

Houghton Regis Town Council
Community Safety Sub-Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 11.00 am

Present: Councillors: Y Farrell (Chairman)
E Cooper
M Herber
T McMahan
C Slough

Officers: Ian Haynes Head of Environmental &
Community Services
Bianca Nagle Project Manager

Also Present: J Carroll

CS21 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

None.

CS22 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CS23 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CS24 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2026.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 21st January 2026, and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

CS25 REDEPLOYABLE CCTV CAMERA LOCATIONS

Members received a schedule of redeployable camera locations.

The Head of Environmental and Community Services had been in contact with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) regarding the Service Level Agreement (SLA) and the delays in responding to requests for camera relocations. Members were informed that a number of issues within CBC had caused the delay, but that the situation was likely to improve in the near future.



Members questioned whether Houghton Regis Town Council could withdraw from the contract if CBC were failing to deliver on the SLA, and whether there were alternatives worth pursuing. The Head of Environmental and Community Services reminded Members that ongoing discussions were underway on an outstanding resolution regarding CCTV. HRTC had already expressed disappointment with service provision and informed CBC that alternatives were being explored following a recommendation from Bedfordshire Police. Members were advised that HRTC could request the work to be done at pace, and the situation would be revisited in May.

Members enquired whether consideration should be given to purchasing a more sophisticated camera model. The Head of Environmental and Community Services acknowledged that this could be explored, but advised making a final decision on potential alternatives to CCTV before proceeding.

Cllr McMahon proposed that the addition of 'to request CBC proceed at pace with the current request and provide an update ahead of the May meeting' be made to the resolution.

Seconded by Cllr Slough
In favour: 5

Members were requested to vote on the substantive:

Proposed by: Cllr McMahon Seconded by: Cllr Slough

Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Resolved: To agree, on the advice of the Police or other reliable information, on the location of the redeployable cameras.

CS26 "WATCH" SCHEMES UPDATE

Members received a verbal update on the "Watch" schemes within the Parish.

Cllr Herber had formed part of Street Watch patrols in Bedford Square. There had been continued incidences of shoplifting. ASB and damage, especially during the half-term.

CS27 ACCESS FOR THE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Members were asked to discuss potential target areas where poor parking might prevent Fire & Rescue Services' access in an emergency.

HRTC had been in contact with the local Fire Service Manager who had requested Members discuss the areas where access was an issue and to decide on those to be targeted.

The Head of Environmental and Community Services suggested that, to maximise impact, focus should be on those streets with a single route of access. After some discussion,

Members agreed that precedence should be given to the following locations: Cumberland Street, Clarkes Way, St Michaels Avenue, Houghton Park Road and Elm Park Close.

Proposed by MH Seconded by: EC

Voted in favour: 5

Resolved: To agree on the advice on priority areas.

CS28 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members voted on the exclusion of the press and public:

Proposed by: Cllr Herber Seconded by: Cllr McMahon

Votes in favour: 5

Cllr Carroll left the meeting.

Resolved: In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

CS29 POLICE REPORT

Members received an update regarding Operation Hana.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:05 pm

Dated this 15th day of April 2026

Chairman

