

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
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MINUTES of the **Annual Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 2nd May 2017 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Small, Farrell, Winsor, Knight, Simpson, Wood and Benneyworth (entered later)

Also present: John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), Brian Quinn (Penny Post), Virginia Crane, Jenny Knight, Richard Piper, Alison Blake, District Cllr James Podger (entered later), Shane Finlay (entered later), Peter Harries and other members of the public

Police – Not in attendance

- 1. Election of Mayor** – Cllr Crane is stepping down. Cllr Brookman proposed Cllr Knight as Mayor, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
- 2. Election of Deputy Mayor** – Cllr Winsor proposed Cllr Simpson as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.
- 3. Election of Chair of Finance & General Purposes** – Cllr Bumbieris although absent has indicated that he wishes to stand again as Chair of F&GP. Cllr Crane proposed Cllr Bumbieris as Chair of F&GP, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.
Cllr Knight and Cllr Simpson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
Cllr Knight thanked the Town Council for electing him. He went on to thank Cllr Crane and Virginia for their 5 years' service and is pleased the Cllr Crane will be continuing as Chair of T&E. This was echoed by Peter Harries who thanked Cllr Crane for his long service as Mayor. Cllr Crane was presented with a past mayor's badge.
- 4. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Colloff, Whiting, Hudson, Bumbieris
- 5. Declarations of interest** - Cllrs Knight & Simpson (Library)
- 6. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 3rd April 2017 and outcome of actions** – Cllr Crane proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Wood, all in favour.
- 7. Outgoing Mayor's Report** – Circulated. Margaret Wilson's presentation of the Freedom of the Town was a pleasant event and well attended.
- 8. District Councillor's reports – (Taken after item 17)** District Cllr James Podger arrived later following a meeting at WBC where the new leader of the Council, Graham Jones had been elected. District Cllr Paul Hewer is recovering well and is intending on going to the Rowlands hearing tomorrow. Priorities of Graham Jones are air pollution and looking at funding minibuses which is good news. It was asked why a fence has been placed across the JOG playing fields. JP said this has been agreed with the school following the change to an academy. The Clerk advised the school and the Governors were disappointed that the land could not be used in the interim. JP advised he would speak to Dominic Boeck.
- 9. Consider Co-option to fill one vacancy** – Richard Piper has advised he does not wish to join the Town Council but may be interested in being involved. He introduced himself. He has seen Hungerford grow and change massively. He doesn't want to see a drastic change hence the Salisbury Road development. It was suggested he might like to be involved if we progress with a Neighbourhood plan. He has a copy of the HTC calendar meetings and was invited to attend any of interest.

This item was discussed further after item 17, following the entrance of Shane Finlay who is interested in being co-opted. Shane advised he moved to Hungerford a year ago and he works for large software company. He went on to explain his current role. Previously he was on the board of directors at Vancouver working with and bringing together communities. He works from home quite a bit and his job involves travel throughout the UK, with travel further afield quarterly. He wishes to improve happiness and welfare within the community. His hobbies include pub walks, gardening, bird watching and tight-ropeing. Cllr Crane commented that his survey skills would come in very useful for a Neighbourhood Plan and for the T&E committee. Cllr Crane proposed Shane Finlay is co-opted as a Councillor, seconded by Cllr Benneworth, all in favour.

- 10. R&A – Cllr Small** – The committee met on 18th April. The floodlights are up and electricity connection is next. A Triangle Field Committee meeting took place. **Action:** Clerk to chase maintenance man for work required at the Triangle Field. Sadly Ted Angell is stepping down from HAHA. They discussed the possibility of an outdoor gym at the Triangle Field and details have been passed to Rob Cox to consider. The mixing valve was fixed for nothing by the plumber, instead of replacing it saving around £700. Pitch improvements have been carried out. Restructuring the Croft Field Centre has been discussed. The Tennis Court lease draft has been received. **Action:** Cllr Small to consider this. It was decided against allowing reservation of burial plots.

E&P – Cllr Farrell – 5 retail units have been built at Garden Art. Cllr Farrell expressed concern that Artisan units may not be built. Their opening is on Friday at 5pm. She hopes the St John Ambulance applications will push forward particularly ahead of the problems at Newbury with complaints about their Protected Employment Zone being utilised for housing. Cllr Farrell suggested a need to write to WBC asking for their definition in writing of what constitutes ‘exceptional circumstances’. The Neighbourhood Plan and whether it protects Hungerford will be discussed at E&P. What boundary do we wish to work to for the NP? **Action:** More research is needed. Cllr Small to invite planning consultant, Justin Cooke to the next E&P. Cllr Small advised experts do not know what defines ‘exceptional circumstances’. Calling in is not likely to happen until after the snap election. Cllr Crane is attending the Rowlands’ hearing tomorrow.

T&E – Cllr Crane – The committee meet next week. He had a productive meeting with Littlecote and they wish to build on better communications with HTC and the Chamber of Commerce. R Benyon MP is very supportive of a trade fair but can’t commit to a date until after the elections.

F&GP – The committee have not met.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman – There is no physical progress at the rail station. He has met with the company that built the up-line shelter and is waiting for budget costs. The Cuttings footpath has been cleared by HTC’s contractor as Network Rail refused. WBC has removed the spoil left at Charnham St Pedestrian Crossing. Quotes to make necessary replacements to the street-lighting have been received totalling £3032.33 and a decision on this will go to H&T on 15th May. There is £5k in the budget. Reports on the column which is leaning badly say it is safe but will be straightened. A request for a 30mph speed limit at Charnham Park has been received. This was rejected last year because the survey results showed an average of 32mph over 6 days. The problem is made worse by HGVs parking and blocking the view from side roads.

11. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris

- a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated)** – Cllr Brookman proposed the cheque run of £10,288.18 inclusive of VAT, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
- b) Propose final accounts for 2016-17** – These were circulated. Both expenditure and income were over budget resulting in an overall surplus of £36,693. Cllr Small proposed the final accounts, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.
- c) Propose approval of Section 1: Annual Governance Statement** – Cllr Crane proposed Section 1, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.
- d) Propose approval of Section 2: Accounting Statement 31/3/2017** – Cllr Brookman proposed Section 2, seconded by Cllr Winser, all in favour.
- e) Propose expenditure of £986.97 + vat for paving materials at Triangle Field** – It was agreed in principle a while back that the costs of the paving would be split between HTC and the Rugby Club. Cllr Farrell is not happy for HTC to pay for this as it mainly benefits the Rugby Club. It was argued that it will be an improvement and investment in HTC’s asset. The paving will go along the whole of the

building not just by the Rugby Club. Cllr Small proposed the expenditure, seconded by Cllr Crane, 2 abstentions, rest in favour.

f) Consider proposal from Penny Post for continuation of newsletters - Deferred

12. **Update on outreach service, relocation of post office** – The Post Office in Martin McColl closed on 21st April and reopened on Tuesday 25th April in the Library as an outreach service which provides limited service on a temporary basis. This is open from 10am to 2pm, Tuesday, Wed and Friday. The Post Office continues to investigate options for a permanent site. HTC are not responsible for running the post office but have been successful in obtaining an outreach service. If a main post office cannot be set up in the centre of Hungerford a local post office may be an option. How would Hungerford's status as a Rural Service Centre be affected by a lack of a main post office?
13. **Library – update following recent meeting with WBC** – Good progress is being made towards the transfer of this asset to HTC. A CIO is in the process of being set up. Cost figures are awaited to determine whether the leasehold or freehold is to be obtained. WBC has been really supportive in this venture.
14. **Consideration of a 'sports award' – Cllr Wood – Deferred until R&A**
15. **Consider holding a service of remembrance for 30th Anniversary of the Hungerford Tragedy** – A number of outside organisations have approached HTC asking how this will be marked. Rev Salt (the vicar at the time of the tragedy) has been booked for a service at St Lawrence's. The focus will be the rebuilding of society. It will be a town service followed by a short wreath laying at the Tragedy Garden on Sunday 20th August. Need to ensure relatives are fully briefed and are aware of the media interest.
16. **Outcome of Extraordinary meeting on 26th April and any further actions** – Cllr Crane has signed letter which has gone to the inspectorate requesting a call in. Cllr Farrell proposed £200 is spent on initial legal advice to see if we have a strong enough case to take further to a judicial review, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour. A survey is needed to see if the town want to support a Neighbourhood plan and a meeting will be held in May to reconvene.
17. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals-**
Report on Fire cuts – Cllr Wood advised Option 1 was chosen which will save £1.3 million for Royal Berkshire by closure of other units. Closure of the retained support affects Hungerford. There will be no day cover as this is undermanned. The fire station is due to open soon on 3rd July. Graham Saunders is now managing the station. There will be a defibrillator installed on site. Cllr Wood suggested the defibrillator at the town council office is relocated as there will be two in close proximity. At the station there will be 2 qualified officers, one driver and one junior. From Monday to Friday between the hours of 9am to 7pm the service will be covered by Newbury and not Hungerford. The response to a call out will be 10 minutes. Recruitment of retained fireman is difficult. The junior firefighters will be run by Newbury in future. Cllr Farrell asked what the tri-service station will provide as there is no front desk, no police, no fire response between 9 and 7pm. What about the ambulance service? In the past it has taken 16 minutes for a fire engine to respond to a call out in Hungerford Lambourn. Cllr Wood explained part of the problem with obtaining retained firefighters is the qualification. It takes 9 months of training. There is a need to advertise which is being done and training is being addressed. **Action:** Cllr Wood to invite Graham Saunders to the next Full Council meeting in June.
Chamber of Commerce meeting – Cllr Small advised there are now 5 people on the committee. The Chamber of Commerce will be running an Extravaganza again on the usual date in December but it will be rebranded as a Christmas evening and will not have the Victorian theme. A hustings has been arranged for 8th June and R Benyon MP and Judith Bunting will be speaking. The candidates will be answering questions.

PART 2

18. **Consider co-option** - This was not discussed further as a decision was made in part 1.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm