

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 3rd November 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, Thompson, Crane, Leach, Wilson, Farrell, Bumbieris, Small, Podger and Brookman. Also present Geoff Adams, District Cllr Paul Hewer and Derek Loft (RBL).

Police Report: The police sent their apologies. The clerk read out an emailed update for the month. The police are welcoming a new full time PC, Richard Hughes. A male was summoned to court for letting a minor use an air rifle without correct supervision. On 3rd Oct, tools were stolen from A4 tool hire and a gamekeeper reported hare coursers. One male was apprehended for hare coursing and 3 males not located. The Police Station will be closing its doors over the next few years but will be relocated in the town. The police will be present at the Remembrance service next weekend. A new special constable, Jane has joined the team. A new inspector will be joining as John Donachy is leaving.

Public – Derek Loft (Royal British Legion) – The parade timings received from REME need to be amended. He will forward the correct timings for the parade to HTC office in the morning to be forwarded to REME. All organisations are to form up facing the Town Hall at 10.30am on Sunday. **Action:** Cllr Small will arrange for the PA system to be set up to the RHS of the War memorial. The road will be closed both ways from 10.30am. Disabled car parking is available in the JOG pub car park. There will also be 2 wreath layings afterwards at the War Memorial Avenue and at the Royal British Legion.

The Theatre Company and Rotary are putting on 3 performances of ‘Whistle down the Wind’ in December at Arlington Arts. Support was encouraged.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Wood, Whiting, Harding, Hudson, and District Cllr J Podger
- 2. Declarations of interest:** None
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 6th October 2014 –** Cllr Benneyworth proposed minutes of 6th October 2014 as a true record, seconded by Cllr Crane, one abstention, rest in favour.
- 4. Mayor’s Report –** This has been circulated by email.
- 5. District Councillor’s Reports – Paul Hewer (PH)** voiced his support of HTC taking on the lease of Croft Field. The police commissioner A Stansfeld was unavailable to come to tonight’s meeting due to a prior engagement. Police have carried out speed checks south of the town but not caught anyone. PH met with Garden Art owners who are having some problems with WBC planning department. Now there is business use at Garden Art PH is keen to obtain residential use at the station. Both District Councillors have been in touch with Oakes Site agents. Thursday is the deadline for offers at the site. It was suggested WBC prepare a holistic plan but PH is not prepared to invest any money.. The Mayor has arranged a meeting with officers and members of WBC to discuss how a land assembly may be facilitated. Oakes site doesn’t have residential use yet. Rowlands and St Johns have both been granted piecemeal permission to develop. The Chamber of Commerce have not been approached for comment although previous meetings have involved all parties.. **Action:** Add to their next agenda. It was suggested WBC could produce a development brief to put to developers at a cost of approx. £15K. The importance of resident’s views being represented, and through the District Councillors, was voiced. HTC are keen to take up G Lundie’s promise of support. **Action:** Cllr Benneyworth will report on progress from the scheduled meeting.

6. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)

R&A – Cllr Benneyworth – RGC’s quote for backfill of the septic tank was agreed. Cllr Wood is researching what further sports facilities are needed in the town. The War memorial shrubbery is being trimmed to improve visibility for the parade.

E&P – Cllr M Wilson – An application for infill to JOG courtyard received strong support. No objections were made to the plans submitted by Cobbs for an agricultural building. There were no objections to the thermal solar system application.

T&E – Cllr Crane – Cllrs Leach and Crane are rejigging the town guide. Cllr Crane is putting together the text and will circulate to T&E. Cllr Crane met with Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce, although Janet Duffield was unable to attend. Companies in Hungerford will attend an international conference organised by the group.

