

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 3rd October 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Farrell, Bumbieris, Wilson, Wood, Small, Benneyworth, Simpson

Also present: District Cllrs Paul Hewer (PH) and James Podger (JP), John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), Derek Loft (DL) and members of the public

Remembrance Service: Derek Loft will look at improving the tannoy system; last year it was a bit directional. £50 donation was agreed as acceptable to the provider. DL will send copy of hymn sheet to Clerk to arrange printing. REME will be attending and a fly past may be arranged. The date is November Sunday 13th. Neale Marney is to be asked as a first aider. A market will be on the same day. RBL will speak to Dani at T&M.

The Mayor welcomed back Cllr Shaun Wood.

Police Report (discussed after H&T report as Police delayed). During the period 1st Sept – 1st Oct there has been 1 theft of bike, 1 theft of a light, 2 thefts from vehicles, 1 shop lifting incident plus 2 more from the Co-op, key damage to vehicles, and anti-social driving, (if caught repeating this within the next year licence will be lost). The police are continuing patrols at the skate park, (there has been lots of litter). They are continuing patrols around the toilets. Parking on grass at Atherton Crescent is still happening and business owners are parking on zig-zags at the new zebra crossing. Swift Cleaners break in is being investigated. Congratulations were expressed to a local officer over his actions at a fatal crash.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Winsor, Knight, Whiting, Chicken, Hudson, Colloff
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllrs Farrell – Croft Field Building and Triangle Field, Cllr Small – Triangle Field
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 5th September 2016 and outcome of actions.** Cllr Small proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.
- 4. Mayor's Report** has been circulated. A highlight of the Mayor's diary this month was the Lord Lieutenant Award's ceremony. Councillors were made aware that the precept could be capped in future. JP advised there will be no news on release of business rates to the District Council until next parliament.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports** have been circulated. JP commented that having a meeting prior to Full Council is working better. PW advised Prosperous Home Farm planning application is similar to a Winterbourne application which has recently been granted and this will set a precedent. In this case the Committee overruled the officer's decision and it went to District. Winterbourne has no town boundary but planning application was agricultural (like Prosperous) and on outskirts. Agricultural land reverts back to green field. Prosperous Farm will go to WBC meeting after next. HTC strongly supported it. Cllr Podger will call in if it is recommended for refusal.

HTC are looking for coach parking in Church Street, for 2 hours not just for drop off. JP and PH have concern with turning of a coach through Atherton to Church Way as they say the roads are too narrow. Cllrs Podger and Hewer will check if Town Hall is a viable drop off for coaches. District Cllrs are keen to get the speed limit around JOG School down to 20mph all the time and Mr Henderson is in support of this. The next pre meeting is 27th October 2016 at 11.00am. It was noted that there will be 3 days of traffic lights whilst works for Garden Art are done. This is a necessity. Cllr Hewer will sort the dates.

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

R&A – Cllr Small - An allotments meeting with M Norgate is hoped for on 13th. Amendment to the Y&C sign is in progress. Quotes are awaited for the Skate Park ramps and for the fence. Swimming Pool House contractors have been instructed. Wait to hear about relocating goal posts. A tree surgeon has been contacted about the silver birch in St Lawrence Churchyard. A sign is to go up at St Saviour's to mark a passing place. Quotes need to be prioritised and budget considered.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman - Bridge Street pedestrian crossing is now complete. Footpath works outside JOG school are complete. Is the pedestrian crossing outside the post office dangerous? The telephone box is obscuring view of drivers but there have been no reported accidents in the last five years. WBC are reviewing the 40mph limit at Charnham Park to make it 30 at HTC request. It will be put to the committee. Boy racers have been dealt with by Police.

E&P – Cllr Farrell - 26 Charnham Street – A site visit took place with District Cllrs and the architect. The application is being reviewed. Access is the problem. Cllrs Knight, Simpson and Farrell attended a site visit to Strongrove Hill. It was seen as overdevelopment and committee were not in favour. Police Commissioner thinks the Police building will be sold by end of next year. This is of interest to development at the station. Cllr Brookman visited Prosperous Farm and HTC strongly support the application. The DPD decision is expected in 6 weeks' time.

