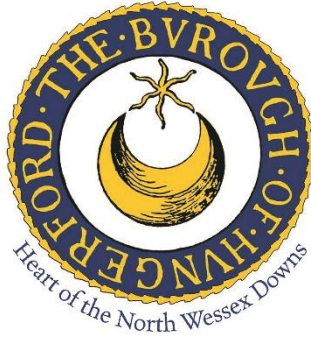


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 6th July 2026 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs, Keates, Hall, Mulholland, Day, Fyfe, Terry, Armstrong, Cole, Reeves and Alford

Also present: Members of the press, District Cllrs Benneyworth (DB) and Gaines (DG), Roger Ballard, representatives from Hungerford Environmental Action Team (HEAT), prospective councillors: Anthony Edginton, Hayley-Anne Reed and members of public.

In attendance: Town Clerk (TC)

The minutes of the meeting are recorded in the order they were discussed.

The Police couldn't attend but have provided a report. **See attached.**

Presentation by the Mayor

The Mayor praised Roger Ballard for going above and beyond in his work for HTC. He already has a Freedom of the Town Award and a Mayors Coin. In further recognition the Mayor presented him with a superman t-shirt! The press took photos and all present gave Roger a round of applause.

Presentation by Pat Glover on Carbon Literacy (*refer to attached slides*)

Pat has a background of 15 years as a micro-biologist and 15 years as a teacher. Concern over her children's future led her to complete a carbon literacy course and the changes she has made as a result of becoming more informed have resulted in her halving her carbon footprint. Her family are now healthier with a family member able to come off statins and they save £4.5k on their annual bills.

There is a scope tool for Councils to see how they fare. Thatcham are an example of a Town Council that has used it. We should celebrate that Hungerford library building has achieved net zero through having an air source heat pump and solar panels fitted.

Pat organised a showing of the People's Emergency Briefing recently at the library and will be arranging a second showing soon.

Cllr Armstrong thanked Pat for her presentation and asked if she had spoken to the Hungerford schools as she felt children should be educated about the future. Pat advised this particular Carbon Literacy course is aimed at 18+ years. She has been to present at St Bartholomew's sixth form and the information was well received.

The mayor advised Council are organising a tri-service event with Town & Manor and it would be perfect if HEAT could attend.

Presentation by John Downe on EV charging locations

John referred to his paper circulated to councillors (**see attached**). WBC plan to install more on street chargers but the locations of those installed in 2025 were not given sufficient consideration which has resulted in very poor use. Two of them have never been used which is such a waste of money. The root cause he advised are that the spaces are being 'ICed' (used by petrol or diesel cars) as WBC had refused to allocate any with dedicated parking. No research had seemingly been done on who needs use of them neither have the locations been made obvious or promoted.

It was noted that there are no chargers at Tesco but there are some at Cobbs. Visitors to the residential properties are having to park at Cobbs.

DG asked where the preferred spots for the chargers are and she will follow up with WBC.

ACTION: Add EV chargers to H&T agenda for an update.

ACTION: DG to speak to John Downe.

FC202600104 Note apologies for absence – Cllr Hudson, Carlson, Brunning

FC202600105 Declarations of interest – None

FC202600106 Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting of 1st June 2026, and update on any actions.

Proposed: Cllr Hall

Seconded: Cllr Reeves

Resolution: Minutes of the meeting of 1st June 2026 were agreed, one abstention.

Outcome of actions:

- DG advised the station yard applicant has put in another application for SUDs. She will send the info to be read out at E&P.
- Reference the Aldi application DG confirmed the applicant and WBC planning are still having discussion concerning the complicated road layout. It may have to go through full planning again.
- The grants policy will be discussed at F&GP committee.
- DRC Drones will be covering some future events for Town Council.
- Cllrs Reeves and Terry will be taking forward Leisure Centre issues.

FC202600107 Consider co-option to fill councillor vacancy – The Mayor reminded everyone that we have seen Anthony's CV and have heard him speak. He has already attended a couple of meetings. Anthony Edginton (a prospective councillor) introduced himself again for the benefit of anyone who had not yet met him.. He moved to Hungerford 2 years ago and is a former teacher, now working as a project manager for Vodafone. He is has an interest in environment, infrastructure and planning.

