

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Highways and Transport Committee** meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2024 at 7.00pm, in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs, Schlanker, Cole, Simpson, Fyfe, Reeves, Armstrong, Coulthurst, Keates and Alford

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk)

HT20240040. Apologies for absence – Cllrs, Montgomery, Winsor, Cusack, Carlson, Hudson, Knight
Also, from DC Gaines

HT20240041. Declaration of interest – None

HT20240042. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 28th May 2024

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: Agree minutes of 28th May 2024 as a true record, one abstention.

HT20240043. Update on actions from previous meetings, not on this agenda.

Councillors attended a meeting on 6th June with Gareth Dowding and David Wildish of WBC to discuss why the agreed safety improvements at The Croft haven't progressed as promised. Reasons included the current footway not being wide enough and by correcting this the road would be narrowed by half a metre which meant that parking would be lost. Safety concerns were observed during the site meeting, residents exiting their properties onto the road where there is no footway, which could be a reason to have the footway on the opposite side of the road, and pedestrians were walking in the road with pushchairs rather than use the badly maintained footway. A safe route to the nursery would mean extending the footway all the way along and putting in a pedestrian crossing. This would be difficult to implement, and loss of parking would be a concern.

ACTION: Clerk to continue to chase WBC for the 2 options that they were costing for safety improvements at The Croft.

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. WBC advised they have not yet sent out any letters and apologise for the delay. They are currently filling a vacant position next week, and this role will include monitoring commercial bins being left out across all town centres in the district. They are hopeful that we will see improvements over the coming months.

ACTION: Clerk to continue to chase WBC for any progress.

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. WBC advised they do not have the equipment to wash or scrub pavements as this is not included in the service they provide with Veolia. However, they will liaise with Veolia and their colleagues in Highways to explore any possible actions they can take ahead of October.

ACTION: Clerk to continue to chase WBC for any progress.

ACTION: Cllrs Keates and Schlanker to research how York stone is cleaned/maintained elsewhere.

ACTION: Chase for update mid Sept on installation of EV chargers.

ACTION: Cllrs Hudson and Reeves to put factsheet together regarding 20mph speed limits. Add to next H&T agenda.

HTC have been advised we cannot just install an ANPR camera but would need to meet criteria. It was agreed this should be down to the Police to fund and install.

All other actions are on the agenda or are complete.

HT20240044. Receive any updates on SIDs. Refer to report attached

A price for an adaptor, to allow a SID to access power from a lamppost, has been obtained. Permission would be needed from WBC. The SID by the BMW garage would be an option.

ACTION: Cllrs Keates and Schlanker to do a site visit to see if it could be easily fitted to a lamppost.

Some of the SID batteries are not holding their charge for very long.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Coulthurst

ACTION: **Resolution:** Agree to spend up to £300 on new batteries for the SIDs

ACTION: Cllr Hudson will look for recommendations for purchasing an additional SID and bring back to committee in September.

Traffic Technology confirmed the SIDS have an internal battery which retains the data.

Residents haven't been personally invited to attend committee meetings about their case for reduced speed limits but are still welcome to attend.

HT20240045. Speed limit request for Hungerford Newtown. A member of public has requested a reduction from 50mph to 40mph further up the hill with the addition of black and white arrows to warn people of the bend. Slowing traffic from this point would make the entrance to both the care Home and Little Hidden Farm very much safer. They are aware of 3 serious accidents there in the last 2 years. A resident has provided crash statistics near the Gypsy crossroads. The sightlines are bad, and no one is cutting back the verges.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Cole

ACTION: **Resolution:** Request WBC extends the 40mph limit from Hungerford Newtown southwards as far as Eddington House to include the dangerous bends.

HT20240046. Parking – Respond to WBC proposed parking charges by Fri 2nd Aug. Refer to charges. The lack of consultation has been queried by a member of public and this is currently with WBC's legal team. We await the outcome but, in the meantime, have been asked to consider the proposals. Of particular concern was the impact on community volunteers and the Hub with the introduction of an evening and Sunday charge. After discussion:

Proposed: Cllr Schlanker

Seconded: Cllr Coulthurst

ACTION: **Resolution:** Against charging on evenings, Sundays and Bank holidays. Against limiting disabled parking to 3 hours. No objection to increased daytime charges. No objection to a further increase in daytime charges if a 30-minute free parking period could be introduced.

Receive any update on installation of bollards to protect footways and verges. No further progress to report.

HT20240047. Receive feedback on Hungerford in Bloom. Consider entering Britain in Bloom. Cllr Coulthurst reported it was a successful competition with more entries and categories. We were lucky to have a RHS judge who will be available for next year also. HAHA carry out their competition and judging separately however everyone came together for lunch. We were advised that we meet the criteria to enter Britain in Bloom and that we should enter.

ACTION: Cllr Coulthurst will look into what is involved in entering Britain in Bloom and bring it back to the next H&T committee meeting.

It was noted the Hungerford Produce, Flower and Handicraft Show will take place on 24th Aug 2024.

