

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Knight, Brookman, Farrell, Benneyworth, Bumbieris, Simpson, Whiting, Winsor, Chicken and Small (arrived late)

Also present: The Police, John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), District Cllrs Paul Hewer (PH) and James Podger (JP).

Police Report – An arrest has been made of a new resident to the area who has been firing a pp gun. He has been involved in a few incidents. The travellers by the Tavern pub were moved on quite quickly. There is a problem at the skate park with rubbish and the Police are doing their best to move on under-age smokers. Newly laid tarmac has been damaged there and cannabis is being smoked. The police would be interested in a CCTV camera being installed and will ask the Chief Inspector about helping to fund this. (DS entered). Although this is not serious crime drug use should be nipped in the bud at an early age. Needles have been found in the public toilets on occasions.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Colloff, Wilson, Wood, Hudson and Crane
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllrs Knight and Simpson– Friends of Hungerford Library, Cllr Farrell – Croft Field
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 6th June 2016 out outcome of actions.** Cllr Brookman proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Chicken, 2 abstentions, rest in favour.
Outcome of Actions: About 30 post16 students are travelling to Newbury for education from Hungerford so a minibus would not be large enough. The numbers will double next year. A suggestion was another school's bus travelling in the same direction could help. JP attended a meeting at the Children's Centre and has also had meetings with the Chief Exec and is working towards a solution although he makes no promises. Parents didn't realise when their children started at JOG that the 6th Form would be withdrawn and are now faced with increased transport costs following the cutting of the subsidy. Closure of JOG 6th Form is only a suspension. **Action:** Cllr Knight will investigate costs of a coach and bring to F&GP. District Cllrs support this.
- 4. Mayor's report has been circulated.**
- 5. District Councillor's Reports** – PH advised Rowlands application has been refused at WAP because the area is designated an employment site. This designation will be reviewed at the end of the year. PH wishes for the station to be developed and is confident there will be changes within the next 5 years. Rowlands are likely to appeal. The Eddington appeal- WBC is against by majority and decision has gone to the inspector. PH can't vote on Prosperous farm as he has an interest. HTC supports the application and JP will call it in if it is recommended for refusal. The Pedestrian Crossing in Bridge St is nearly finished. JP spoke to the chair of CHAIN who said money is not an issue at the moment. Richard Benyon is visiting JOG School on 15th July in the morning to meet the head, visit the library and learn about the academy. PH has received HTC's letter about the outstanding £8500 and request for a meeting. He advised WBC's legal team thinks the member's bid money satisfies their legal responsibility written in the lease. The DCs have put their view forward but the leader is taking a robust position. JP has a meeting on the 15th and will speak to HTC after that. Cllr Brookman has not had replies to any of his emails to the DCs and Cllr

Simpson has not seen JP at any Full Council meetings since she became councillor. JP advised he always answers every email and he can't attend all meetings. JP and PH left.

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

R&A – Cllr Small – HAHA reps attended. Lease has been signed for Marsh Lane. **Action:** Take to F&GP to sign and attach it to the lease that has expired. The Theatre Company attended and was to take issues back to their own meeting. 2 Cllrs attended. The result of the meeting was Theatre Company will ask WBC to remove the screening condition. Peter Harries has offered to paint the containers green.

E&P – Cllr Farrell rang the appeals office and was told it would be several months before the outcome of the Eddington appeal was heard. An interesting application was received for a garden library and quite a few applications for alterations have been received which proves people want to stay in Hungerford.

T&E – Cllr Crane not present - Deferred.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – The committee hasn't met.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman – Pedestrian crossing will be completed this Friday. Footpath work outside JOG school will start 1st Aug. Clerk is obtaining a quote for a CCTV camera at the skate park. WBC has advised it is not their policy to put up warning signs about icy footways. Photos of the pedestrian bridge show it is not gritted. Cllr Brookman advised WBC has now agreed to clean the bridge and grit it in future. WBC is dealing with the complaints of oil spilt on a road. The H1 bus timetable has changed and buses will run 15 mins later. The No.3 new bus timetable is yet to be published. HTC has a concrete light column that is cracked and a steel column that has rusted. Cllr Brookman has asked what info WBC receive from the inspections of our lights. **Action:** Clerk to speak to Town & Manor over concerns of height of grass on common.

7. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**

a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated)** – Cllr Bumbieris proposed the cheque run of £16,544.82, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.

b) **Propose Year to date accounts** – Accounts are £13k to the good. Budgeted expenditure hasn't happened yet. CCTV underspent and seat repair not spent. Cllr Bumbieris proposed the year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.

c) **Propose Annual Risk Assessments** – These have been circulated and new assessments written for the Public Toilets and CCTV. Each Chair has checked and signed them. Cllr Bumbieris proposed the risk assessments as written, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.

d) **Agree action to pursue £8,500 outstanding amount from WBC** – Already discussed in item 5.

Action: Keep on FC agenda and add to F&GP agenda

e) **Propose funds for EIP from general reserves and consider future budget** – The EIP takes place on 13/7/16 and Cllr Hudson and Ashburn Planning will be attending. The approx. cost is between £2400 and £2900. A budget of £2K is available. Cllr Bumbieris proposed up to £1000 can be accessed from General reserves to cover the balance, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour.

8. **Croft Field – Transparency in spending** – The auditor has noted that over £10K has been spent on the Croft Field Centre over the course of the year with one contractor. This didn't go out to tender. The reason being the works were different projects and were priced at different times during the year. Each time alternative quotes were obtained and the decision was brought to committee. For complete transparency the Chair read out the costs. HTC acknowledges the concerns of the auditor and is happy the council has acted correctly. The auditor also suggested that the tender limit was too low and HTC should consider raising this to £20,000. **Action:** Discuss the tender level at F&GP and bring back to Full Council.

- **Any planning considerations for garden room** – Cllr Farrell has spoken to Orange Key about whether planning permission is required for a brick gazebo. They have advised it is. They quoted £375 plus vat for providing the drawings. There would also be the cost of submitting the planning application. E&P has agreed a budget of £500 already. Cllr Winsor proposed proceeding with Orange Key's quote, seconded by Cllr Simpson, one abstention, rest in favour. Once in place HTC can apply for a Tesco grant.

9. **Update from Friends of Hungerford Library** – Red Quadrant is visiting the library this Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Anyone who has an interest to speak to Wendy should attend. The outcome of the Needs Assessment will be made at the end of August. A children's competition has been run and all drawing entries will be displayed on the walls. On Sat 16th July there will be press coverage of presentation of the prizes.

10. **Berkshire Economic Development Needs Assessment Consultation Response** – The document is showing a 11,000 increase in jobs over the next 20 years. It is a 90 page report which HTC has been asked to comment on. All were agreed that Cllr Knight could complete the consultation response on behalf of HTC.
11. **RBF&RS Consultation Response** – **Action:** Add to F&GP agenda for a response.
12. **Any Health & Safety issues** – Is the electrical connection at the Triangle Field energised as the cable is still above the ground? A safety certificate is needed and a dimensioned plan from the Theatre Company. **Action:** Cllr Whiting will check if it is live. **Action:** In future limit discussion on H&S items.
13. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- Cllr Whiting – HED meeting** – The nursery had a 95% pass for ECAT and the Primary had 5 good areas in their OFSTED. The Primary school is to close for education from 1.30pm on a Friday for teacher training. The Excalibur meeting at JOG School was very good and the team very professional. A-level teaching at St Johns will be available for JOG teachers. The academy will happen from 1st October. HED meetings are now finished. A framework target has been drawn up and will be circulated.
Cllr Small – Chamber of Commerce next meeting is this Thursday. Parking charges are on the agenda.
Cllr Chicken – The Youth & Community Centre held its open day. Ladybugs, Newbury College, Hogan’s music, Hungerford Guides, St Lawrence Bell ringers attended. The new Y&C centre sign is up. With the academy status of the school, Y&C has yet to hear about their future. Y&C are hoping to isolate their heating/electrics from the school building to save money.

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.

14. **Internal review on handling of FOI request** – **Action:** Obtain the view of HTC’s planning consultants.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.