

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 3rd July 2017 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Knight, Simpson, Farrell, Brookman, Small, Bumbieris, Chicken, Hudson and Wood (arrived later)

Also present: John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), Brian Williams (The Adviser), District Cllrs James Podger (JP), Darren Pettifer (Chair of Hungerford Town Juniors Football Club), PC David Burleigh, PCSO Joanna King, Liz Wilcock and other members of the public

Member of Public – Darren Pettifer introduced himself as the new chair having taken over from S Skipworth. The HTJFC has been running 35 years and there are now 150 kids involved ranging from under 6s to under 18s. They have good links with the school and wish to build on their relationship with the Town Council. He wasn't aware grants are available or that the Triangle Field and Changing rooms are for hire. They have 3 teams and only 1 pitch at present. Darren advised that they fundraise themselves but could do with financial help. Their fees have risen following employment of a full time administrator. Cllr Small requested he contact the office with his requirements for hiring the Triangle Field and invited him to attend the next Triangle Field Management Committee.

Darren expressed his interest in having a 3G pitch in Hungerford, advised there is demand, it would be a money maker and that the Football Club would also use it. There are fantastic facilities at Stanley Park which were lottery and FA funded.

Police entered.

Members of Public – Liz Wilcock (LW) lives near the Skate Park and read out a statement she had written on behalf of her neighbours. The statement mentioned problems in the skate park and the surrounding area including near the cricket club, with alcohol, drugs and cigarettes and that a vulnerable child is being groomed to take drugs. LW has organised a meeting at the Football Club to discuss this on Monday 17th July at 7.30pm and is inviting Councillors, Police, the MP and public to attend. The Mayor agreed to attend. Noise, bad language and loud music until late are also problems and this is disturbing the neighbours. The park used to be locked each night and maybe this should be considered again. However there have been problems with the fence being cut. CCTV could be installed. Reports have been made to the Police.

PC David Burleigh advised the Skate Park is on the patrol plan but he was not aware of grooming. Illegal actions need to be reported to the police on 999. If the police have increased concern they can supply undercover officers. He urged any info on those involved to be reported to the police. It was suggested the neighbours should keep a detailed log of the problems.

Members of the public were welcomed to the next R&A meeting where the item will be discussed further.

Police Report – There is a new neighbourhood team in place which includes 6 PCSOs providing more cover. They book on at Newbury and the response teams work 24 hours a day. Recent crime stats can be found on their website. The old police station building has been sold.

Cllr Farrell - Thefts and incidents in the area has been a topic on social media. There were 2 arson attacks in Lambourn recently. One had a 30 minute response time from Ramsbury.

PC Burleigh could only advise on the police response time to Ramsbury being 10 minutes.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Colloff, Whiting, Crane, Winser, Finlay, Benneyworth and District Councillor Paul Hewer
2. **Declarations of interest** - Cllrs Knight & Simpson (Library)
3. **Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 5th June 2017 and Extra Full Council meeting of 19th June 2017 and outcome of actions** – Cllr Simpson proposed agreement of the minutes of 5th June as a true record subject to an amendment to include ‘R Cox stated he had contacted WBC and was advised that he didn’t need planning for a generator at the Triangle Field, seconded by Cllr Chicken, all in favour. Cllr Brookman proposed minutes of 19th June as a true record, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour.
4. **Mayor’s report** - Circulated
5. **District Councillor’s Reports** – Circulated. Cllr Knight attended the Savernake Care Home opening in Marlborough. The care home had unsuccessfully tried to obtain planning permission to build on the derelict site at Charnham Park that currently has plans for a hotel. DC Podger said DC Hewer was told previously it wouldn’t make the criteria for a hotel site but he will try and resurrect it. Cllr Small voiced concerns that this would be in direct competition with the Hungerford Care home. Other views were that resources could be shared and it would produce 90 jobs which would be excellent. Cllr Farrell asked if Chestnut Walk could be used as temporary housing for those affected by the Grenfell tower fire. DC Podger has raised this with the Leader of WBC and the CEO and waits to hear back.
6. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

R&A – Cllr Small – R&A met on 20th June. St Lawrence wall is being repointed and the maintenance man is completing various jobs. Lack of progress on the allotments lease is affecting the take up of plots. Garden Room Project quotes were more expensive than anticipated and the grant available from Tesco is lower. Internal restructuring of the Croft Field is being considered. A 360 degree camera at the skate park is an option with broadband connection from the Football Club. It was agreed CCTV should be discussed at H&T in future because of the available budget.

E&P – Cllr Farrell – Talks look promising regards the Rowland’s site. Cllr Crane attended the recent meeting. We should hear a decision regards Salisbury Road at the end of the month. The listed milestone outside the 3 Swans had been painted over but is now being put right.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – The committee have not met.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman – There were 2 accidents in a week on the A338 and Cllr Brookman has received a dozen emails from residents about reducing the speed limit. The accidents were not in the same spot. Parking on Atherton Way/Church Way is causing problems with visibility. The streetlights have been ordered and a start date is awaited. Cllr Brookman has received a reply to his email to the DCs regards the temporary car parking at the station. The Xmas lights tender docs are being prepared this week. Town & Manor has offered £500 towards the cost of a pigeon cull. The Chamber of Commerce has no money. It was agreed letters should be put through the doors of retailers asking for financial support for the cull. **Action:** Office
7. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**
 - a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for last month** – Cllr Bumbieris proposed acceptance of the cheque run of £17,805.95 plus vat, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.
 - b) **Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report** – The T&E budget has not been spent yet and neither has the Triangle Field budget. Cllr Bumbieris proposed acceptance of the year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.
 - c) **Consider request for financial support from Triangle Field Management Committee** – Cllr Small has had a meeting of the TFMC and they now think that £1500 would be sufficient as the seeding will be funded by the Rugby Club. **Action:** Add to F&GP agenda
8. **Library – Report from Library Working Party meeting, Consideration of Freehold offer and outcome of WBC’s asset management group’s meeting.** Cllr Knight, Cllr Simpson and the Clerk had a meeting with Paul James (WBC) who advised the Asset Management group prefer a 99 year lease at a peppercorn rent. It is aimed for WBC to sign this off on 7th Sept. Details of the lease need to be considered and a structural survey arranged. Cllr Hudson proposed proceeding with the 99 year lease and survey, seconded by Cllr Chicken, 2 abstentions (Cllr Knight and Simpson), rest in favour.

9. **Salisbury Road Site and DPD: Legal Challenge Update and Crowdfunding review** – A well-attended meeting took place and a claim has been lodged. We wait to hear from the judge whether it will go to a hearing. Letters sent to the Newbury News were from the landowner of the site and biased. The Mayor has issued a letter in response. Around £5k has been received from Crowdfunding and donations.
10. **West Berkshire Council Devolution Programme – WBC Parish Portal specifies areas that could be managed locally by town/parish councils** – The CEO of WBC is very keen for HTC to take on services. We are in the process of a community asset transfer and councillors did not wish to express interest in any other services at present. The Wharf and Atherton Crescent are two areas of grass that are cut by WBC at present and HTC could consider taking on subject to obtaining a budget.
11. **Letter from Town & Manor – Consider any objections to purchase of land west side of Bridge St** – The government are looking to sell Canal Walk Road. T&M has put in a bid as it gives them access to the Marsh. Their consultation is underway. Maintenance of the road and footway will be carried out by WBC but they haven't adopted it. It was agreed HTC has no objections to the letter received. **Action:** Clerk to advise T&M accordingly.
12. **Local Government Boundary Commission – Consider response to additional consultation following revised electoral figures** – This was brought to the attention of the council however Councillors did not wish to respond further to the consultation.
13. **Propose acceptance of Annual Risk Assessments which have been checked and reviewed by office and Chairman of each committee** – Defer to next Full Council
14. **Circulation of emails** – The Clerk suggested that in order to reduce the amount of emails received, any supporting information is circulated with the agenda 3 clear days prior to the meeting and not before, to encourage discussion at the meeting rather than by email. Cllr Chicken proposed a 6 month trial, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.
15. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals** – Cllr Simpson recommended attending the training courses on offer and suggested tea and a bun! It was agreed councillors should meet after Full Council for a social. Cllr Chicken expressed his support of the Mayor's concept of Group Hungerford, a regular meet of local charities.

Meeting Closed 8.40pm