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Mulholland

Resolution: Co-opt Anthony Edginton to fill one of the councillor vacancies.

FC202600108 Receive Mayor's report. Refer to circulated report. (*see attached*) The Mayor added that Cllr Day and Team have been working very hard on Britain in Bloom.

The Mayor announced the sad passing of Barbara Barr and sends his condolences to the family. She has been a pivotal person in the community and held the Freedom of the Town. She will be very fondly remembered and sadly missed.

FC202600109 Presentation of Mayor's coin – *This was deferred*

FC202600110 Receive District Councillor's reports – DG has forwarded a link through to the WBC website where you can find a summary of all the different types of planning applications, which should prove useful. DG expects the Ridgeway results to arrive within the next 10 days. Existing District Councillors such as herself and DB will stay at next year's election, so will do 5 years. From May 2028 there will be two district Councillors rather than three.

The Library wasn't successful with their Members Bid as the pot was oversubscribed, however an alternative funding opportunity has been recommended. Howard from Lambourn parish has sponsored the Men's Shed enabling them to have their lathe.

ACTION: DG will look into the outcome of Council's application.

The Chestnut Walk site visit is coming up. DG is the applicant for that scheme so won't be sitting on the WAP committee. The Mayor and Cllr Terry will attend the WAP which has been brought forward from August to 15th July. Anyone can attend the site meeting.

FC202600111 Health & Safety – Receive any complaints or concerns –

It was reported that a gentleman fell over in the high street between Morrisons and The Fungi Club.
ACTION: DG will determine if any maintenance is due in the area.

FC202600112 Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated along with copies of invoices) for June.

Proposed: Cllr Mulholland

Seconded: Cllr Reeves

Resolution: Agree payment run of £94,969.54 for June.

FC202600113 Propose accounts to date – Refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report.

Proposed: Cllr Mulholland

Seconded: Cllr Keates

Resolution: Propose the income over expenditure report for June of £129,887 and Cllr Mulholland's report (see attached).

FC202600114 Installing resin to tree pits in high street – This involves excavation and laying of resin. The benefits are reduced future maintenance, improved appearance and removal of WBC's upstands which area trip hazard. Five pits have been trialled. Propose proceeding with a further 10 tree pits at a cost of £360 per tree. Total cost for 15 pits is £5,400.

Town and Manor have confirmed that they will contribute financially, and we are waiting to hear if there will be any money from the Member's Bids. The five pits have not been completed yet. The contractor is sourcing the resin, and the temperature needs to be right to lay it. It was agreed it would be less disruption if 5 were completed at a time. The arboriculturist is happy with the work. Cllr Cole wished the arboriculturist to be asked if the tree roots will be compacted.

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Fyfe

Resolution: Proceed with installing resin to the 15 tree pits located within the pavement in the high street, subject to funding (Note: Town & Manor and West Berks Council (WBC) have given permission.) 2 abstentions.

FC202600115 Britain in Bloom – Update on works. Including improvements to the railings. Cllr Day advised that they have weeded by Barrs yard. Seven planters have been filled around town. Work has taken place to improve the Resource Centre Gardens. Much weeding and planting has taken place. Help is needed with weeding the pavement particularly on the route that the judges will walk. She will circulate the route again. Please can everyone help.

Display boards are being put up on the Library wall and outside Eliane's and a practise run ahead of Friday's judging will take place. The Mayor commended Cllrs Day and Brunning for the excellent 30-page portfolio they have submitted.

North Wessex Downs are looking to put two or three new information signs in the station. It was suggested that a sign could be erected at the Canal.

WBC carried out eco-friendly spraying in June to stop kerb erosion.

Cllr Armstrong read out her report (please see attached).

Cllr Cole added that WBC had used expensive paint on the railings at the top (south end) of the high street but didn't deal with the rust properly. He objects to the approach of removing the railings and replacing them with something else. They don't meet modern day standard but are strong. He wouldn't want to see the railings be painted black and gold (like Bridge St War Memorial gardens) but would consider white with a gold top. The Mayor commented that they were originally white and therefore should continue to be.

