

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 6th July 2015 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Wilson, Farrell, Bumbieris, Leach, Colloff, Small, Benneyworth

Also present: District Cllrs Paul Hewer (PH) and James Podger (JP), John Garvey (Newbury Weekly), Steve Skipworth (Hungerford Football Club), Susan Hofgartner (Constable of Town & Manor), Yvonne Gillies

Police Report: Police not present. Email report has been circulated.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Whiting and Winser and the police.
- 2. Declarations of interest and dispensations.** A detailed email has been circulated by the clerk reminding councillors when they should declare an interest and that if they have done so they should not vote on that subject. Councillors with a pecuniary interests should not take part in a discussion on that subject. Dispensations can be applied for.
Cllr Farrell and Cllr Small declared an interest on item 11. Cllr Small also declared an interest in item 9.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meetings of Full Council on 1st June, & Extraordinary FC on 30th April**
Minutes of 30th April proposed as true record by Cllr Bumbieris, seconded by Cllr Leach, all in favour.
Minutes of 1st June proposed by Cllr Bumbieris, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour.
- 4. Mayor's report.** This will be circulated tomorrow. Cllr Crane has met with John Skinner from Calne Tourism Group. Bath TC have also expressed an interest in promoting the A4 tourist route. Cllr Crane will push this at the AONB meeting.
- 5. Co-option – Consider applications** – District Cllr Hewer advised he is not interested in being co-opted at the moment. Yvonne Gillies will come to further meetings. This item was deferred in the absence of other possible candidates.
- 6. District Councillor's Reports.** JP advised that in D Carnegie's absence the Theatre Company's application has been passed to the Eastern Area Team Leader who has requested more info. PH met with Jake the Case officer for the Upper Eddington planning application. The building has started and the applicant will be applying retrospectively. If they are unsuccessful they risk having to demolish the building although it would first go to appeal. The pedestrian crossing has been delayed further as it is still with the legal department.
- 7. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**
R&A – Cllr Benneyworth – Cllrs Winser and Brookman joined R&A as new members. Hungerford Nursery made a presentation regards their Boost services and it was agreed rent for Boost sessions should have a zero rate. Cobbs are providing temporary storage for the Theatre Company's cladding. The plane tree work was agreed and has been done today. A new bench contractor is being sought. A quote to replant the Tragedy Gardens was agreed and a new contractor will maintain it in the autumn.

E&P – Cllr Farrell is keeping a close eye on the Upper Eddington application. Hungerford Primary School plans are awaited. Works at Shell garage should be done by September.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman – A request for 2 taxi parking spaces at the station has been refused by FGW. WBC have been asked to release 2 spaces in their station car park. It is thought this is unlikely to be agreed because of loss of revenue. A bid will have to be put in with the District Councillors. Funding is now available from FGW. A Drysdale will change the taxi space in the High Street to loading before 10am. A low-loader has been mounting the pavement and manouvring outside the school. Cllr Brookman has pointed out to WBC that the Management Plan states all commercial vehicles should be policed. WBC have agreed to monitor traffic speeds across the common. R James (T&M) has suggested 3 siting points. G Davis (WBC) is in favour of a mobile speed monitor. LEDs are coming to West Berks. Bridge St is included in the change of lamppost heads but nothing is planned for the High St. A speed limit change from 60mph to 40mph has been agreed for the side road next to the Tally Ho!

T&E – Cllr Crane is meeting with the AONB to look at updating the maps outside the council office.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – no meeting has taken place.

8. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris

a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated). Cllr Crane proposed cheque run of £18,721 seconded by Cllr Wilson, all in favour. **Action:** Clerk to check Berkshire Pension payment.

b) Propose year to date accounts. There has been a saving on the insurance premium and expenditure is currently below budget. Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Leach, all in favour.

c) Propose grant for Youth & Community Centre – Roger Thompson and Eoin attended F&GP and have submitted their accounts. HTC has supported the Centre with a £4500 payment annually for the last 3 years. Renewal of the lease for the Y&C Centre has been drawn up and the service charge has been agreed. Cllr Crane proposed HTC continue funding the Y&C Centre for the next 3 years, with an annual payment of £4,500, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.

9. Consider R&A recommended proposal, Cllr Benneyworth proposed *‘if the terms of the new 20 year lease for Hungerford Football Club (HFC) are agreeable to both the Town & Manor and HFC, HTC will endorse the partial surrender’* **(taken after item 6)** – The Football club lease ran out last December and from next year HFC will require at least a 10 year lease as the rules have changed. The Mayor has sent a letter to S Skipworth to reassure the FA that work to complete a new lease will be given priority. We believe this letter is acceptable.

HTC have been asked to step back from negotiating with Town & Manor and the Football Club. The Mayor advised he believes it is possible to agree a partial surrender but stressed that the Football Club must take legal advice. S Skipworth advised he started negotiations with G Furr 3 years ago but he is happy for the Football Club to work with Town & Manor. The Mayor said this should be put in writing to HTC. Cllr Crane read out the R&A recommended proposal (in italics above). The additional length of the partial surrender is in respect of access by the Cricket Club (CC) over land. Cllr Small will speak to Roger Beard regards this. The CC lease doesn't expire for another 12 years. The CC may occasionally have to cross the Rec if access through HFC is not possible due to a match or if CC is cutting the grass.

S Hofgartner advised land could be landlocked if a football match was on without access over the Rec. If this point is over engineered in the Partial surrender draft T&M are happy to look at it. A side letter could be used. It was pointed out the CC have no legal right of way over the common.

The Mayor asked if a lease cannot be unduly delayed as S Skipworth needs this as soon as possible.

Heads of Terms need to be looked at. The T&M would be delighted to work towards a 20 year lease.

Cllr Benneyworth proposed Full Council agree the recommended proposal made by R&A (in italics above), seconded by Cllr Wilson, one abstention, rest in favour.

Consider 1 year lease by reference for Hungerford Football Club as drafted – At present this is not needed.

10. Report from Xmas lights working party – Cllrs Crane, Winser, Farrell, Brookman; Roger Ballard and the clerk attended the meeting. Roger Ballard and Cllr Brookman will begin testing the lights in August. Tender document will go out beginning of September. Cllr Winser and the clerk are to work on the entertainment. Cllr Crane is to look at setting up a charitable group to support the lights which could claim gift aid in future years. Cllr Farrell is investigating costs of trees and sponsorship of the main tree. The switch on date was confirmed as 29th Nov. Roger Ballard is certified to do PAT testing and will carry this out with Cllr Brookman.

11. Report on Croft Field meeting – Cllrs Leach and Small attended along with Roger Ballard and members from Wessex Rangers, the Nursery, Town Band and Training Expertise. Cllr Leach has a new job and can't commit to chairing the Management Committee but can still help. They have put together a wish list and are happy to go ahead with PCF Contractors, for the works required. They are also considering taking

down the stud wall. The band is keen to use the canoe room. The Rangers are happy to decorate. The clerk confirmed PCF's quote has increased by 10% since last year. It was agreed this was fine to proceed with. We need to give ample notice to the users of when the work will start. It was noted there is no wifi or phone line at the centre.

- 12. Triangle Field – Report from meeting regards kitchen improvements – Cllr Crane** – The caterers that do Hocktide met with Cllrs Crane and Farrell to advise what equipment might be needed to use the kitchen for public events. **Update on Theatre Co. planning application** – Whilst waiting for planning permission licence terms can be considered including the rent. It was suggested this should be compared with commercial rent and that TFMC meet with the Theatre Co. to agree the rent. Conditions will be applied to the planning permission, if given. They may limit use of the containers solely to the Theatre Co. Where will the set building take place? Will the car park improvements be completed anyway even if the containers do not receive planning? Will there be 2 spaces for coaches and 2 for disabled? WBC has advised we will be copied in on changes prior to 22nd July.
- 13. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors** – The road surface for Sanden Close and Homefield Way is having remedial work done in the next 7 to 10 days. The teas were excellent at the Mayor's eleven cricket match!!

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.