- HT20240048. Decide on location for third tri-bin.** Suggestions include junction at Bulpit with Priory Avenue near the school, by the leisure centre, outside 3 High Street, by the bus stop on Church St. It was noted that there is a long stretch from the One Stop to the Leisure centre with no bins.
Proposed: Cllr Reeves
Seconded: Cllr Fyfe
ACTION: **Resolution:** Request the third tri-bin be installed on the Bulpit Lane/Priory Avenue junction.
- HT20240049. Funding for new bus shelters is available from WBC.** It was agreed Hungerford does not need a new shelter at this time.
- HT20240050. Winter service plan. Consider any necessary amendments by 5th Aug. Refer to documents**
ACTION: Cllr Schlanker suggested that everyone reads this and feeds back their views tomorrow.
- HT20240051. Receive any updates on safety improvements at The Croft following our site meeting.** (This item was discussed earlier in the meeting under actions – refer to item HT20240043).
- HT20240052. CCTV requirements.** Gigaclear have delayed the connection at Triangle Field. Problems were incurred installing the cable due to a blocked duct. Scheduled connection date is now 1st August.
Note: There is budget available to install another CCTV camera elsewhere if required.
Proposed: Cllr Simpson
Seconded: Cllr Cole
ACTION: **Resolution:** Obtain a quotation for another CCTV camera to be installed at Croft Field which has a wider view of the area. Cllr Fyfe will advise the best location for it.
- HT20240053. Any Health & Safety issues of concern including;**
Lack of grass cuts – Cllr Reeves advised he had met with Countryside Dept. of WBC. The third round of grass cuts should have started today. He has presented his research to WBC on why biodiversity in urban areas doesn't work quoting statistics from other towns and cities. He will circulate this to HTC. Some of the main reasons include overgrown shrubbery causing narrowing and cracking of footways, self-seeding of Hogweed, blocked drains leading to flooding, unkempt areas leading to crime and littering.
ACTION: HTC will send a formal letter supporting Cllr Reeve's presentation.
- Broken paving slabs causing another accident in the high street**
ACTION: Councillors to do a walkaround identifying locations of broken slabs and put pressure on WBC to fix them.
Two footpaths Hung10.2 and Hung 18.1 between Little Hidden Farm and North Denford on the A338 do not meet.
ACTION: It was agreed to write to WBC and ask them to contact the landowner to obtain a permissive path.

Confidential PART 2

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

- HT20240054. Consider Christmas Light tender responses and recommendations to Full Council. Refer to Part 2 report.** A working party was formed to review the tender responses. Recommendations will be reported to Full Council in September.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Speed Indicator Devices (SID) Update: July 2024

Signs are operating well overall and are effective at reducing speeds. Updated results are on the latest spreadsheet attached as a pdf (*refer to website for latest reports*)

Been located at:

- 1) A4 eastbound from Newbury opposite dobbies.

749	21/06/2024	27/06/2024	36	83	29	37	45	77.5	36	29	19
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Highest speed over the time was 83 mph, the average 29mph. The average speed entering the town is 36 and 29mph past the sign. A 19% reduction and a very effective sign in the gateway to Hungerford.

- 2) A4 eastbound by BMW garage.

15/05/2023	24/07/2023	27	98	21	29	34	35.1	27	28	-4
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Highest speed is 98mph and the average at 29mph. A smaller reduction from 27mph to 28mph, but due to traffic accelerating out of the town. Any reduction is a win.

This site has been a bit troublesome with downloading data.

It uses the solar panel which is useful so less work recharging.

- 3) A338 Salisbury Rd Southbound.

19577	24/06/2024	15/07/2024	30	57	26	31	37	59.0	30	28	7
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Finally have some useful data for the site.

Maximum speed is 57mph, average speed 26mph. Speed on approach reduces from 30mph to 28 mph at the sign. This is a 7% reduction and a major achievement give the wide road and that drivers are leaving the town.

This site is alternated with the Salisbury Rd northbound into town and have just transferred to this.

- 4) A338 Salisbury Rd Northbound...approach to Priory Rd roundabout

As referred above the SID has recently been at the southbound site.

19577	09/12/2023	19/01/2024	25	72	3	29	34	38	25	24	4
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The latest data shows its an important site to slow drivers approaching the roundabout at Priory Rd (accident location) and the High St. The speed reduction is modest at just 1mph, but given the down gradient this is a success.

- 5) Common at the Kintbury gate

751	21/04/2024	27/06/2024	29	70	21	31	37	53.3	29	28	3
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This is Town & Manor's SID and we have had it at the Kintbury gate since April.

Max speed was 70mph, the average 31mph. There is a reduction from 29mph to 28mph, which is at least something.

Have just moved the sign to the other location eastbound about 200m west of the Downgate.

Many thanks to Helen Armstrong who has been helping out with downloading the data and analysis.

We are looking at several updates and recommendations:

- Repair of the A4 Charnham ST BMW sign as it seems to have an faulty connection into the back of the SID.
- Purchase some replacement batteries. Our existing ones are lasting less time between charges and need replacing. Suggest a budget of up to £300 for this.
- Purchase a converter that allows charging via a street lamp. Claire obtained a quote for this which is £180. NB we also need approval from West Berks street lighting to use (as we do for our Christmas lights).
- Purchase another sign for use at several locations already approved notably at either A4 Cotterall Close and A4 Charnham Close. Also, potentially at new locations such as Church St. A budget estimate for a new sign is £2200.