H&T – Cllr Thompson – Cllr Brookman wrote to one-stop shop and consequently the landlord has now told suppliers not to deliver at school pick up times. A Garrett (WBC) has advised the cost to a footpath north side by Rod’s house is £50K which wouldn’t include tree costs. A record of the number of RTAs on the A338 has been requested but nothing has been received from the police yet. **Action:** Cllr Brookman to follow up. Cllrs Bumbieris and Brookman attended a WBC annual speed limit review meeting. The result was Hungerford Newton should have a 30mph speed limit installed subject to agreement. The Christmas Lights contract has been awarded to 4th D Landscapes this year. WBC has agreed to remove a redundant CCTV post in the New Year. Network Rail has proposed from 2019 far fewer direct services to Paddington and a diesel shuttle service from Bedwyn to Newbury. Please subscribe to the on-line petition

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – This committee has met twice, firstly to approve the new contractor for the Christmas Lights and secondly for an internal review under a FOI request.

7. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris

a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments – More payments are moving to BACS. Cllr Bumbieris proposed authorisation of cheque run payments of £25,044.77 including VAT, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

b) Propose year to date accounts – HTC have underspent by £11k however the H&T bus subsidy is yet to be paid and also expenses for Church St toilets. Cllr Bumbieris proposed the accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

c) 2015-16 financial budget update – The budgets for R&A and H&T have yet to be proposed and will be on the committee’s November agenda. The next F&GP meeting will take place later in the month on 25th November in order to ratify these budgets. We are waiting to see how the costs with the new Christmas Lights contractor work out. Next year there will be expenditure for Croft Field and this will need to be discussed.

8. Croft Field – Propose terms of lease, following meeting with West Berkshire Council – Cllrs Small and Benneyworth met with both District Councillors and Alan Law and C Broughton from WBC. Terms of WBC lease were laid down. WBC offered to pay half of the £17K estimated expenditure costs which need to be completed in the first 2 years, and offered rent at £3000 per annum with 3 years rent free. The DDA requirements remain unclarified. PH advised a members bid in February could help with the remainder of the expenditure costs. HTC may be responsible for keeping boundary fences although the west boundary trees are the responsibility of the neighbour. The lease could take a couple of months to agree and further legal costs will be incurred. Cllr Leach has conducted a first survey on required use and received a variety of comments. Cllr Small proposed acceptance of WBC’s terms as detailed in C Broughton’s email of 22/10/14, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour. Tonight’s proposal will require ratification by WBC.

9. Triangle Field - Progress report on building project; Purchase of freehold- Cllr Benneyworth – Shoring up of drainage and some issues with the showers remain unfinished. These are being addressed. The TFMC have agreed that containers could be placed at the far end of the car park if the parking area was extended, the bund removed and pot holes repaired. Lighting to the car park has been installed but is not currently working. Cost of repair to car park is a concern. Actions are required in line with the Legionella report. The grant money from RFU is still awaited. Cllr Small advised HTC’s offer to purchase the Freehold at a cost of £16K has been accepted by WBC.

10. Town & Manor Lease update – Cllr Small advised T&M are asking for a reservation of rights and giving no option to renew. It was agreed to ask M Davenport to reply to Julie’s letter and then arrange a meeting with the constable.

11. **Christmas Lights Switch on – Rota for volunteers, Schedule of entertainment** – Sarah Brinkley has agreed to switch on the lights this year. The usual entertainment will be arranged and Adam Winslet is happy to MC.
12. **General Election – Suggestion for forum** – HTC represent the views of the whole town and need to ask residents what questions they wish to ask prospective new councillors. Will a meeting include opportunities to question all 3 levels, MPs, District Cllrs and Town Councillors, as all are up for election? The Chamber of Commerce hosted the previous MP forum and have already approached the MPs office to arrange a forum for next spring. It was pointed out that HTC need to explain the difference of HTC roles compared to those of WBC, at the next Town Meeting. Perhaps the Town Meeting could include a forum for the District Councillors. Forum is on the agenda for the next Chamber meeting, Thursday, 6.30pm for 7pm at the 3 Swans.
13. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors - none**

Meeting closed at 8.40pm