

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Dennis Benneyworth
The Library, Church St
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0JG
Tel: 07890 268631
d.benneyworth@hungerford-tc.gov.uk



The Town Clerk
Mrs Claire Barnes
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerfordcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 2nd March 2015 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, Brookman, Thompson, Farrell, Bumbieris, Small, Leach, Podger, Hudson, Wood
Also present: District Cllrs Paul Hewer (PH), Geoff Adams from The Adviser and John Garvey, Newbury Weekly. Sergeant Paul Morgan (PM), Stephen Rice (SB Rice Consulting Ltd) and Mark Morgan (Lakeside Leisure)

Police Report: Paul Morgan advised a man has been charged with attempted burglary and theft of a vehicle in Hungerford Newtown. A man from Swindon has been charged with burglary in Lambourn and remanded until 9th March to appear at Reading Court. A burglary occurred in Oxford Road, Lambourn. PM and PC Drewitt went to JOG School to talk about drugs to year 10. Young girls are being drugged by older men, which is a problem occurring in surrounding areas. A rural crime meeting took place this month. The police are using preventative measures on estates and farms using motion detection sensors which you can view on mobile phones. It is the beginning of the season for hare-coursing. An attempted theft of a bronze stag took place and from another property bronze statues were stolen. Quad bikes are being stolen from the area. There was only one theft from a vehicle this month compared to 4/5 in previous months. Police have visited known organisers of raves and swabbed every pub in Hungerford. One pub was the main problem but this has now come back with a zero reading.

Cllr Farrell queried why her break-in which involved the dog unit wasn't reported and no mention has been made of gypsies trawling the area. She is not receiving the rural alerts. Cllr Brookman asked why a stolen Porsche was not reported. PM will look into why these reports have not been covered.

Stephen Rice (SR) introduced Mark Morgan whose family owns the Hungerford marina site and has been in the business for 30 years. They also own four other marinas and one in Spain. SR believes the existing planning permission which is in place for a hotel, café, craft centre, heritage centre and 120 berths is not workable. Phil Morgan purchased the site with the sole purpose of developing it into a marina. SR is looking to provide 120 berths and just keep the heritage centre building.

M Butler at WBC knows the plans very well. Cobbs will take some of the spoil. The rest will be lost on site. At present an Environmental Impact Assessment is in progress. This will inform prior to the new planning application being submitted. The basin and entrance will be kept in the same place. There is no policy that would allow for residential development on site. There is a massive demand for moorings on the River Kennet. Their moorings will be off-line (off the canal). Proper pump out facilities and water etc. will be provided for boaters. SR doesn't think Freemans Marsh will be swamped by walkers and dogs.

Cllr Bumbieris asked if the development is aimed at anyone other than boat owners, (SR – No. Mooring is premium rate. Lakeland are at the top end of the market). How they will protect the SSSI rating of the Marsh and deal with the K&A being short of water? (SR – Water is Canal & River Trust's remit. They have agreed to connect the marina to the canal after spending £1/2million on solving a sediment issue. He is well aware of SSSI as has managed land) He fears infill along the A4. (SR-Who knows!)

Cllr Hewer asked if they run Marinas on canals or rivers? (SR – Canals) Will there be residential narrow boats? (SR – No, none of their marinas have residential. This will be managed by site managers living on site. They expect to fill all 120 berths. Some visitors sign up for 12 months or 3 years. SR will speak to Town & Manor about encouraging marina walkers to use the preferred paths to protect the SSSI area). Is there S106 payable for a path? (SR – C&RT don't wish to commit funds to encourage cyclists to use tow paths along the canal). It was thought there are some restrictions in place in Hungerford already. SR and MM left the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllrs Wilson, Crane, Whiting and District Councillor James Podger

2. **Declarations of interest.** None
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 2nd February 2015.** Cllr Benneyworth proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Bumbieris, 3 abstentions, rest in favour.
4. **Mayor's Report** has been circulated.
5. **District Councillor's Reports** – Cllr Hewer will provide an update at the Town Meeting. PH advised a detailed response to HTC's email requesting a meeting regards housing and lettings policies has been made. WBC are unable to come to a meeting and suggest HTC attend the District Parish Conference where the topic will be covered. The response to considering a lettings policy is no. This is only possible for an exception site. Cllr Farrell argued that local people should be given priority on the housing list for homes in Hungerford. A lot of people can't afford to live locally and should have a right to stay local. She advised Kingsclere had an exception site and had input into who lived there.
6. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**
R&A – Cllr Benneyworth – A meeting is taking place tomorrow at the Triangle Field with J Kingham, Nigel Pateman and Cllrs. Issues regarding showers, benches and turf will be discussed.
E&P – Cllr Podger – Four Seasons Health Care application was refused due to concerns regarding traffic. North View heights application was granted. R Ballard's application received no objections.
T&E – Cllr Crane not present. The Mayor read his report. T&E have agreed to research the availability of vacant commercial property in Hungerford. He has requested DC Hewer to advise on WBC owned sites. An approach will be made to major Estate agents involved for data. A survey will be made of existing companies to gauge pros/cons of working in the town. T&E will continue to obtain Thames Valley C of C support for promotion of more investment and are working with AONB/NWD to design and attach "**Heart of NWD**" to entry signs – co-operation with H&T and WBC required. Potential for costs to be shared. They are seeking more promotion of Hungerford as Heart of NWD in AONB publications/seminars and exploring funding options for floral displays at rail station and establish 'Community team' to manage.
F&GP – Cllr Colin Bumbieris – An extra meeting took place. The new T&M rates were agreed as it didn't feel appropriate to move to another venue.
H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman – A parking restriction has been agreed outside the Catholic Church. WBC is speaking to a manufacturer about improving lighting by the pedestrian crossings. Cllr Brookman has emailed FGW requesting 2 taxi spaces and not yet received a reply.
7. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**
a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments. Cllr Bumbieris proposed £35,911.08 +VAT, seconded by Cllr Thompson, all in favour.
b) Propose year to date accounts. At present we are £8k ahead on expenditure, £7k of this is from the F&GP budget. Thanks were expressed to Rod for his hard work in collecting donations. We are currently up on income. Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
8. **Leases update - Croft Field** - Cllr Small has spoken to Sarah House and Annette to arrange a meeting to work towards agreement of the Croft Field lease. The Mayor and District Cllr Hewer will attend.
Triangle Field - Cllr Small has drafted a transfer. The covenants WBC are trying to impose are too restrictive for a 99 year lease. **Action:** Can Cllr Small discuss this at the WBC meeting also?
Football Club – No response has been received from the Football Club regards renewal of the lease.
Action: Cllr Wood to advise Clerk of contacts for other trustees so they can be invited to the next R&A.
9. **West Berkshire Council Strategy Consultation Response** – What is in it for Hungerford? Over West Berks there is a reduction in £5million per annum. There is no mention of JOG or Hungerford Primary under the education section. They are looking to support three other schools. They have invested £70 million since 2011 in Education. They are spending £17 mill on the roads. Also they are supporting electrification by lobbying. There is no mention of Hungerford or a plan and no mention of social housing, accountability, working practises or partnerships with Town Councils. HTC needs to respond to the consultation mentioning the station and schools by the 16th March. WBC then take the responses to their annual meeting in May. **Action:** Cllr Thompson to draft response and circulate ahead of F&GP when it will be discussed.
10. **Councillors Participation required - Here and Now** – **Action:** Cllrs Wood, Bumbieris and Crane will provide an article for the next Here and Now edition. **Town Meeting - Action:** All Chairman and Cllrs

Hudson and Thompson to provide powerpoints for the Town Meeting. Clerk to forward to Cllr Leach for production. Cllr Wood advised the Fire Service is interested in sending a representative to the Town Meeting. **Action:** Cllr Wood to send contact details to the clerk. **Fly a flag** – The itinerary was read out, Cllr Small will arrange the sound. **Election** – Nomination papers were distributed to those interested in standing again. These cannot be submitted before 23rd March but must be in by 9th April.

11. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors** - The next Chamber of Commerce meeting is on Thursday. Cllr Thompson attended the JAC meeting. Cllr Wood is on the committee also. Attendance to the Leisure centre is up, apart from swimming. A link is being formed with the Youth & Community Centre for smaller activities and they will hold the keys for access. Moss needs removing from the tennis courts and the surface marking out. Can HTC help?
The Triangle Field Management Committee and the Town Council need to meet to discuss the car park at the Triangle Field.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm