

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Martin Crane OBE
28 Cottrell Close
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0HF
Tel: 01488 684804
martincrane41@sky.com



The Town Clerk
Mrs Claire Barnes
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 6th June 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Farrell, Simpson, Bumbieris, Small, Hudson, Knight, Chicken and Colloff
Also present: Geoff Adams (Adviser) and members of the public, Police

Police – The crime report/figures have been circulated. Main concern is the two distraction burglaries which took place in May. Police have been to visit the office to view the new CCTV.

Action: The clerk will email details to PCSO Jo King on obtaining an app to view the CCTV securely. Travellers have been moved on from the railway area quickly and concern was voiced about the security of other local sites.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Wilson, Wood, Whiting, Winsor, Benneyworth and Mr Henderson
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllrs Knight and Simpson – Friends of Hungerford Library
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Full Council of 3rd May 2016 and outcome of actions.** Cllr Crane proposed minutes as a true record, subject to clarification, if possible, of Dist Cllr Hewer's view on Rowlands application, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.
- 4. Mayor's report** – This has been circulated. Cllr Crane and Virginia enjoyed the Buckingham palace tea party. Cllrs Crane and Knight met with CEO of WBC, Nick Carter, today about devolution. The Mayor thanked Friends of Hungerford Library for their work on all aspects of devolution. Nick Carter will look into the £8500 o/s money issue and the Carpuccino licence cost.
- 5. Cuts to 6th Form bus pass subsidy** – The subsidy is a discretionary payment. Unfortunately train passes for students don't operate on hours that suit. **Action:** Add this item to H&T agenda and consider the town providing a bus service to help students. An article in a national newspaper mentions that Hungerford does not have a 6th form and the cost of bus passes has increased from £234 to £690 annually. The 6th form closed approximately when the mandatory age of education increased to 18 leaving no option for the costs to be incurred by parents/carers. Members of the public present commented that they were looking for Dist Cllr Macro to challenge the increased cost as they had not received help from the current District Cllrs. The timing is urgent as costs will be effective from Sept.
Action: The Mayor will speak to the leader of the council and CEO in support of reducing the costs, but first requires numbers of students and needs to consider costs of a specific bus service.
Action: Speak to WBC or School and obtain numbers. Consider contributions from HTC or users. Why are post 16 to 18 year olds in compulsory education not given free transport?
- 6. District Councillor's Reports – Not present. No Apologies.**
- 7. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

R&A – Cllr Small – The committee met on 17th May and TFMC met on 25/5. The circus and Queens 90th celebrations are on 18/6. TFMC will meet before this. The Theatre Co. is not willing to put up screening to the containers. It is a condition of their planning permission to do so. HTC agree it should be screened although they are against the car park being dug up. G Ham (Church Warden) has written to the Canal & River Trust stating no access is permitted to the canal through the Church yard. The Tragedy Garden

improvements will be discussed at the next R&A along with the Concrete wall at the play park. The Professional surveyors report states that the structure is not inherently dangerous.

E&P – Cllr Farrell - The appeal for Eddington will take place on 23rd June and Cllr Farrell will be attending. Cllr Hudson will attend the EIP on 13th July.

T&E – Cllr Crane – This committee meet next Tuesday. It is hoped West Berkshire training Consortium will attend. Cllr Crane is meeting with David Wilson Homes tomorrow.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman – The pedestrian crossing has been delayed until June due to a clash with the Giga-clear works. Hungerford Newtown warning signs will be replaced this financial year and have already been ordered. Tree cutting at this junction has been carried out by B Acworth to improve the sight lines. No proposal has been made to alter the speed to 30mph as WBC advises surveys prove there is no need for this. A resident at Upper Eddington has requested a weight restriction limit. WBC advises this is unnecessary. The problem can be avoided if residents park in the parking area provided and not in the road. Footpaths outside the JOG School will take 7-10 days to complete and work will take place during the summer holidays. CCTV is up and running and has been used by the police. GWR grant is available but the deadline is 30th June. It was decided this could be discussed under the topic of Environment at the next E&P meeting.

