordingly.*

**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson

**Seconded:** Cllr Keates

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** Request that WBC respond to the previous questions asked about the costs for implementation of these changes. Request again a 30 minute free parking period.

**HT20240076. Consider any change to Action Plan for H&T. Refer to spreadsheet.**

The action plan was considered line by line and updates made. It was noted from a recent parking survey carried out there is not a parking problem in Hungerford apart from it being busy on a Wednesday (market day). Several actions came about as a result of reviewing the action plan:

**ACTION:** Cllr Montgomery to take photos of the littered areas by the station and on the bank by the Cuttings so a complaint can be lodged with Network Rail.

**ACTION:** Request WBC consider converting the bays in the High street (outside Dods and Kebab Shop) into loading bays and coach drop off points.

**ACTION:** Request data usage, of the new on-demand bus service, from Wiltshire Council.

**ACTION:** Suggest 'a no left turn' is considered at the high street/Park Street junction both ways.

**ACTION:** Add to the next H&T to consider CCTV at the top (south) end of the high street.

**ACTION:** Ask REME for a best date for a parade in Hungerford.

**ACTION:** Volunteers for marshalls and hands on tasks are needed. Advertise at the Town Meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr Keates

**Seconded:** Cllr Simpson

**Resolution:** Adopt the action plan for H&T as amended. (*refer to website for final document*).

**HT20240077. Consider annual draft budget for H&T Committee for year April 2025-26. Refer to the spreadsheet.**

**ACTION:** Advise Jadecliff their complete supply of Christmas trees is undersized and spindly this year.

**ACTION:** Consider if less lampposts for Marsh Lane are required as LEDs are brighter.

A possible £3000 is available from government for the town strategy but this would need to be spent by March 2025. The strategy is WBC led, and it was felt HTC should not be funding.

**Proposed:** Cllr Keates

**Seconded:** Cllr Montgomery

**Resolution:** Remove the £1500 budget for the Town Strategy, one against, one abstention.

**Proposed:** Cllr Keates

**Seconded:** Cllr Winser

**Resolution:** Propose a draft H&T budget of £106,992 (4.6% increase) for 2025/26, one abstention.

**HT20240078. To note: H&T will be receiving pavement licence applications to comment on in the future.**

This was noted

**HT20240079. Receive update on Christmas Light Switch on event and councillor involvement on the evening**

Cllr Keates advised volunteers are needed. Please let us know if you can help.

**HT20240080. Any H&S issues of concern including complaints received about lorries parking on Charnham**

**Street.** It is thought the concern of road safety on the A338 by Little Hidden Farm onwards is probably resolved as the owner is reinstating the path. Before that there is a piece without a footway and pedestrians are walking in the dark in the road.

**Proposed:** Cllr Keates

**Seconded:** Cllr Winser

**ACTION:** **Resolution:** It was suggested the verge could be scraped away making a footway. WBC has rights to 1m from the road and it is feasible to run a path going north on the right-hand side. Approach WBC to see if possible.

**ACTION:** Write to the care home to express our concern for staff that are walking in the road.

**ACTION:** Request WBC change the Charnham Park through road to an urban clearway to stop the lorries parking there overnight and to reduce the litter and excrement left behind. The lorries reduce the carriage way to single traffic which is a safety concern particularly near Oaklands school.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm