

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 5th January 2015 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, Crane, Brookman, Thompson, Farrell, Bumbieris, Small, Podger
Also present: S Skipworth, District Cllr Paul Hewer (PH), John Garvey and Geoff Adams

Police Report: No Police present so email report was read out by the Town Clerk. ‘We really enjoyed working on the Victorian Extravaganza Day in Hungerford. PC Drewitt attended the traditional breakfast in the morning and Sgt Morgan, PC Hughes and PCSO King enjoyed working the evening shift. The fire Brigade was called to a report of smoke at The Three Swans Hotel. We assisted with crowd and traffic control but pleased to report that we did not have any other incidents on the night.

We received a report of Burglary to a property in Priory Road, Hungerford that occurred on the 8th December 2014 between 11:30-12:30. A house was entered but no items were taken.

Between 5th-9th December, a memorial Bench in the grounds of St Lawrence’s Church, Hungerford was deliberately damaged. Naturally the victim was very upset due to the bench being in memory of a loved one. PCSO Lee Bremner is holding a Have your say meeting on Wednesday 14th Jan between 10-11am at the Hungerford Market on the High Street. Please come down and say hello. She will be there to answer any questions.’

Cllrs commented that the report did not cover other items they were aware of such as the taxi set alight and drugs update. PH was disappointed the Police were not present and will express his concerns directly.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Wilson, Leach, Hudson, and District Cllr J Podger and the Police
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Thompson – non pecuniary interest – item 9
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 1st December 2014 and extraordinary meeting on 8th December 2014.**
Cllr Crane proposed minutes as a true record, subject to the amendment to the extraordinary minutes to note the presence of Cllr Bumbieris at the Part 2, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour
- 4. Mayor’s Report** – was circulated
- 5. District Councillor’s Reports** – PH advised the costs to install a Bridge St Crossing and reroute cables is £40K. Works will start in the Easter hols. Works to repair bridges in Bridge St has been postponed as more testing is needed. The grass verges particularly in Cold Harbour road are very muddy. It is in this years programme to replace them with grasscrete. Bryan Lyttle has reminded all that the station is a protected employment site and nothing will happen in the short term. The next review is in 2 years but can HTC keep this on a quarterly agenda. A planning application for Prospect Road has been withdrawn and this will go to committee when resubmitted. HTC are invited to view the North Heights Fire damage exercise which is useful when considering planning applications. PH will let the Clerk know a viewing date soon. Improvements to Park St/ Station Road entrance would cost around £50k but are not top priority. PH was asked to follow this up this project. The entrance could be widened by using some of the police station land. Garden Art is not to be included as an alternative employment area to the Station. PH was asked if employment at the Marina would be.

- 6. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**
- R&A – Cllr Benneyworth** – HAHA and Donnington Homes meeting has been postponed due to the delay in the DPD which could take another 8 months to a year. The broken shower at the Triangle Field has been replaced free of charge thanks to Cllr Farrell.
- E&P – Cllr M Wilson** – R Ballard will be reapplying following the withdrawal of his planning application.
- T&E – Cllr Crane** – The new Town guide has now been published. A £2k budget for next financial year will include contributions to Town Team Hungerford for promotional leaflets, costs for the website and signage once the old CCTV camera posts have been removed.
- F&GP – Cllr Colin Bumbieris** – No meeting has taken place since the last report.
- H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman** – FGW have refused to allow a taxi rank as their car park is at full capacity but there is a possible location at the cycle shed. There have been complaints of poor visibility of Charnham St Crossing particularly from West to East. M Edwards (WBC) has suggested the posts are replaced with those that have illuminated heads. The Xmas lights will be switched off from tomorrow and dismantling will follow. Full costs of the project are not yet known.
- 7. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**
- a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments.** Cllr Farrell queried why the electrics for the lights were carried out by a separate contractor. Mainly because a one off project to replace the electrics with a plug in set up has been carried out. Electric works next year will be much simpler. HTC now have detailed information for future tenders. Cllr Small queried a VAT item. Clerk to check and advise. Cllr Bumbieris proposed cheque run, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
- b) Propose year to date accounts.** – R&A and H&T accounts look healthy however we are still expecting invoices e.g. for Christmas trees. Cllr Bumbieris proposed accounts, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
- c) Note NALC 2.2% salary increase** – It was noted that this settlement has been agreed by NALC and this has been factored into the 2015-16 budget.
- d) Propose Interim Audit Report** – The internal auditor makes 2 minor points: - We should display the power under which each grant is made and this will be included in the cheque run and grant schedule in future. Also in addition to ear marked reserves, a contingency amount could be left in general reserves. This is just a comment. Cllr Bumbieris proposed the Interim Audit report, seconded by Cllr Thompson, all in favour. Cllr Thompson also proposed a vote of thanks to the RFO and office staff.
- 8. Croft Field - Consider terms of draft lease and alternatives to RPI** – The draft lease received from WBC is the wrong type of lease. Cllr Small suggested a working party is formed to go through the lease and he would not recommend signing it as it is. PH will speak to C Broughton at WBC. **Action:** A working party meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th January in the office at 11am. Cllrs Thompson, Bumbieris, Benneyworth and Small will attend with the clerk. RPI is inappropriate and needs to be reconsidered.
- 9. Triangle Field – Purchase update;** No update yet. The Triangle Field Management Committee are meeting this week. Cllr Small proposed that the large storage room is fitted out with racking, seconded by Cllr Crane, one abstention, rest in favour. Money from ridding of the container may cover costs.
- 10. Agree process for renewal of Football Club Lease** – S Skipworth met with T&M and HTC over a year ago to start the renewal process. The lease expired 31st Dec. SS is also trying to obtain money from WBC for toilets to be installed next to Bulpit Park. SS asked if the road entrance can go back to WBC ownership so it can be maintained. T&M were looking at arranging this. The sublease for Hungerford Juniors is also outstanding. There are issues with the main drainage and BT. SS is happy to renew the Football Club lease on the same basis as previously. He has new trustees in mind and these need to be appointed (**Action SS**) before renewal can be processed.
- 11. Agree Freedom of the Town Nomination procedure** – It was agreed the procedure will continue on the same basis as last year. Requests for nominations can be advertised in the Adviser. Cllr Crane proposed we register congratulations to Jack Williams for his British Empire Medal.
- 12. Discuss advertising of Councillor Vacancies and Election process** – HTC are 2 councillors short and a few months short of the election. Are we being clear about the commitment involved in the role? Do the committee structures need reconsidering? 2/3s of councillors need to be elected in order for HTC to be eligible to use the Power of General Competence. Competition for volunteers in Hungerford is high. We need to promote what we do and advertise the role. **Action:** It was decided to feature councillors' profiles in Here and Now and approach the Chamber and Rotary for volunteers. Clerk to contact Nigel to see how the parliamentary candidates will be interviewed. HTC will arrange a meeting for the District Councillor candidates. Please can councillors indicate to the clerk if they would like to stand again.

13. **Future monitoring of facebook account** – P Locke has offered help with proactively managing this or providing training to staff. Councillors were in agreement of this.
14. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors.** The station generation project next steps are looking for alternative employment areas, identifying other sites, working on land assembly and interesting a developer.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm