

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 4th September 2017 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Simpson, Farrell, Brookman, Chicken, Crane, Winser and Small (arrived later)

Also present: John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), District Cllr Paul Hewer (PH), Catherine Judd (Community Engagement Officer, Sovereign) and Tracy Walker (Berkshire National Animal Welfare Trust)

Catherine Judd from Sovereign is the commercial engagement officer covering Berkshire and Hampshire. They are setting up a community group that aims to improve any issues. They have some funding available and are looking to gauge where interests lie. Previous projects include maintaining play areas, healthy eating, litter and anti-social behaviour. She would be happy to attend the Neighbourhood watch meeting on 19th Sept. Councillors welcomed her interest particularly for the Skate Park. She is looking at the whole community and only needs 6 sovereign residents to benefit to obtain funding.

Tracy Walker (National Animal Welfare Trust) has been the Centre manager at Trindledown farm for 2 years. As one of the leading animal charities they rely on funding and volunteers. (Cllr Small entered). Vets bills can cost £8000 a month and they receive help of £120 per vet bill. No animals are turned away and well animals are not put to sleep. They also provide education on pets and counselling support. Funds are raised themselves through car boots etc. and they are actively seeking funding for an on-site charity shop. They are looking to HTC for financial support.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Hudson, Colloff, Wood, Knight, Bumbieris.
Also apologies from the Police and District Cllr James Podger (JP)
Councillors queried the absence of the Police. The Clerk advised they had given their apologies as they were on rest days. No written report has been received. Concerns were voiced over a lack of police presence at Town Council meetings and at the tri-service station where no outside phone is available. We have heard that break-ins have increased. PH advised power tools were stolen today and crime rate is increasing. Cllr Crane wished the station to state when police are available there and he reminded all that after the Tragedy, Hungerford was promised always to have a police presence.
- 2. Declarations of interest** – Cllrs Winser and Small (Triangle Field), Cllr Simpson (Library)
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Extra Full Council meeting of 7th August 2017 and outcome of actions** – *Cllr Brookman proposed agreement of the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Crane, 2 abstentions, (Cllrs Benneyworth and Small) rest in favour.*
- 4. Mayor's report** – The report has been circulated. Cllr Simpson added that they had both met with A Day from WBC and discussed various topics including coach pick up, Post 16 transport, welcome signs and Neighbourhood Watch scheme. M Edwards (WBC) is coming back with a response next week.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports** – JP's report has been circulated. PH added Oakes planning application has been recommended for refusal due to loss of car parking, poor links with the town centre and lack of affordable housing. The S106 agreement has yet to be signed. It will go to Western Area Planning (WAP) Committee on 20th Sept. If WAP over-turn the decision, it will go to district committee. The applicants were promising to resolve the issues. There is no refusal on grounds of employment area. PH is concerned

cars will be parked everywhere following this loss of parking space. Cllr Brookman reminded all he expressed concern of this back in March and asked WBC what their contingency plan was, to be told they did not have one. 100 spaces will be lost from the temporary Oakes car park and 20 + spaces from Network Rail parking. Cllr Farrell also voiced her concern.

26 Charnham St application will be on the next E&P agenda. PH will not call this in.

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

R&A – Cllr Small – The committee have not met. Next meeting is on 19th Sept.

E&P – Cllr Farrell – The application for the COU for the Railway carriage on Hungerford Park Estate has been withdrawn following the E&P committee picking up that there is no existing planning in place. The JR is still to come before the judge. The Crowd Funding site has accidentally closed. Cllr Finlay is sorting this. The Clerk has requested further help from the JR supporters in advertising the site.

T&E – Cllr Crane – The committee meet tomorrow. Cllr Crane has met with D Arden-Hunt regarding the Hungerford Trade Showcase. Invites and reminders have gone out and we are waiting for the Deputy Lord Lieutenant to confirm opening of the event. The purpose is to ensure pupils and parents know what employment is available in Hungerford, to promote career opportunities and help employers find staff. The Headteacher is supportive. The first part of the day will be for the school and from 3pm to 6pm it's open for public and parents. Aim is to raise the profile of the economy outside of the antique trade.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman – A report has been circulated (see attached). Cllr Brookman also advised; painting at the station is due in Sept, one lamppost has already been replaced and 2 are scheduled for this month. A Day (WBC), previously said WBC would not take back responsibility for the lampposts currently in HTC's care unless they were brought up to a certain standard.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – Not present

7. Finance

a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for last month – *Cllr Benneyworth proposed the cheque run of £16,659.45 plus vat, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.*

b) Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report – Cllr Benneyworth confirmed all looks as expected. Donations from the public for the JR are shown. *Cllr Benneyworth proposed the accounts, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.*

c) Note report from the External Auditor for Year 31st March 2017 – Cllr Benneyworth thanked Jeff for his hard work. It was noted that the wrong poster had been displayed but other than that all was in order.

d) Propose agreement to pay building inspector cost for Croft Field project – *Cllr Benneyworth proposed £330, seconded by Cllr Simpson, one abstention (Cllr Farrell) rest in favour.*

8. Consider Xmas Light tender responses and propose selection of contractor and expenditure – 6 contractor's quotes have been received and a report of these has been circulated by the Clerk. Cllr Brookman advised due to costs we will almost certainly purchase the trees ourselves. We need to consider Part 1 quotations for installation/removal. AM Electrics did a fantastic job last year but their quote is quite high. They haven't put in a 3 year quote. One contractor was ruled out as the quote was not realistic and it was felt they could not have understood the tender. *After consideration Cllr Simpson proposed accepting the quotation provided by Shield Electrical for one year at the price of £18,987 for part 1 seconded by Cllr Winser, 5 in favour, 3 abstentions (including Cllr Brookman, Cllr Benneyworth) voted carried.*

9. Memorial Application request – Decision required on alternative location – *Cllr Simpson proposed acceptance of the application to place a memorial as marked on the photo, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.*

10. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – meeting set for 19th Sept – The Deputy Police Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber, Inspector Chris Ward and Sergeant Hawkett will attend. PH will also. The timings are 7pm to 9pm.

11. Library – Update following WBC's corporate board meeting – The decision is still awaited as meetings have been delayed. Installation of self-service kiosks is happening on 18th Sept. There is no news yet on our grant application.

Consider quotations for structural survey of library building – A report on the 3 quotes received has been circulated by the Clerk. *After discussion Cllr Small proposed proceeding with Ian McCall's quotation for a full survey of £1500 plus vat, seconded by Cllr Brookman, 2 abstentions, rest in favour.*

- 12. Triangle Field – Report from TFMC meeting including update on Thermostat valve** – Cllr Small advised the Committee met last Thursday. Various issues were discussed including the replacement of the kitchen door which is unsafe. The Theatre Co. electricians have been fixed and the new floodlights are working. They have £1423.40 in the kitty but might have to pay for a shower valve.

Action: Office to obtain quotes to fix/replace valve and liaise with Les and Rob Cox.

Action: Need to ensure showers are not being used in the meantime.

Jeff (RFO) has audited N Pateman's accounts of the TFMC and all are in order.

Consider proposals put forward for future management/running of premises

Cllr Winsor has produced a paper (circulated) after discussion with R Cox over allocating responsibilities between the Rugby Club and TFMC. Conflict of interest was mentioned. Cllr Crane said Cllr Small should continue to be chair. This was generally agreed. Cllr Simpson felt the treasurer of the RFC should not also be the treasurer of the TFMC. Cllr Winsor offered her services as treasurer if required. Cllr Small advised it is more of a partnership than a conflict. Cllr Winsor checked out the invoice in question and found that the materials paid for went to the project to which they had been intended although different materials were used rather than slabs. The TFMC AGM will take place on 27th. Officers will be chosen then by the TFMC. It is thought there are no independents (those without HTC or RFC interest) available. The RFC want more autonomy of the pitches and recognise they need to pay more. They will also carry out the mowing, pitch marking and strimming and would pay £6k rent. The Football Club will pay £250 to the RFC. In future TFMC minutes will be circulated and accounts will be audited. Bookings will be made by R Cox and the Clerk. Cllr Farrell pointed out the land was bought with public money and HTC needs to market the premises.

Action: Cllr Winsor to re-write the proposal. R Cox will be able to increase income through fundraising. It was suggested the rent is amended to £8k.

Action: Clerk to add to next R&A and Full Council agendas.

Cllr Benneyworth expressed his frustration that we are still discussing this and would be happy to pass the management to the Rugby Club.

- 13. Salisbury Road Site and DPD: Any updates on Legal Challenge and Crowdfunding**

progress – The Clerk advised we are still waiting for the permission to be issued from the Salisbury Road planning application. We then inform our solicitors as it will need to be added to the case. Cala Homes has joined late to the JR case. It was agreed if they win they won't ask HTC to pay their costs. If we win the other parties should pay ours. It is hoped a PCO will be available. This will not be decided until the end of Sept/Oct when the Judge's decision is expected.

- 14. Neighbourhood Plan – Update on research** – Deferred as Cllr Knight not present.

- 15. Discussion on future parking at station** – The whole area needs to be looked at. There is a concern over displacement parking. This is a long term problem. A review of the short term/long term parking costs was suggested. Can statistics be obtained from the pay to park system?

- 16. Propose acceptance of Annual Risk Assessments which have been checked and reviewed by office and Chairman of each committee** – *Cllr Simpson proposed acceptance of the Annual Risk Assessments, seconded by Cllr Chicken, all in favour.*

- 17. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals. None.**

Cllr Small advised the next Chamber of Commerce meeting is on Thursday.

Cllr Simpson put forward the Mayor's suggestion that we have a Christmas Meal for councillors and staff. It was agreed but councillors wished to pay for themselves.

Meeting Closed 9.06pm