ACTION: Discuss the railings and their maintenance at H&T Committee

ACTION: Discuss the location of the phone box at F&GP Committee and bring back to Full Council for a vote. It needs to be managed and maintained by the volunteer group that take it on, i.e. cleaned and locked up etc. it was noted that Hugh Pihlens (Hungerford Historical Association) didn't wish to see it moved from the High Street.

- FC202600116 Request for PSPO (Public Space Protection Order)** - A request was received from Town & Manor to protect Hungerford from dog fouling through the issue of a PSPO. This has been turned down by WBC as it can't be policed. The Mayor highlighted the importance of picking up after your dog.
- FC202600117 Propose Town Council meet the criteria for the Local Council Silver Award.** Before applying for the Silver Award, the council confirms by resolution that all the required documents, information and conditions are in place for the Silver Award and that these are published on the Council's website, where applicable – refer to the shared criteria.
Proposed: Cllr Keates
Seconded: Cllr Cole
Resolution: Town Council meet the criteria for the Local Council Silver Award. All the required documents, information and conditions are in place, and these are published on the Council's website, where applicable.
- FC202600118 Receive any reports (no more than 3 minutes per report and not to include any proposals).** None

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.

- FC202600119 Consider fees and terms for Croft Field.** After discussion,
Proposed: Cllr Mulholland
Seconded: Cllr Keates
Resolution: Hiring out of the Croft Field for parking on the grass will not be permitted. Concerns voiced included damage to field and costs to rectify, safety and need for marshalling and managing properly, checking field prior to hire, unpredictable weather, and problems caused by cancellation at short notice.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

POLICE REPORT

Sorry for the email but we don't have an officer to attend the town council meeting this month due to it being on a rest day. It appears that the August one is also on a rest day but Sept-Dec we should be able to attend.

Just for your meeting I thought I'd send a brief rundown of what we have done this month and any other issues we've identified.

- NHPT have tried to stamp out ASB outside of the One Stop, Fairview Road. We have done this by adding the area to our patrol plan, which means if we are on duty we have to attend there if we are free. We have also spoken to all parties involved and have tried to divert them away from the area. We have had fewer reports in the past couple of weeks and so hopefully this is having the desired effect.
- Officers are still trying to obtain information on an address in Northview. This is in the hope we might be able to close the property down and move the occupant out of the area. Anyone with any further information is asked to report this to us to help us build our picture.
- Issues around the skate park appear to have slowed, we are getting fewer reports and when officers have engaged with the young people involved they have been more than co-operative and respectful.
- Issues have been raised around the War Memorial on Bridge Street, PCSOs have been out there putting up ASB signage and the area has been put on our patrol plan.
- Officers were in the right place, right time last Tuesday when we came across Tesco staff in the car park of Tesco. They were following a shoplifter who we promptly stopped, searched and issued an Out Of Court Disposal for stealing alcohol. He was from out of the area and been informed we don't want to see him back in the area.
- The team also responded to poachers in the KENNET last week. Three males from out of the area were found and also issued Out Of Court Disposals. They have also been told not to return and should they, they will be automatically arrested.

If there are any concerns raised, please feel free to flag to us at the Hungerford and Downlands NHPT email or to us personally. The team also have a chunk of annual leave over the next month or so but we will continue to show a presence in the area as well as respond to issues.

Michael GREAVES-HURD Police Constable 4798

Hungerford and Downlands Neighbourhood Policing Team

CARBON LITERACY SLIDES

Can everyone see & hear okay?

Positive Actions for People, Nature & Climate

A Carbon Literacy® course

Carbon Literacy Project Certified Trainer
Pat Glover
drwatson.eco@gmail.com
www.drwatson.eco.weebly.com



Photo of my children taken in Pembrokeshire, 2013 (watching what we later found out were oil tankers).
I was beginning to think about what sort of future I should be preparing my family for, & becoming aware I was unwittingly making their future worse.
Becoming more Carbon Literate has been transformational!



Carbon Literacy is a respected & credible mark of an individuals or organisations commitment to addressing the climate crisis.

Positive Actions for People, Nature & Climate

A Carbon Literacy® course

- ✓ Learn how to make sense of conflicting information & have well-informed conversations about equality, nature & climate.
- ✓ Share experiences of positive actions, eg lower bills, cosier homes, better health, & any barriers.
- ✓ Be supported to develop two low-carbon actions relevant to your own circumstances, followed by independent certification as Carbon Literate.

Start a ripple effect, eg company marketplaces & supply chains, & friends, staff, volunteers, residents & elected representatives.



Recognised by the United Nations (UN) Paris Agreement 2015 as a Transformative Action Program that could materially change the way we address climate change.

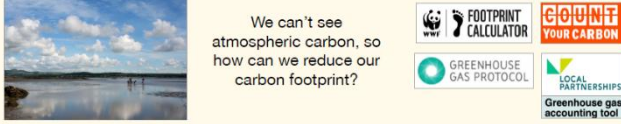


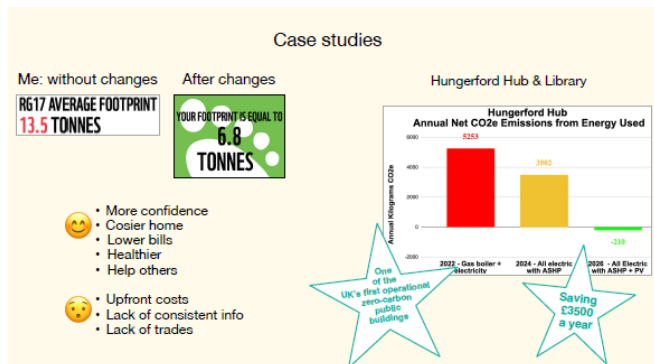
We can't see atmospheric carbon, so how can we reduce our carbon footprint?

Everyday activities. Eg, burning about a pint of petrol produces 1kg CO₂.

Every year, 8-14 tonnes, or giraffes / houses of CO₂e are produced by each of 120,000 adults in West Berkshire.

Over 2,000 billion tonnes of carbon has been put into the troposphere by human activities.



It's not just about: Food, Home, Travel & Stuff

It's also: Money, Nature & Community

1. Where can we get reliable information?
2. I'm only one person what difference can I make?
3. It's not just up to us - who else should be taking action?
4. Is it collectively too expensive to take action?
5. How do we protect ourselves from eco-anxiety or eco-doom?
6. Why haven't we already done more?
7. What about practicalities & price?

Cost of Net Zero by 2050 less than a single fossil fuel price shock - CCC

9 take-away messages

1. **FOOD**
2. **HOME**
3. **TRAVEL**
4. **STUFF**

Are responsible for ~80% of UK carbon emissions.
Many of us can take steps to reduce this by up to half.

5. **Climate Change Committee**
6. **Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations**

- Eating **1/5 less meat**, & **1/5 less dairy** by 2050
90% of the energy in animal feed is lost, & ruminants produce methane.
- Replacing end-of-life boilers with, **eg heat pumps**
Heat pumps use only 1/4 of the primary energy of a gas boiler, due to their compressor action
- Replacing end-of-life petrol & diesel cars with, **eg EV's**
EV's use only 1/4 of the primary energy of equivalent internal combustion engine vehicles, which waste heat energy.
- Society norms & who we identify with
- Practicalities & price change behaviour more than
- Individual knowledge, values & emotions.

Positive Actions for People, Nature & Climate

A Carbon Literacy® course

- ✓ Learn how to make sense of conflicting information & have well-informed conversations about equality, nature & climate.
- ✓ Offer experiences of the positive actions below, including lower bills, warmer homes & better health, as well as possible barriers.
- ✓ Be supported to develop two low-carbon actions relevant to your own circumstances, followed by independent certification as Carbon Literate.

Get into: Lower bills, cosier homes, better health, etc.
Offer: Your food, your home, your life, your future.
Support: Local farmers & growers.
Improve: Transport, through parking & car-sharing.
Check: If your house is suitable for a heat pump.
Consider: Your parents' battery storage.
Make: Local, zero-carbon transport where possible.
Consider: An electric car / car-sharing.
Fly: None.
Choose: Items with less packaging, & repair & re-use what you have.
Buy: Newer than 10 years old when you buy.
Keep: Appliances for over 10 years.
Choose: Sustainable banking & pensions.
Support: For nature, & other better aspects of your own life.
Talk: To friends, colleagues, family, in local newspapers.
Join: Local groups, & become certified as Carbon Literate.

Email: drwatson.eco@gmail.com
https://drwatson.eco/weebly.com

Congratulations to Claire Barnes - Certified Carbon Literate

Over 100 people trained in past year.

252 low-carbon actions for certification

- More plant-rich meals - 40 people
- Electrifying heating or travel when appropriate - 42 people
- Reducing carbon emissions from, eg, less food waste better insulation - 60 people
- Moving to climate-friendly banks & pensions - 20 people
- Nature-based carbon uptake - 13 people
- Education, campaigns, & politics - 77 people

100% people are more confident making sense of conflicting information & having well-informed conversations.
"Reassuring & encouraging", "realistic & enabling", "eye-opening".



ON-STREET ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINTS (EVCP) IN HUNGERFORD

Introduction

WBC have just published their plans for the next phase of on-street EVCPs roll-out in Hungerford. This document assesses the plans and suggests some questions and proposals which HTC may wish to raise with WBC. On-street public charge points are a key part of opening up and encouraging the option of non-fossil fuel cars and vans for households without the space and option of an EVCP from their own home power supply. These new proposed EVCPs are therefore to be welcomed in principal but need to be made as effective as possible as the vehicle market accelerates towards electrification.

Current Situation

For approximately the last 5 years Hungerford has had on-street EVCPs in various locations around the town. These were installed by Ubitricity (now Shell) using central government funding channelled through WBC. They use a mix of existing streetlight posts and dedicated charging post bollards and provide slow EV charging at around 3-5kW (providing around 14 miles driving per hour of use). This is suited to their intended use for multi-hour charging sessions by local residents not having private off-street charging. The current price for these points using the Shell App is 54p/kWh plus a 35p connection fee (this contrasts with typical private home charging tariffs of 7-9p/kWh). When these EVCPs were first installed HTC made strong representations to make 1 or 2 of the locations dedicated to EV charging use initially (where parking spaces weren't contentious) or to at least put prominent signage to make their locations clearer. These suggestions to make access and use of the points easier were rejected by WBC.

Over the last 5 years it has been obvious that most of the EVCPs have had minimal use, not least due to being in places where they are almost permanently blocked by Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) cars.

Earlier this year I made a FoI request of WBC regarding the number of charging sessions during 2025 on each of the 9 points. It revealed that...

- 2 were never used and 1 was used only once in 12 months - all on the High Street
- 4 were used a grand total of 23 times (ie less than once every other month each) - Canal Walk, Charnham Street x2 and another in High Street)
- 2 were actually moderately well used with 238 sessions between them during 2025 – Priory Road and Park Street (both are on-carriageway parking with relatively uncontentious parking spaces)

It seems to me that the “free” money from central government to install the points has not been spent well by WBC given this usage pattern. I assume that WBC has no on-going interest in the usage nor income of these points.

WBC's Plans for Additional on-street EVCPs

HTC have been informed of plans for a further tranche of 6 dual connection EVCPs on the streets of Hungerford again funded by central government together with the chosen EVCP installer and operator “Connected Kerb”. These are again intended for use by local residents who do not have off-street charging facilities of their own.

All the selected locations are on stretches of road where parking areas are alongside and additional to the normal carriageway (ie lay-by parking type of arrangement). I assume this is a deliberate choice. It is not clear that any other location selection criteria have been applied such as number of homes nearby with no off-street space or likely availability of an available space near the EVCPs.

