

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 4th January 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Bumbieris, Farrell, Whiting, Winsler, Small, Wilson, Chicken, Benneyworth and District Cllrs Hewer (PH) & Podger

Also present: approx. 20 members of the public re: allotments

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Colloff and Hudson
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Crane has an allotment, Cllrs Small and Farrell are on the Triangle Field Management Committee, Cllr Farrell on the Croft Field Committee and Cllr Wilson manages Hungerford in Bloom.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meetings of the Full Council on 7th December 2015.** Cllr Brookman proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour.
- 4. Mayor's report.** Mayor's report was circulated.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports.** District Cllr Paul Hewer thanked everyone for attending the unveiling of David Holtby's bench. District Cllr James Podger advised the cuts will be much higher than the predicted £10.8 million. West Berkshire Council could increase council tax by a max of 3.9% to try and offset cuts. A site meeting is scheduled this Friday at Priory Road to look at JOG road safety. The Bus stops have been completed in Priory Road.
- 6. HAHA – update on Allotments.** Mark Norgate has confirmed by email to HAHA, the Mayor and MP his offer of a one-year extension to the lease on Marsh Lane. He is hoping to extend his option on the land. Any offer of a permanent stay at the current site will be linked to him obtaining planning on HUN001. HTC response to the DPD HSA Consultation is now on the HTC website. AONB are aligned with HTC in their response. PH advised WBC are plan led, not developer led and encouraged HTC to have a plan B for obtaining a long term allotment site. **Action:** - Add to R&A Agenda to reconvene Working Party. HAHA advised WBC can compulsory hire, for allotment use, land that cannot be developed for 15 years, **Action:** Cllr Small will arrange a formal agreement for the one-year lease extension. HAHA meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th January.
- 7. Suggested adoption of Defibrillators by HTC – Richard Scofield.** Apologies.
- 8. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

R&A – Cllr Benneyworth. No meeting held in December, and nothing new to report.
E&P – Cllr Farrell. Response to consultation has gone in. Eddington gone to Appeal. Richard Benyon MP supports development of brownfield sites and will help to resolve ransom strip.
T&E – Cllr Crane. New Town Guide to come out this month. He wishes to attract employees into dialogue.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman. No meeting in December but Xmas lights have been time consuming. He will attend the JOG footpath improvement site meeting and then a site visit to Newtown regards traffic and speeding. The bus stops have been completed at Priory Road. **Action:** - Clerk to speak to Lindley manager and let them know new bus timetable. Cllr Benneyworth proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Brookman for Xmas lights. Thanks proposed to Chamber of Commerce for Victorian Extravaganza and next year will be 25th Anniversary.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris. No meeting.

9. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris

a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated). Cllr Bumbieris proposed acceptance of cheque run, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

b) Propose year to date accounts. The committee monthly budgets and variances were compared. Overall there is a £1k underspend. Christmas lights invoices are yet to be paid. Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

c) Consider and propose final budget and precept figures. 2 spreadsheets were presented with and without CCTV costs. Salt bins have been included in the budget. Nothing additional has been allowed in budget for bus routes. **Action:** Publicise explanation of precept increase (in Mayor's article Here & Now) itemising services which would be otherwise lost without a rise. S106 money could be used to fund EM funds rather than including them in the budget.

Cllr Crane proposed a 15.04% increase, with a Precept of £254,803 seconded by Cllr Small, Cllr Bumbieris against, rest in favour.

d) Consider use of Power of General Competence. Cllr Benneyworth proposed use of the General Power of Competence where required as HTC meets the criteria, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour

e) Hungerford in Bloom - Consider quotations. Alternative quotes will be compared at F&GP. Cllr Wilson will consider colours in particular with Queens 90th in mind.

10. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors. The £8,500 money from WBC is still outstanding. **Action:** Draft official letter chasing and quoting terms of lease.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

PART 2

Confidential

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.

11. Maintenance man – Employment & contract terms. Cllr Crane proposed to renew the fixed term contract for 2 months, all in favour.

12. Town & Manor Lease – Part Surrender decision. Cllr Crane proposed to accept the lease (subject to firming up the 2 final points that our solicitor identified), 2 abstentions, rest in favour.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm