

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 2nd June 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, M Wilson, Bumbieris, Holmes, Hudson, Thompson, Small, Brookman and Leach

Also present: Approximately 20 members of the public (residents of Ramsbury Drive)

Public Forum: In response to the article in the Adviser which mentioned a roundabout and transit area in Ramsbury Drive, Bethany represented the views of the residents of Ramsbury Drive. She advised that there is a covenant present on the playground area as 'an open space in perpetuity. As it was an old hospital site there are diseases buried underground such as Anthrax and Blue and White asbestos is present under the ground which should not be disturbed. The Mayor advised that the press had picked up on a comment made by a councillor which was merely a suggestion of how to improve traffic congestion in the area by the school. He confirmed no proposals had been made. District Cllr Hewer also confirmed he would not support any changes along these lines. Concern was voiced that many drive to school. The Primary school have a travel plan but it is old and WBC officers are being appointed to kick start it. Can easier access be made for drop off at the Primary school? Liz Allen a new resident who lives in the High St complained about the speed of vehicles driving past Atherton Road. Cllr Hudson advised HTC are trying to get permission from WBC for a moveable speed reactive sign as potential funding is available. Cllr Hudson suggested residents show their support. **Action:** District Cllr Paul Hewer will arrange for a speed survey to be carried out along the High St, by Atherton Road and Kennedy Meadows and ask A Garratt to reconsider HTC's request for a reactive sign.

Police Report: PCSO Adam Burson – A lady was cautioned for use of cannabis in Bulpit Lane Skate Park. A man is on bail for possession of white powder. The police are trying to educate public not to leave valuables in their car. PCSO Lee Bremner is monitoring school parking. A neighbour to the football club has complained about ball games being played up against his fence. This is being monitored. If a vehicle is causing an obstruction, blocking an exit or footway then please report it to the police on 101. Traffic Wardens have enforcement powers for vehicles parked on double yellow lines.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Crane, Whiting, Podger, Farrell and District Councillor James Podger
- 2. Declarations of interest:** None
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 6th May 2014** – Cllr Thompson proposed minutes of 6th May 2014 as a true record, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, one abstention, rest in favour.
- 4. Mayor's Report** – This has been circulated by email.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports – Paul Hewer (PH)** – Cobbs have submitted another planning application. PH will take this to committee if the case officer is likely to refuse. One of the considerations was that it could take business away from the town. Sovereign have blocked the turning point at Northview. Cllr Wilson has a land registry document showing residents rights to use the turning point. WBC used to maintain the hedge at Northview but it hasn't been done this year. **Action:** PH to see who owns it. PH suggested a turning circle should be considered at the Primary school to ease congestion. PH invited HTC to submit a list of projects that they would like funded, and he will consider these for his members bid. HTC have been advised that A Law will put the Croft Field on the market if heads of terms are not in place by 30th June. PH advised A Law does not have the authority to do this. PH and the Mayor will be meeting with the Leader of the Council.

- 6. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**
- R&A – Cllr Benneyworth** - Cllr Benneyworth is to continue to chair this committee. He thanked Cllr Bumbieris for his work as Deputy and welcomed his new Deputy Cllr Small.
- E&P – Cllr M Wilson** – Applications received are mainly for extensions. E&P agreed Lamb Close as the name of the new road. A site visit will be made to Cherry Grove regards parking. Cllr Wilson reported on Northview and Ramsbury Drive (already covered under Public Forum and item 5). PH left the meeting.
- F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris** – F&GP met twice this month. The insurance renewal was discussed. Ear-marking of £15K of unallocated S106 money was agreed for the Croft Field. Standing orders were re-visited. NALC require mandatory wording on how Council’s operate. Expenditure for the Swimming pool house was agreed, to fit window locks etc. A site visit will be arranged to look at the pot holes in the driveway. Annual grants were considered and 26 organisations will benefit.
- H&T – Cllr Brookman** – Parking on the pavement at Priory Road is causing a problem to traffic at school times. The footway opposite the church requires a site visit with A Drysdale of WBC. A resident is disputing the boundary with A4 Hire. If there should be a footway there then a site visit will be arranged with A4 Hire, the resident and A Garratt of WBC. P Goddard of WBC doesn’t believe that there will be much impact from the Fairfields development and resultant parking. Barriers are in place at Fairfields. A traffic management plan is to be put in place. Reinstatement of the footways in the High St is almost complete. It was agreed that the Railway Regeneration project should report back to Full Council. It is undecided whether this should be as a separate working party or as part of T&E or E&P.
- TTH – Cllr Crane or Town Team member** – TTH have not met. This report could come under any other reports in future. T&E would usually be reported on here but their last meeting was cancelled.
- 7. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**
- a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments and grant payments** – This cheque run includes the first BACs payment and the annual grants, the majority of which are being match funded by Greenham Common Trust through the ‘Find Me a Grant’ website. F&GP initially recommended grants at a figure of £13,035 but some reductions are necessary bringing the sum down to £11,388. Cllr Bumbieris proposed a cheque run of £19,452.29, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
- b) Propose annual year to date accounts** - Cllr Bumbieris proposed the year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Thompson, all in favour.
- c) Propose annual audit return and report** – Cllr Benneyworth proposed the Annual Audit Return and Audit Report, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.
- d) Ratify Standing Orders** – Cllr Bumbieris proposed ratification of the new standing orders, subject to the amendment of the numbering, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
- 8. Update on Church St Public Toilets contract offer and propose next steps** – Cllr Hudson proposed subject to minor changes regarding an informal review, the contract be placed with A&J Services at an annual fee of £12K for 3 years, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, one abstention, rest in favour. **Action:** Cllr Small to look at contract and it should be run past WBC for agreement.
- 9. Croft Field – Propose agreement of Heads of Terms and consider structural report and next steps** – The structural survey completed has been circulated. The Heads of Terms received from WBC have been circulated. These include a break option for the Nursery School. Cllr Small will investigate the alienation clause and how this will affect the running of the building. Management delegation needs to be considered. There are further costs that are yet unknown, such as insurance, grass cutting. We need a full list of costs and income. The survey states that new windows are advisable and ventilation is needed. Need to look at what grants are available. Has the building been assessed by WBC for DDA, what measures are necessary? What do resident/users of building want to see? **Action:** Contact a valuer to see if the rent is reasonable. Advise him of the likely cost of the DDA expenditure. **Action:** Arrange for a working party of Cllrs Small, Leach, Benneyworth, Holmes and Brookman to meet next week to review details and report to R&A (put on the agenda). HTC should consider having a break clause of 10 years within the 99 year lease. Consider cost of admin time. C Broughton needs to amend the defective title.
- 10. Triangle Field – Update on grants** – The RFC have received confirmation of their £5K grant from the RFU. **Update on valuation** – Check update and put on R&A agenda. **Progress report on building project** Work started 19th May.
- 11. Volunteer to join Education Dialogue** – Cllrs Benneyworth and Whiting will represent HTC. It was agreed we should support HEAR. A meeting will take place on 27th June.
- 12. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors - None**
- Meeting closed 9.05pm**