Action: Add to the agenda.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – The committee met on 10/5. An extension to the Marsh Lane allotments has been agreed for 1 year. Cllr Small is dealing with HTC's agreement to pay reasonable costs to the solicitors for the extension. £150 has been granted to Berkshire MS Therapy. B Acworth's invoice for the saplings has been paid following the receipt of £200 from the Theatre Co. towards it. The Internal Audit report has been accepted. Valuation of HTC assets is required. £6k has been allocated to the budget for fencing/boundaries.

8. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**

a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated)** – Cllr Bumbieris proposed the cheque run of £25,518.47 plus VAT, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

b) **Propose Year to date accounts** – An amendment has been made to the figures under the F&GP budget and therefore year to date accounts can't be proposed until this has been corrected. There are some phasing issues under the H&T budget which will even out.

c) **Propose Annual Risk Assessments** – R&A assessments are outstanding. **Action:** Complete and circulate whole document for proposal at next Full Council

d) **Agree action to pursue £8,500 outstanding amount from WBC** – Cllr Small has spoken to C Broughton at WBC who advised speaking to Nick Carter. **Action:** Cllr Crane has already done this and waits response before furthering pursuit in writing.

e) **Consider budget for street lighting** – No budget exists at present. HTC own 105 lighting columns. WBC carry out the maintenance etc. and this is charged by WBC through the precept to tax payers. All were in agreement it is not worth HTC taking on 39 lights (the rest are maintained by SEB) and that the existing set up should continue. **Action:** Types of replacement lighting columns and lamps will be discussed at next H&T. Add to the agenda.

9. **Any further information on Library closure and budget cuts. Report following WBC briefing of 2/6/16** – Cllrs Knight, Simpson and the Clerk attended a meeting at Shaw House chaired by Hilary Cole last Thursday. They met Wendy from Red Quadrant who are providing a Needs Assessment over the next 3 months. RQ will visit Hungerford Library for ½ a day. Local groups will speak to RQ on the day. Individual models will be considered for the libraries which could be outsourcing, community etc. RQ are constrained by WBC's true budget of £835K (excluding the transitional funding) which is a 45% reduction on the running cost. Newbury Library will be treated the same as everyone else under the Needs assessment. RQ will report back at the end of August. CEO Nick Carter wishes to visit Hungerford Library. However Roger Croft said the money will only be there for 6 months and will run out in August and cuts could be made then. The 1964 act refers to the duty to provide a comprehensive library service.

10. **St Saviour's Cemetery – Report from Working Party meeting** – The Vicar and a member of public wish to join the working party. Cllr Crane will also be meeting with another grave owner.

11. **Propose actions on outstanding Health & Safety issues – Queens 90th Celebrations at Triangle Field:** The DC has produced a risk assessment for comment and awaits response. Cllr Crane met with Cllr Farrell to discuss the event. H&S issues regards the Triangle Field have been raised but not actioned. How is this to be pursued? **Action:** Cllr Crane will attend the TFMC meeting this Wednesday. Rob Cox felt the building supplies are safely secured however this is a H&S concern to HTC. Cllr Farrell has had to extend

the licensing to cover the event as the application by the RFC was not sufficient. **Flags in High St – Action:** Cllr Whiting will visit Rod Desmeules this week and the HTC office next week to advise on H&S requirements.

- 12. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors –** The Chamber of Commerce meeting this month was promoted and therefore well attended. Issues that arose were that rents and business rates in Hungerford are too high and also that parking is prohibitive. **Action:** Add to T&E agenda. The condition of 5 High St was also a concern. A resident's discount card was suggested to aid with parking charges.

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.

- 13. Deputy Clerk – Recommend position as permanent after 3 month probationary period –** Cllr Crane proposed the DC Philippa Adams is employed on a permanent basis following a successful probationary period, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.

Meeting closed 8.35pm