

Houghton Regis Town Council
Community Safety Sub-Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 11.00 am

Present: Councillors: M Herber (Chairman)
E Cooper
D Jones (Sub)
T McMahan

Police: Sgt Oliver Bancroft Bedfordshire Police

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

Public: 1

Apologies: Councillors: Y Farrell
C Slough

CS30 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Farrell (Cllr Jones substituted) and Cllr Slough.

CS31 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CS32 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CS33 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2026.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 18th March 2026, and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

CS34 REDEPLOYABLE CCTV CAMERA LOCATIONS

Members had been provided with a schedule of redeployable camera locations.

The Head of Environmental and Community Services informed Members that a technical issue prevented the requested camera move from Sundon Road to Thorn. There had been no issues at the Thorn site, and therefore, consideration could be given to installing a camera at a later date.



A Member enquired whether a camera could be placed at the Parkside Drive area, where flytipping remained a problem.

Members questioned the purpose of CCTV cameras if they failed to detect or deter crime. It was questioned whether there was anything HRTC could do instead, and whether there was a more effective way to utilise the cameras.

It was suggested that, to discuss the subject in more depth, the discussion be held in a closed session. Members agreed to defer discussions until the police report had been received in the closed session

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

CS35 "WATCH" SCHEMES UPDATE

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

Cllr Herber had taken part in Street Watch patrols that included Bedford Square and the retail units. Shoplifting, harassment and abuse were continuing problems.

Cllr Cooper had also taken part in Street Watch patrols. Scooters and bikes remained an issue.

Members discussed the possibility of reintroducing the Speed Watch Scheme. The Head of Environmental and Community Services suggested Members could instruct officers to investigate the costs and operational requirements for the reintroduction of a Speed Watch campaign in Houghton Regis.

Proposed by: Cllr McMahon Seconded by: Cllr Cooper

Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal

Resolved: To instruct officers to investigate the costs and operational requirements for the reintroduction of a Speed Watch campaign in Houghton Regis.

CS36 THE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES UPDATE

To receive verbal feedback with respect to the potential target areas, highlighted to Fire & Rescue Services at the March '26 meeting.

The Project Manager informed Members that their suggestions had been relayed to the Fire and Rescue Services Watch Commander. An update was awaited



CS37 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members voted on the exclusion of the press and public:

Proposed by: Cllr McMahon Seconded by: Cllr Jones

Votes in favour: 4

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.

CS38 POLICE REPORT

Members of the sub-committee discussed and agreed that the areas of focus for Op Hana remain the same.

CS39 PRE OP HANNA SLA 26/27 DISCUSSION

Members of the sub-committee discussed the 26/27 Op Hanna SLA.

CS40 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Members of the sub-committee discussed the benefits of reducing the number of sub-committee meetings and agreed to meet as planned in May 2026, but thereafter move to bi-monthly meetings for a maximum of 6 meetings a year. Members were informed that this would be included on the parent committee agenda on the 27th April '26 for their sign-off.

Resolved: To inform the Community Services Committee at its planned meeting on 27th April '26 that the sub-committee would meet as planned in May 2026, but thereafter move to bi-monthly meetings, with a maximum of 6 meetings per year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:05 pm

Dated this 20th day of May 2026

Chairman