The selected locations are

- Chevron spaces under the GWR bridge on the West side of the High Street.
- The lay-by area in Bulpit Lane
- The lay-by area near the start of Priory Road
- The East lay-by strip in Hillside Road
- The lay-by in Oxford Street, Eddington
- The Northern-most lay-by in Atherton Crescent

Connected Kerb EVCPs will have dedicated power supplies and be capable of 7kW (c25 miles driving per hour of charging) using the Connected Kerb App – ie different to the current Shell one.

WBC appear to be adamant that none of these new EVCPs will have EV dedicated bays nor additional signage.

Connected Kerb's prices are not yet published for Hungerford but elsewhere the charges are typically 54p/kWh 7am-midnight and 44p/kWh midnight to 7am. (44p/kWh is the equivalent of buying petrol at about £1/litre in an average petrol car and so it is much cheaper than petrol but not as cheap as the 20p/litre equivalent off-street charging drivers can achieve.)

Suggestions and Questions HTC may wish to put to WBC

1. Connected Kerb tariff periods

The “off-peak” charging period starts at midnight. Given the intended use by nearby residents this seems like a very inconvenient time at which users need to go out of their homes and plug in. Or are they expected to plug in earlier in the evening and unnecessarily occupy the EVCP but not schedule their vehicle charging via the App until midnight? Can't a more sensible schedule be found?

2. Choice of locations

The selected locations appear to be based on road / lay-by space for the chargepoints and yet the most heavily used existing Shell points are in ordinary on-street parking locations in Priory Road and Park Street. Has any analysis been carried out on the distribution in Hungerford of homes without off-street charging options? Wouldn't this be a more logical way to start? Also, has any analysis been done on the likelihood of there being vacant spaces in the currently selected locations such that there might be a reasonable chance to access the EVCP?

3. Dedicated bays

This is a long-outstanding issue with the existing Shell EVCPs and to some extent is likely to be the reason for the non or very low use of the points as illustrated by the FoI response. Clearly there is a “chicken and egg” dilemma between the provision of dedicated bays and the consumer demand to warrant the dedication but surely there is also an element of “leadership” to reflect the WBC declared Climate Emergency?

Could at least one of the existing Shell points and maybe one of the new ones be made into dedicated bays to give potential local resident users the confidence that they are likely to be able to charge their EV near home?

As demand grows other bays could also be considered for allocation based on the usage statistics.

4. Signs

As part of the promotion of changing to EVs, wouldn't it be worthwhile to clearly sign where these new (and existing) on-street EVCPs are? Once a few cars are parked by the charging posts they will be hidden from passing driver view and will have very little if any impact on encouraging change.

5. Compatibility

Connected Kerb will be the third distinct EVCP network that WBC have introduced into Hungerford. We have the 9 Shell on-street points, the 5 car park eVolt points and will have the 12 Connected Kerb ones. Each network has its own App although there are multi-network coverage Apps available. It can be confusing for new adopters! Can we at least move towards a single on-street network in due course?

HUNGERFORD MAYORS REPORT JUNE 2026

Wow what a scorcher, June hit the headlines as the hottest on record creating challenges for all.

Thank you to Chain for the invite to their social evening and the opportunity to meet the volunteers that make such a difference for our community. Keith Knight handed over the reins Neale Marney as Chair and is himself taking over the role of finance. We learnt that Neale has organised a parade of illuminated tractors that will be driving through the town on December 19th and he invites other illuminated vehicles to join them ending up at the Herongate. Before that however we also have the Hungerford Carnival on the 18th of July. They will start off at the John O Gaunt School at 5 PM making their way to the Herongate via the high Street. Judging will commence at 3 PM. This year we will have a full Scottish pipe band escorting the floats.

We had the absolute pleasure in opening Force Technologies new unique, specialist laboratory that leads the field in verifying electronic components. This is a magnificent addition to Mike and Karen Salmon's business and places it, head and shoulders above their competition.

I met with Richard Hawthorne Principle of the John O Gaunt Secondary school on the 18th of June and was given a guided tour of the facilities. It was extremely insightful morning, and I am full of admiration for the staff who do an amazing and at times challenging job delivering education in what has become an increasingly aging facility. I learnt how they have to fund transport for children within the catchment in order to get them to school especially from the Lambourne area. I have added this to HTC Highways and Transport Committee agenda as a wider subject of no public transport between Lambourne and Hungerford. We will be exploring options and suggestions on resolving this situation.

It was a pleasure to award certificates to the children of the Hungerford Primary school at their assembly on the 19th June. The children have created amazing paintings that will be forming a collage that will be displayed in school Alley as part of Britain in Bloom 2026. It's been a considerable time since I was at school and after the two great visits this month I think I would like to go back because it really looks so much fun!

We attended the Learning disability week event in Newbury and met with many people making a difference to the lives of people that need a helping hand with challenges that they face on a daily basis. I have invited them to Hungerford to enable our community explore available help.

We were kindly invited by the Hungerford Players (Hungerford Theatre Company) to see their production "The Cheshire Cats" It was a delightful evening and a magical production. We were crying with laughter at the brilliant comedic performances that had an extremely touching ending drawing tears for many of the audience. Well done to the whole team especially those wearing bras (not all ladies I might add!!)

I had great pleasure in joining the Camburn Trust and working through the awards for 2026 /27. It really is a wonderful charity that benefits aspirational children / young adults in education who can apply for grants to help them achieve their future goals.

HTC was invited by the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust to view one the Bruce boats that provide disadvantaged and physically challenged people access to the water. The fleet are adapted to cater for disabled needs and really provide a wonderful experience often not possible on other vessels. We were treated to a short trip along the canal interrupted by some very welcome rain forcing everyone back on board at the lock. The K&ACT are looking for funding for the Bruce boats to continue their great work, I have suggested they apply for our annual grants for consideration and Greenham Trust for match funding.

Hungerford Environmental Action Team (HEAT) hosted in the library a showing of the Climate emergency film ironically on the day when the London climate action week conference had been cancelled due to extreme weather. Nevertheless, with damp towels provided and fans we soldiered on. The film is certainly thought provoking, and I urge all who can to view it regardless of your views on the subject. I personally find it ridiculous that new houses are continuing to be built to historic standards and without the very latest technologies. We should not have to be retrofitting new homes and its time now that government policies reflected this.

Thank you to the Twinning Association host Meg Atkins for her kind hospitality for the social get together on Sunday 28th June. It was great to meet you all and we look forward to future events and the exchange visit to Ligueil in 2027.

Cllr Jerry Keates
Mayor

Income and Expenditure Report for June 2026 (Month 3)

101	Finance	Bank interest of £924 received.
102	Administration	Actual Income over Expenditure £1,694 positive variance against budget.
103	Grants and Donations	Actual Income over Expenditure £43,996 negative variance against budget, due to Swimming Pool contribution of £43,179.
104	Pool House	Actual Income over Expenditure £124 negative variance against budget.
105	Contingency	Nothing to report.
107	Environmental & Planning	Nothing to report.
201	Recreation and Amenities	Actual Income over Expenditure £1,498 positive variance against budget.
202	War Memorial Ground	Actual Expenditure over Budget £295 positive variance.
203	St. Saviours	Actual Income over Expenditure £1,115 positive variance against budget.
204	Croft Field	Actual Income over Expenditure £880 negative variance against budget, largely due to timing of bills.
205	Library Maintenance Costs	Nothing to report.
206	Triangle Field	Actual Income over Expenditure £303 positive variance against budget.
207	Flowers – HiB Hanging Baskets	Actual Income over Expenditure £1,070 positive variance against budget.
301	Christmas Lights	Actual Income over Expenditure £30 positive variance against budget.
302	Highways	Actual Income over Expenditure £4,033 negative variance against budget, due to BiB/HiB donations and costs.
303	CCTV	Actual Income over Expenditure £595 negative variance against budget, due to timing of maintenance.
901	Reserves	Expenditure of £909 against reserves due to drains in triangle field. Transfer of £2,138 (BiB grant) into reserves.

Year to Date Income over Expenditure	£129,887
Variance from Budget	Positive: £74,650

Simon Mulholland
Chair of F&GP

3rd July 2026

TOP END OF HIGH STREET REPORT:

Where we are: To the most part the paint is off, of the railings with the caveat of:

- The undersides – and tricky bits that will require the Jenolite Paint Stripper
- The gate: I will send a photo to the vapoblaster in Devizes to see if he can give us a ball park to Strip, Strip & Repair, Strip Repair and coat in anti-rust treatment, Strip Repair and coat in anti-rust treatment & paint. He will not quote us until he sees it. I have not actively followed up on this as didn't want to remove the gate until after BiB and have unsightly cones and cordoned off area.
- The Lamp post end section: Leaving so that the BIB judges can see what it has come from and too

- Cutting Back the Tarmac to expose the Buried bottom of the railings for treatment: Roger has cut the line, we are in the process of removing tidying it up

The next stage being:

- **Exposed area:** Kate from Town and Manor has given me some weed fabric membrane which I will lay down on the exposed area and I have some grey chippings I got free from Facebook I will lay on top of it.
- **Anti Rust:** Treat it with Anti-Rust goop (James can give you the name or there is the Jenolite stuff as recommended by the experts who fixed the railings at the Skate Park, Playground walkway entrance.) This will need to be ordered. Claire?
- **Paint it:** To do the job properly we will be using something like Hammerite. The question here is to what colour. It would be a really nice touch to tie the top and the bottom of the High Street together in terms of colour. I suspect that is the kind of well thought out detail that people like the BiB judges would appreciate. However, I believe there might be discussions on going to change the colours at the bottom end to Black and Gold? It is important that the top end stays a light colour for visibility (it is dangerous enough as it is), but if we can tie up the colours we should. Thoughts?
- **Fixing the railings:** There are a couple of holes in the upright that the swinging gate is attached to. Both ends of the railings have collision damage, some of the uprights have significant rust reduction (not as many as we thought previously, I think) one of the railings is no longer in its seating in the bottom. Who knows what else or if there is even an else once the tarmac has gone. These need to be fixed properly and not with a solution that has a 15/20 year life span or we will be doing this again.

It is interesting:

So many Hungerford residents have stopped to talk to James and or myself re the project. The key themes:

- Wow what hard work you are putting in
- It's going to look so lovely when done
- This end of the High Street is really neglected this will make such a difference
- Stories spanning back years of various people's child hood using the gates going to and from school visiting aunties or various family members

This end of the high street is neglected and shamefully so. The white railings are 100+/- years old, there are even pictures of them in the Town Hall. We live in a conservation area and as such we need to live by those rules.

Those railings have been crashed into, left to rust, have holes in them, covered over in tarmac and genuinely left to neglect. West Berks D.C has a responsibility to maintain them.

Once the work is completed we need clear agreement on WHO will look after them and to check they are being looked after in the same way we check on having the grass cut.

As an aside, as I am out there so much I get a lot of comments in general. The planters that have been put outside of the Sovereign housing flats have been very well received. The residents have expressed how drab and neglected their outlook is. They LOVE the touch of colour and are really appreciative of them (well done Nia and team). I feel strongly that we should elaborate on that and add a couple more planters on the outside end of their walls. I have been watering so far, and happy to continue to do so. Perhaps this is something they can also get involved with over time.

This brings me onto the Phone Box. Why are we moving this out of the High Street. It belongs in the High Street, maybe not by the Zebra I agree. But putting outside of a business in a dark aspect opposite the library does not seem fitting to me. There are spots in the high street, such as in between the planters outside the SH flats (assuming we have one at each end of the SH two walls). The residents there would LOVE to have it there and would be happy to look after it in terms of:

- Locking it each evening so people don't use it as a toilet (This BTW will need to be considered for outside the Library – who will do that in an evening.) and generally looking after it (not heavy Maintenance)
- Use: Book Swap, Seed swap or information function.

My ring doorbell would be able to watch it, is there a CCTV function outside the library?

The pavement is certainly wide enough.

There are other options in the High Street, such as somewhere outside the Town Hall. That would be equally as nice.

The phone box should be:

- In the high street
- Have a use and a group to maintain (keep it tidy) lock it at night.
- Be at the right pavement width
- Maybe discuss with the Pihlens there view from a historical perspective?