

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 6th October 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, Thompson, Crane, Leach, Wilson, Farrell, Bumbieris, Small and Whiting. Also present Geoff Adams, John Garvey, District Cllr Paul Hewer, Sarah Brinkley (Head of JOG), John Parry and Derek Loft (RBL), Major Simon Copley-Smith and RSM Jim Cooper (REME), Rod Desmeules and John Lloyd.

Police Report: PC Lee Bremner – 2 have been arrested for burglary in Inkpen. Great Grooms was ram-raided at 1.20am on Saturday. 3 males and in a small dark van were spotted. Vans and work vehicles have been broken into during the night and tools stolen. 2 have been arrested for hare coursing. 3 were arrested following a fight in Priory Road with minor cut injuries. Hungerford Police Station will be sold as it is not cost effective. The Deadline for this is March 2017 and the police will either have a new station built in Hungerford or will convert a building. There is no room to amalgamate with Newbury. PCSO Adam Burson has left and PC Richard Hughes will start on 1st Nov. They are recruiting for special constables. Cllr Farrell asked for news on the arson attack in Church Way/St. There are no leads. A4 Hire break in will be added to the next police report.

Public – John Lloyd is delighted the pavements have been repaired in the High St. He supplied the original stone. He complained that the new slabs laid do not match and are a different texture and colour. HTC committee previously picked up an email from Mr Lloyd and spoke to WBC. HTC were told it was the closest match. HTC should be involved in the future and request samples.

Sarah Brinkley (Head of John O Gaunt School) – Plans were displayed of developments to John O Gaunt School which are costing £1.2 million. These include tripling the size of the library by incorporating an unused courtyard, modernising the small hall into an internet café with soft furnishings, rendering the front of the school, new tiles, ridding of the old-fashioned blue fascias and a new sweeping drive with new paving. The money has been received and some has already been spent on improvements to the science department which will be complete by Christmas, new toilets are in place and classrooms are being refurbished. The outdoor learning spaces outside are in place. The JOG logo has been rebranded. It has been modernised but keeps the traditional feel. This logo is available for HTC to use also. SB confirmed she doesn't anticipate any problems with planning. They need to consider new fencing for the front of the school. OFSTED confirmed the school are moving in the right direction JOG need to focus on the reports and specifically Maths. SB was invited to attend the Nov Full Council meeting to give an update.

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in the Theatre Co. and advised that the existing site where the Theatre Co. house their equipment will be lost by March as the property is on the market.

David Clayton (Community of Hungerford Theatre Company) – 4 containers have been sited a D Liddiard's land for the last 7 years storing costumes and sets. The Theatre Company have 4/5 productions each year. If councillors are interested he can arrange a tour of the containers. WBC's 3 year licence for storage of the containers at their current site expired in January. Removal has not been enforced whilst another location is sought. The Theatre Co. also supplies other groups with equipment such as the JOG and Primary school. The Croft Field Site would be an ideal new location. They would wish to occupy the Canoe Store and place containers unobtrusively down the side of the field. They thanked HTC for 35 years support. Their next production is Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Whistle down the Wind' in February and they are raising funds for the Mary Hare Trust. Cllr Crane asked if planning is needed for the containers. Cllr Hewer advised they may not need permission as they are temporary structures. They have not found any other available sites and they have advertised. Town & Manor involvement is constrained by AONB regulations. By cutting back the trees by the

West boundary of the Croft Field 15ft of ground will be gained in which to place the containers. The Triangle Field was ruled out as a location. There could be problems in siting the 22ft containers at the Croft Field due to the narrow access. REME could possibly assist.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Wood, Podger, Harding, Hudson, Brookman and District Cllr J Podger
2. **Declarations of interest:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 1st September 2014** – Cllr Benneyworth proposed minutes of 1st September 2014 as a true record, seconded by Cllr Crane, one abstention, rest in favour.
4. **Mayor's Report** – This has been circulated by email. The Town Plan Meeting held was well attended.
5. **District Councillor's Reports – Paul Hewer (PH)** – PH proposes to reinstate Saturday District Cllr surgeries in the library once a month beginning on 1st Nov. They will be before FC each month. Sgt Paul Morgan is keen to join and our MP may also attend. Anthony Stansfeld has advised PH that the police station will close within 3 years. PH has been promised a continued police presence in Hungerford. A police office will be sourced probably in the High St. Anthony Stansfeld is to be invited by PH to present at Nov Full Council meeting. The old station is to be sold and this is an opportunity to look at improving the access to the Station. Cllr Hewer wants the Oakes site developed for housing. Business use has been created at Garden Art. Affordable housing is needed at the station. Cllr Crane: WBC has purchased other brownfield sites in West Berks. Could they purchase the 3 sites at the station? PH advised cost is £1.6m per acre. Cllr Crane advised No.16 has rooms that could be used for community use. Could it house the police station? What about the parking? Could the police station combine with the Fire Station?
6. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

R&A – Cllr Benneyworth – Cllr Leach did a survey on the use of Croft Field. Money has been spent on refurbishing the play park and erecting a new fence next to the skate park and pool house.

E&P – Cllr M Wilson – HTC agreed the application for new signs at the Bear, 2 new houses in Charnham St and supported the development at Fairfields. Meadowfield application has gone through on appeal although conditions have to be met.

