

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs Benneyworth, Crane, Leach, M Wilson, Holmes, Farrell, Brookman, Harding, Hudson and Small (entered late). Also present Geoff Adams, District Cllrs; James Podger and Paul Hewer, PC Parfitt, Eoin Walsh (Youth and Community Centre), Gordon Lundie (leader of West Berks Council) Chris Scorey (Town Plan), Geoff Greenland and Ted Angell (HAHA), members of the public, Gareth Heap, Mrs Simmonds, Doris Colloff

**Police Report: Sgt Paul Morgan** – The new sergeant introduced himself. Five have been cautioned for possession of cannabis during the operation to clamp down on drugs using swabs. There was a burglary on 1<sup>st</sup> August in Charnham Lane at a business. A drink driver was stopped and arrested on 10<sup>th</sup> August. Fire at Great Shefford Auto Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> August, a youth has been charged for arson. The local police are being retrained on laser speeding devices. There was a fire in Kintbury to hay bales. Police are targeting the known criminals. The public can contact 101 if they see anything suspicious. Police have not heard any more about the fires around Prospect Road. Another tel no is available for HTC. Sgt Morgan will advise what the opening times are. Sgt Paul Morgan was welcomed to Hungerford.

**Public – Mrs Simmons** commented about lorries mounting the pavement and hitting her house opposite the Police Station (4 Park Street). Cllr Brookman met with WBC about the issues in Park Street. The problem is coming down from Fairview Road and turning on to Park St. Cllr Hudson suggested a bollard. Cllr Hewer said he would arrange to visit Mrs Simmons.

**Gareth Heap** - Parked cars in Atherton Road by British Legion are causing an obstruction to No. 3 bus. He requested a grit bin for Priory Road (outside his house would be ideal) and a bus stop by Redwood House & Lindley Lodge. Barnes coaches are speeding along Priory Road at 8.20am. Sgt will get someone to check the speed. It was commented that the Grit bin requested is not on a hill.

**Eoin Walsh**, Youth & Community Centre – Wired Centre is the new name. Open 362 days. Open to all to hire (8am-10.30pm Mon-Sun). Hungerford Youth & Community keeps the centre running and manages it. Youth club runs Wed & Thurs with 240 registered members. 70+ attend on Wed and Thurs. Special events are run over the summer holiday. Youth & community group – sub org. meet once a month which includes HTC cllrs. The Wired Youth Club Committee includes a youth member for every adult member. 500 hours of youth leader volunteer time are given. Youth leaders are trained in various skills using the main hall, committee room and tennis courts. Eoin made a plea for financial help to support trips for youth club members and for volunteers. There is a wish list on the website for equipment needed, such as PCs. 80 members use wifi a week. They want to support an internet café. They do a limited amount of fundraising but are reliant on donations. GCT funding is diminishing It was suggested Wired Rock form links with local clubs. They are looking for £7k. They are the largest Youth Club in Berkshire. Thanks to Denise Gaines for all her work as Chair.

**Mr Gordon Lundie** – WBC wishes to understand the needs of the community and wanted to work better together. He lives in Lambourn, has 2 boys, and was elected 2 years ago as leader of Conservative Group. There are 39 members that operate through 9 portfolio holders (exec cabinet structure). The Chief Executive reports to him and he holds officers to account. Hilary Cole leads planning, A Law, finance, and Irene Neil, Education. Education & poverty are 2 areas targeted. In particular he is focussing on: a) Businesses in Berkshire, recovery & employment, urban development, Bus station & Wharf. b) Effectiveness of Council – how responsive is it? How to improve, looking at training. c) Society & safeguarding (child protection), d) Teaching quality.

Cllr Benneyworth advised accessibility to District Cllrs is needed and a process for this. GL suggested HTC and DCs meet every 2 months. GL can do more in relation to shared services. Cllr Small advised the Chamber of Commerce need support from WBC enhancing HTC as a centre of business. GL is happy to listen to our ideas. A Development brief was done for Hungerford Station. Can GL engage WBC planning department? HTC is making some progress with landowners. WBC 'acquisition' powers and financial support is needed. GL thanked HTC for letting him come along and would like to do again in 6 months. GL wants to make sure the community supports education plans. GL left.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Thompson, Whiting, Wood, Podger, Bumbieris
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllrs Crane and Benneyworth re: DPD as they live close to proposed development areas.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014** – Cllr Benneyworth proposed minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 as a true record, seconded by Cllr Wilson, two abstentions, rest in favour.
4. **Mayor's Report** – This has been circulated by email.
5. **District Councillor's Reports – Paul Hewer (PH) –James Podger (JP).** Cllr Hewer pointed out that the station is designated for business use which is the main problem as they would like to see development of 30 flats. Where do we put businesses? HTC are aware of this. Cobbs application has gone through. JP met with Mark Edwards, WBC today regarding the Bridge Street crossing. This needs one more safety check, but happy with plans. Cost is £27k (excl cost of moving BT services). It should go ahead. A Garrett is doing survey about crossing at JOG school. The slabs to go outside the Three Swans are available this Wednesday so will be installed as soon as possible with bollards. PH & JP are very keen to protect Croft Field and for HTC to take on lease. JP said A Law, District Cllrs and HTC should meet when HTC have all their reports. HTC to check if asbestos and other reports need doing first. A Wired Rock representative has spoken to PH about applying for the members bid. Let PH know any other bid requests. Cllr Hudson asked if District Cllrs could chase up A Garrett regards the speeding sign policy.
6. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

**R&A – Cllr Benneyworth** –Allotment sites have been discussed with HAHA. Users advised the Tavern team have ceased using Triangle Field. Sports pavilion outside lights and double doors are done. £5k fence approved for Skate Park.

**E&P – Cllr M Wilson** – 26<sup>th</sup> August E&P cancelled. HTC are pleased Cobbs received support. 14a Charnham Street, change to 2 houses was supported. St John Ambulance application received mixed views.

**F&GP** – Grants were agreed for Defibrillators and future first.

**H&T – Cllr Brookman** – Park Street (lack of footpath) – 2 schemes will be looked at by A Garrett (one for 20m footpath) and another for a full footpath.

**T&E – Cllr Crane** – working on Town Guide. Discussion on format needed. GL keen to meet so arrange next meeting quickly.
7. **Propose Draft DPD Consultation** – The HTC Draft DPD response was put together by LDF group and with help of a professional. WBC suggested 100 houses to the South or 87 to the North. HTC feel there are enough small sites around town so one large development can be avoided. HTC would also include Smitham Bridge (26 houses), and the Railway Station. This Thursday the Town Plan will hold a public meeting. Cllr Crane proposed adopting the draft as our response, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour. The public can respond by following the WBC link. PH asked why not have theTown Plan meeting before we agree?
8. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**
  - a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments and grant payments** – Cllr Benneyworth proposed authorisation of cheque run payments excluding 2<sup>nd</sup> payment to RGC, all in favour. Check - Does contract include emptying and back filling of septic tank and other queries.
  - b) **Propose annual year to date accounts** – Cllr Benneyworth proposed annual year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
  - c) **Propose financial Regulations recommended by F&GP** – Cllr Crane proposed financial regulations recommended by F&GP, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.

9. **Election publicity and councillor vacancy** – There is one HTC vacant position. To stand next year an Election form will need to be completed in May.
10. **Croft Field – Propose agreement of heads of terms, rent payable and rent free period.** A rent valuation report has been received from Richard Deal on Croft Field. There is no mention of an electrical certificate and asbestos survey – WBC need to provide this. HTC could get these done and get WBC to reimburse. A Government grant is available for making building energy efficient (only residential?). Some amendments are required to Richard Deal's report and then this can be forwarded to Colin Broughton. HTC could insure if required. Assignment is to be left to a meeting with District Cllrs. Cllr Small proposed HTC makes an offer for lease of Croft Field, based on terms of Richard Deal's report subject to minor amendments, seconded by Cllr Leach, all in favour.
11. **Triangle Field - Progress report on building project - Cllr Benneyworth** – Building work has been signed off. Few outstanding issues include: tiles, shoring up of drains where rain caused ground to sink, attenuation tank covering with bund soil near junior pitch, tiles being made to sort run off of water, floor level to be raised. Retain some money until job is complete. Is there a retention fee? Snagging needs doing
12. **Nominations for Hungerford & Camburn trustees** – Cllr Small withdrew his offer. Cllr Farrell requested the agenda item be deferred.
13. **Flying the Commonwealth Flag 2015** - This was agreed.
14. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors** – Co-op. Pigeons are now left out in cold! The interior is done and tenant is happy. Is Co-op able to donate rooms for HTC use? The Tour of Britain bike ride is on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 through Hungerford – schools have been advised.

**Meeting closed at 8.55pm**

## **Confidential PART 2**

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

### **15. Triangle Field – Valuation as an open space in perpetuity**

Cllr Small proposed pursuing purchase as per the valuer's report received, seconded by Cllr Harding, all in favour. Action- Clerk will contact C Broughton.

**Meeting closed at 9.05pm**