

Houghton Regis Town Council
Community Safety Sub-Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 11.00am

Present: Councillors: E Cooper (Chair)
M Herber
D Jones (Substitute)
T McMahon
C Slough

Officers: Bianca Nagle Project Manager
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services

Also Present: Juliet Wright (virtual) Bedfordshire Police

CS41 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillor Farrell (Councillor Jones substituted). Cllr Cooper was appointed Temporary Chair.

CS42 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CS43 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CS44 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2026.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 15th April 2026 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

CS45 SPEED WATCH HOUGHTON REGIS

A member of Bedfordshire Police's Community Policing outlined the process of setting up a Community Speedwatch for Houghton Regis. Members were advised on the scheme as follows:

- Speedwatch was an educational program rather than an enforcement.
- A minimum of four volunteers was required to start a group with one member acting as co-ordinator.
- Bedfordshire Police focussed on sites with a history of issues and conducted risk assessments at those locations
- One member would be required to undergo vetting

- There would be a short on-line training package for participants to read
- Bedfordshire police would attend the site to demonstrate how the equipment and process worked.
- Bedfordshire Police would provide support at the commencement of activities
- Volunteers were required to register: the speed of the car; the registration number; make; model; and colour
- Upon completion, the results would be submitted to Bedfordshire Police who would write to the car owner. Police would visit any drivers who were caught on more than once occasion
- Every group was requested to carry out two, one-hour sessions each month during daylight hours

Bedfordshire Police could provide leaflets for distribution in order to to encourage volunteers.

Once Bedfordshire Police received a confirmation email from HRTC, they would get the process started.

Members were of the opinion that the named co-ordinator should initially be either the Project Manager or the Head of Environmental and Community Services. Once volunteers were familiar with the process, the role of co-ordinator could be transferred to a member of the Speedwatch group.

Cllr Slough joined the meeting

Resolved: To agree to the terms of getting a scheme up and running. Nominate or put forward at least 4 volunteers, and consider who will serve as the group's coordinator.

CS46 REDEPLOYABLE CCTV CAMERA LOCATIONS

Members received a schedule of redeployable camera locations.

In light of the police report Members considered whether there was a need to move the redeployable cameras to different locations or whether they should remain in situ.

Members noted that the camera at Sundon Road was still awaiting relocation following a request from HRTC.

As no police representative had attended the meeting to advise Members, it was proposed that the recommendation:

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

should be deferred to the next meeting.

CS47 "COMMUNITY SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Members were asked to consider ringfencing £20,000 from cost centre 306/4059, for other professional fees, with available funding of £41,000, to be allocated for the purchase of additional Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and new Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras. The style and type of equipment to be agreed upon, subject to completion of a product life cycle audit.

A Member highlighted that the professional fees were originally intended to fund extra police presence in the town. Concerns were expressed regarding: whether cameras provided a sufficient deterrent; that HRTC would not control the cameras; and spending on externally operated systems lacked accountability.

Members requested that further discussions took place during private session.

Proposed by: Cllr McMahon Seconded by: Cllr Herber

Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposal to defer this item.

Resolved: To approve that up to £20,000 from cost centre 306/4059 Other Professional Fees, with available funding of £41,000, be allocated for the purchase of additional Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) and new Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, subject to completion of a product life cycle audit.

CS48 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Members voted on the exclusion of the press and public:

Proposed by: Cllr McMahon Seconded by: Cllr Herber

Votes in favour: 5

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.

CS49 **POLICE REPORT**

Members received a report regarding Operation Hana.

Members were updated on total crime figures and ASB figures for the previous month:

The report also provided information on current High Demand Locations and officer updates following Op Hana patrols.

Members agreed for the areas of focus for Op Hana to remain the same.

CS50 OP HANA SLA 26/27

Members discussed the the SLA and the budget committed by HRTC.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:23pm

Dated this 15th day of July 2026

Chairman

DRAFT