T&E – Cllr Crane – A meeting will take place next Monday.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – F&GP met on 9th Sept. the safe-guarding public money document was agreed. Work need to the Swimming Pool House drive and Bridge St War memorial paving do not have budgets and how to fund this work was considered.

H&T – Cllr Thompson – The winter maintenance programme has been published by WBC and copies are in the office to view.

7. **REME**
 - **Town Covenant – Cementing the relationship between the people of Hungerford and the Battalion** – RSM J Cooper introduced Major Simon Copley-Smith responsible for committee engagement. Setting up a Covenant is a long process but he would like to continue with it.
 - **Outline Forecast of Events Jan –Jun 2015, looking at possible projected events where the Battalion maybe called upon to provide assistance or support in other capacities.**
Action: Clerk to put together a schedule of Jan-June events in Hungerford. List of events in Tidworth also needed. Town & Manor has invited REME to ale-tasting. REME Chilton Estate 10K run will take place on 2nd November. Clerk to put Hungerford Hares in touch with REME.
 - **Remembrance Day – Arrangements with RBL and involvement of REME; Propose cost of paving works at Bridge St War memorial** - The Commanding officer is keen for his battalion to be represented in Hungerford and 150 soldiers will take part in the parade. REME wish to bring an army presence to the community. RBL suggested chairs for veterans at the War Memorial. RBL could accommodate 150 soldiers and the town band in the parade. The tannoy system from the church is not sufficient so REME will provide this. The shrubbery at the war memorial needs cutting back to improve the sight lines. The road closure needs to run until 11.45am. REME will help out the 3rd or 4th week in November depending on the weather. 5 to 10 men will also be available on the 12th day to

help take down the lights. REME will try and arrange a recruiting stand and vehicle for the Victorian Extravaganza. REME can help with the stage on 30/11. Action: Confirm times to REME. Lt Col Stefan Crossfield is leaving in February and he would like a covenant signed before he goes. Cllr Small and John Parry offered to help with this. Jim confirmed the prizes for the JOG auction. REME would like involvement with the rugby club/fire station/schools etc. A quote for £1500 has been received for pressure washing, relaying the paving and complete re-sand at Bridge St War memorial. A site visit was carried out. Tree roots are buckling the paving. There is no obvious trip hazard but if left the slabs could crack. Funds have been found for this project and Cllr Crane proposed it proceeds at a cost of £1500, using reallocated money, seconded by Cllr Leach, all in favour.

8. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris

- a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments** - Cllr Bumbieris proposed authorisation of cheque run payments of £53,397.41 including VAT, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
- b) Propose year to date accounts** – Cllr Crane proposed accounts, seconded by Cllr Whiting, all in favour. **Action:** Check Precept is budgeted for correct months.
- c) Note External Audit** – A clear audit was noted and thanks to Jeff.
- d) Propose publication scheme** – Cllr Bumbieris proposed acceptance of the publication scheme, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth and all in favour.
- e) Propose cost of legionella check** – Cllr Benneyworth proposed HTC pay for the Legionella check on this occasion, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour. In future TFMC could take this on. Schools have checks annually.
- f) Consider grant application** – Cllrs Benneyworth and Thompson declared their interest. After discussion Cllr Crane proposed £500 grant is made to the Tennis Club and £100 to the Over 80s parcel fund, seconded by Cllr Leach, all in favour.
- g) Hire of photocopier** – It was suggested the Hungerford Club should contact Newbury College rather than utilise HTC copier.

- 9. Community Centre – Propose new chairperson** – Cllr Thompson proposed Neale Marney as the new Chair of the Youth and Community Centre Committee, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
- 10. Croft Field – Update on final terms; Agree meeting date with WBC** - HTC have written to C Broughton (WBC) and are arranging a meeting between Cllrs, WBC and District Cllrs next week.
- 11. Triangle Field - Progress report on building project; Snagging list;** The snagging list is complete. Roger Ballard has repaired the guttering. Pooling of water in CR3 is being looked at by J Kingham tomorrow. **Agree paving work;** . Cllr Benneyworth proposed HTC agree to TFMC extending the paving by the kitchen and main entrance, seconded by Cllr Leach, all in favour. **Quote for backfill of tank;** Quote is still awaited. **Action:** TFMC to add to their agenda. Consider filling with soil.
- 12. Christmas Lights Switch on – Propose acceptance of tender:** Standing orders were suspended For Rod Desmeules to speak. 3 tenders have been received and one is half the price of the others. Caution is to be taken when comparing. The flowers in the High St are being taken down. **Agree meeting date of working party** – A meeting will take place this week and decision on tenders will be taken to an Extraordinary F&GP meeting next week. **Action:** Chase up RB for step to lock up.
- 13. Nominations for Hungerford & Camburn trustees** – Cllr Farrell proposed Norma Thompson as a trustee, seconded by Cllr Bumbieris, all in favour.
- 14. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors** – Cllr Whiting attended the Hungerford Dialogue meeting along with representatives from WBC and schools. They are re-writing the last four options. Cllr Small (Chamber of Commerce) advised all shops in Bridge St are to be occupied. The annual dinner will take place on 4th December. Cllr Leach advised the owner of the land in front of the vets wasn't aware their land was in the SHLAA. Town and Manor trustees are considering taking over the maintenance of an overgrown stream.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm