

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Martin Crane OBE
28 Cottrell Close
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0HF
Tel: 01488 684804
martincrane41@sky.com



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 **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 23rd June 2015 at 7.05pm (following the Extraordinary Meeting) in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, Small, Bumbieris, Whiting, Crane, Farrell, Winsor, Brookman, Wood. **Also present,** Geoff Greenland and Ted Angell (Hungerford Allotment Holders Association - HAHA) Geoff (Adviser), Susan Hofgartner, Robert James (Town & Manor – T&M), Suzanne Taylor and Nick Furr (Hungerford Nursery), David Clayton (Community of Hungerford Theatre Company - CHTC), Roger Beard (Hungerford Cricket Club – HCC), Steve Skipworth and John Smythe (Hungerford Football Club – HFC)

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllr Leach
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Crane has an allotment. Cllrs Benneyworth and Small have an interest in the Cricket club.
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 19th May 2015** – This item is deferred as date of meeting should read 26th May 2015. **Action:** Add to next agenda.
- 4. Agree Committee Members.** Cllr Benneyworth proposed Cllrs Winsor and Brookman as members of R&A, seconded by Cllr Farrell, all in favour.
- 5. Allotments - HAHA report** – 2014/15 accounts have been audited and will be presented at the next R&A meeting. HAHA have increased their reserves by £300. All rent has been collected at both sites. There are 2 empty plots at Fairfields but Marsh Lane has 20% of plots empty which is because the lease ends in April 2016. Marsh Lane is operating at a reduced income and with only 6 months left of the growing season is unlikely to rent the other plots out. AGM took place last night and Cllrs Benneyworth and Crane attended. G Greenland presented the annual report to the clerk. The Chair thanked HAHA for all their work.
Cllr Whiting asked if HAHA were aware of the complaints about a bonfire at Fairfields. He confirmed they were notified by the clerk and will take action to prevent anything other than garden waste being burnt in future. Bonfires will also only be permitted in winter time.
- 6. Croft Field**
– **Agree charge for Boost sessions at Croft Field** - Suzanne (Headteacher) and Nick Furr (Chair of Governors) were introduced. The Nursery has been responsible for the Croft Field Centre bookings over the last few years and previously used the Croft Field for free. HTC now runs the bookings. The nursery would like to continue to use the premises for free as they can't afford to pay. The Boost group has 8 to 10 parents and helps with self-esteem and mental health issues. This runs on a Thursday afternoon. It has been a huge success. Incredible Parenting is another course that has been running. This term on a Tuesday a course was run for year 8 students. The nursery is offering these courses free. They do not receive funding. They have suffered financially as free provision for 3 to 4 year olds has been increased by the government from 15 to 30 hours a week and on top of that their funding has been cut. Nick Furr will be helping with the management of the Croft Field.

In view of the above the Nursery would like to use the Croft Field on Thursday afternoons for free. Cllr Benneyworth proposed a zero rate for the Nursery, seconded by Cllr Wood, all in favour.

- **Report from Management Committee meeting – Cllr Leach (not present).** Nick Furr and David Small attended the meeting and advised it was agreed that we should proceed with the repairs. **Action:** Clerk to speak to WBC to instruct work to go ahead. Nick Furr advised historically there has been a Councillor on the board of governors at the Nursery and he would welcome a councillor to this role.

- **Decisions on renewal of service contracts - Deferred**

7. Triangle Field

- **Update of Theatre Company planning application (containers) and grants** – The clerk advised David Clayton that Derek Carnegie at WBC has recommend refusal. This will go to committee on 1st July. **Action** – Clerk to forward copy of email to David. There are concerns over the change of use to B8. Cllrs Crane and Benneyworth and D Clayton will attend the meeting on 1st July to pledge support.

- **Temporary storage of building materials** – D Clayton advised the CHTC have nowhere to store their cladding and requested this be stored at the Triangle Field. HTC advised that in light of the recommended refusal and also because HTC don't wish to jeopardise the decision on 1st July, they do not wish to allow the storage to take place before the planning decision. What if authority is not given and it goes to appeal? Other storage locations were suggested. Cllr Benneyworth will speak to CHTC about helping with this.

- **Car Park – Defer to Full Council on 6th July**

- **Summer events** – It was suggested a circus or music festival could be held next year. The management committee would support this but would want HTC to manage the event, subject to checking this falls under the community leisure category permitted.

8. Partial Surrender – Update – The clerk read out the proposal made at the Extra Full Council meeting. HCC are secure in their lease however HFC lease ran out some time ago and are in need of a 20 year lease. HTC are concerned they don't know what terms will be imposed on HFC by T&M in a new lease and they wish to protect the interest of the HFC. S Skipworth is happy to go with what is put on the table as he has already had 2 letters from the FA requesting proof of permission for the club to play. This is needed by Friday.

Susan Hofgartner is appalled a decision to agree the Partial Surrender has not been arrived at. She mentioned the necessity to sort old agreements such as a BT 400m trench dug without a wayleave and other problems they have found. HCC have no concerns with having T&M as their landlord. T&M will put in place a further letter for the FA. If HFC take professional advise T&M needs the assurance of HTC that they will endorse the partial surrender.

Cllr Benneyworth proposed this committee recommends to Full Council that, if the terms of the new 20 year lease for HFC are agreeable to both the T&M and HFC, that HTC will endorse the partial surrender, seconded by Cllr Crane, 3 abstentions, rest in favour. **Action:** Cllr Small will look at the Partial surrender deed and HTC will put in writing to T&M the proposal, if agreed by Full Council.

9. Propose work recommended following plane tree report – Cllr Benneyworth proposed the recommended works to the Plane Tree at £175 plus VAT, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour. **Action:** Clerk to instruct contractors.

10. Propose removal of dead walnut tree at St Lawrence – Deferred

11. Property Portfolio - For discussion - Deferred

12. Town benches – Update – The current contractor has moved away and the clerk is in the process of obtaining quotations for annual maintenance of the town's benches. **Action:** Advertise in the Adviser.

13. Tragedy Garden – Consider quotations for improvements and new contractor; Cllr Benneyworth proposed acceptance of Stacy Tuttle's quotation of £515 for improvements to the gardens, seconded by Cllr Whiting, all in favour. Cllr Benneyworth proposed acceptance of E Fenton's quotation for future maintenance of the gardens at £81 a month, seconded by Cllr Bumbieris all in favour. **Action:** Clerk to instruct contractors.

14. Consider alternatives for committee name – It was decided to remain with the existing name.

15. Sports Link update – Cllr Shaun Wood - Deferred

Meeting closed at 9.05pm