T&E – Cllr Crane - The committee meeting was cancelled. It is hoped to hold the exposition at JOG at February half term. AONB are working on a design for the welcome sign. Cllrs can choose Hungerford photographs for possible entry in a calendar.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – The compensation scheme has reduced from £85k to £75k. Barclays are increasing bank charges from 1st October. Newbury Building Society are reducing their interest rates from 1.25% to 1%. 3 more grants were approved – Wessex Rangers £600, Chamber £1k for Extravaganza. Literary Festival - £500 grant.

7. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris

a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for the last month. Included this month is a large payment to the Leisure Centre. Cllr Crane proposed authorisation of cheque run of £24,784.21+ salaries + VAT seconded by Cllr Bumbieris, all in favour.

b) Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report. The large variance in H&T budget is the bus subsidy which is due soon. Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

c) Propose retention of general reserve balance at £50K as recommended by F&GP. General reserves have been growing. Precept has been raised to cover bus routes, toilets, CCTV etc. Cllr Crane proposed general reserves are kept at a figure of £50k, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.

d) Propose setting of contingency budget - (for unforeseen expenses). Cllr Bumbieris proposed agreement in principle of having a contingency budget (no amount set yet), seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour. Expenses for the Library are unknown at the moment.

8. Christmas Lights tender – Consider options as recommended by working party and propose contractor for this year's lights and tree installation. Negotiations are on-going and not at a stage to nominate contractor, however this will need to be done fairly quickly. Prices have come in higher than budgeted. An extraordinary meeting will be held on Monday. Cllr Crane is sending letters to request companies/retailers to pledge financial support. The Town & Manor has been approached for more help. It was suggest a collection from the public could be made.

9. **Standing orders – Working party review (Cllr Bumbieris).** Standing Orders are to be reviewed every year. Cllr Bumbieris has identified minor alterations. Current standing orders are based on model NALC Standing Orders. Cllr Bumbieris is looking for volunteers to review document. **Action:** Cllr Bumbieris to circulate it.
10. **Death of A National Figure – Adoption of protocol as recommended by F&GP.** This involves putting a document in place on protocol. Perhaps Town & Manor should also endorse this. Cllr Small proposed to adopt this, seconded by Cllr Bumbieris, all in favour.
11. **Comparison of quotations for pest control as recommended by H&T.** Quotes have been received for trapping and despatching (most appropriate method). Environmental Health (Tony McEvoy) will take no further action until we (as a town) cull. Countryside quoted £2730 (2 visits for 5 days). Humane Pest Control quoted £2110 (2 visits a day for 4 weeks). Quotes include hire and set up. Cllr Farrell thinks WBC should pay for it. Cllr Simpson said if we don't act now numbers will increase. It was agreed to act now rather than wait for the new financial year and a budget. Cllr Crane proposed the trap and dispatch method, one objection, rest in favour. **Action:** Seek joint funding with Network Rail, Dodds, T&M, Chamber of Commerce, WBC and specific properties.
12. **Consider approval of quotation for maintenance to guttering and fascia boards at Sports Pavilion.** Arc Windows quoted £1625 + VAT. PCF quoted £1360 + VAT. Cllr Small proposed to proceed with PCF, seconded by Cllr Simpson, one abstention, rest in favour.
13. **Health & Safety issues – Report by Clerk circulated.** There is one dog bin by swing-bridge which is overflowing. There is a 2nd bin by the east side of the road bridge. The bins belong to Canal & River Trust. An additional bin is needed somewhere between the 2. The verge has been cut and only one dog bag found discarded. **Action:** Prioritise H&S action list. The Cuttings are overgrown. WBC and Network Rail have not cut back the vegetation. WBC has been chased. Chris Sperring has been chased about the low level lighting.
14. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals - none**

Meeting closed at 8.40pm