

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor  
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**MINUTES** of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs Knight, Crane, Finlay, Brookman, Farrell, Simpson, Hudson, Bumbieris, Small and Chicken

Also: Press - John Garvey (Newbury News), Brian Quinn (Penny Post), District Cllrs Hewer & Podger

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Winser, Whiting, Wood, Colloff, Benneyworth, Police
2. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllrs Simpson & Knight (library) - item 11
3. **Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and outcome of actions.** *Cllr Brookman proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Simpson, 3 abstentions and rest in favour.*
4. **Mayor's report** - Circulated.
5. **District Councillor's Reports.** Cllr Hewer reported that Oakes planning app had been refused. Late strong objections were received from GWR against development as GWR are keen to increase parking. No GWR representative was present at the WBC meeting. GWR didn't offer to purchase the site on any occasion. WBC would have no objection if Oakes applied to renew their parking permission. Cllr Podger called in the planning application and supported the Oakes site. Following the Mayor and Deputy's unsuccessful meeting with WBC regarding several issues including post 16 transport, coach stops etc., JP will arrange for Graham Jones to meet with Mayor and Deputy to hopefully move forward on these topics. The Members bids closing date is 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The Mayor had mentioned applying for a bid towards a Bus shelter. Cllr Brookman advised HTC has applied for a GWR grant for a station shelter but 25% has to come from funding elsewhere. Member's bid money would be welcome. On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, WBC has a special meeting to discuss the Boundary review and the reduction of the number of district councillors (DCs) from 53 to 41 or 42. Hungerford and Kintbury DCs will be sandwiched together. Kintbury Ward is supportive of this proposal and their new boundary would include Hampstead Marshall and Enborne. Hungerford's would include West Woodhay, Inkpen and Combe. The Boundary Commission may also propose that the Kintbury area includes Welford Wickham & Boxford. The Members bid available depends on how many Cllrs apply. £10k was donated towards the Hungerford football toilets previously. If the boundary changes proceed in future Combe & WW and Inkpen would be eligible for the same Members Bid money as Hungerford. DCs left.
6. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)** H&T, E&P and T&E Reports were sent out in advance of the meeting.  
**T&E** - Cllr Crane further mentioned the 13<sup>th</sup> October when the Hungerford Trade Showcase will be hosted at John O'Gaunt School. It is open for school / students / parents to see what employers do. A

unique opportunity and it is free. Job opportunities and apprenticeships are available. Cllr Knight commended the initiative. Deputy Clerk was thanked for her work.

**F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris** -Safeguarding public money was discussed at F&GP. Further grant applications were considered. The committee approved quotes for supply of both large and small Christmas Trees.

**R&A – Cllr Small** - Minutes have been circulated. With regards to Bridge St War memorial Cllr Small requested that the minutes be changed to read ‘T&M has *claimed* they own the land’. Adverse possession would not apply in this case.

**7. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**

**a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for last month.** *Cllr Bumbieris proposed authorisation of cheque run of £30,651.71 plus vat, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.*

**b) Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report.** WBC second half of precept is yet to be received. NICs payment is o/s to HMRC. £175,000 income over expenditure Bus route donation is yet to be spent and CCTV expenditure is due. *Cllr Bumbieris proposed acceptance of the year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.*

**8. Salisbury Road Site and DPD: Update on Legal Challenge and decision on way forward.**

(Discussed after item 3) Cllr Hudson explained that the Judge filters the cases and in this instance Judge Holgate recommended that our case was not strong enough to proceed. If the case is seen to be repeating a discussion they won't want to reconsider it. We thought we had a good case. £2,700 needs to be paid to WBC in costs. Cala agreed not to charge costs and HTC vice versa. **(Actual cost £11,755.65, Crowd Funding £6987, HTC is paying the balance of £4768.65 which is within budget).**

3 options are available as follows:-

**Option A** – Challenge the Judge's decision. There is not enough justification and this would involve another Judge in a High Court Hearing with approx. cost for this and other sides' costs £10-£15k upwards. Our solicitor advises there is little scope to seek to claim to renew the argument. **Cllr Hudson would not recommend this option.**

**Option B** - Examine carefully the planning permission when it is issued. Planning permission is damaging the AONB – should we challenge planning permission also? **Cllr Hudson recommends this option.**

**Option C** – Step aside and agree we have done what we can.

It was further noted - Judge Holgate is reputable and his decision would hold weight against any further challenges. Help from the law charity wasn't forthcoming initially resulting in the arguments being put together very quickly in only 2 weeks. After 11 months the planning decision is still left pending. Cllr Small pointed out that exceptional circumstances have not been addressed. Cllr Chicken congratulated Cllr Hudson's work.

A decision is needed on Option A tonight. Regards Option B, we should prepare for challenging the planning permission. The decision by the judge might influence any challenge to the planning application and it would be harder to argue against, but para 116 has never been addressed.

Cllr Finlay said funds will be primary criteria when deciding on how to proceed but shouldn't be the only criteria. Cllr Knight pointed out our solicitor has advised not to proceed. It was noted the argument over 'Exceptional circumstances' not having being demonstrated was not relevant to the Judicial Review. Cllr Small confirmed what was looked as was procedural issues. Cllr Farrell wished the decision to be made by all and for it not to be governed by financial commitment. Cllr Crane stated that all District Cllrs (not Hungerford DCs) need to be aware of Hungerford's view and currently seem not to be interested or informed.

Cllr Knight confirmed yes we need to put in place preparatory steps ahead of planning permission being issued. We will need to consult further with the whole town once this happens. Timescales involved would be 6 weeks from the issue date for a JR procedure.

Cllr Hudson confirmed the majority of info is in place. The planning application has already gone to committee. HTC refused it and District Cllrs wouldn't call it in.

Ian Hepburn (AONB) – HTC has done a good job. He believes it is worth challenging the planning application. It will depend on case law.

*Cllr Hudson proposed to not challenge the permission refusal, seconded by Cllr Chicken, one abstention rest in favour.*

**Action:** Arrange public meeting for when planning application comes out.

9. **Report from meeting with CEO of West Berkshire Council – (Mayor and Deputy Mayor).** Many items were discussed but apart from agreement on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and on a bus shelter (providing HTC pays for it) no progress was made. District Cllr Podger has set up a meeting with Graham Jones leader of the WBC to try and make some progress. The Mayor is still pushing for a coach pick up point in the centre of town. There is no official stop although it does happen and we want to be able to advertise one. Parking charges went up by 60% which was against HTC's proposal. These won't be reviewed until 2019.
10. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Feedback from meeting.** Cllr Knight attended. Richard Benyon MP came and supported the scheme which is run by Angela Money in Newbury. 19 roads are now signed up. **Action:** Clerk will put applications forms on the web. Neighbourhood Watch Areas will benefit from insurance discounts and estate agent promotion. WBC has a budget to promote. Quarterly meetings of all co-ordinators will take place. **Action:** Clerk will invite NW team to Full Council to provide an update.
11. **Library – Report on meeting with West Berks Council regarding lease.** Cllr Knight and the Clerk met with WBC. The Hub Report is a survey that WBC had carried out and raises some concern over costs in the next 10 years. Maintenance of £129k is indicated but much is just advisory. HTC will have a survey done. Negotiations are on-going and WBC is drafting a lease. All Councillors need to be kept informed. WBC exec meeting takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct to formally agree in principle what HTC require. No costs will be committed before this and timescale for completion is 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.
12. **Update on Christmas Lights Installation Project and Switch on.** The contract accepted is £7K cheaper than last year but Cllr Brookman is concerned that extra costs will be incurred. He is meeting the new contractors on Wednesday to ensure they understand the extent of the contract. Cllr Brookman said the process is very time consuming and announced that next year will be the last time he will project manage. *Cllr Farrell proposed K Cornhill is paid £400 to provide the sound system for the switch on, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.* Last year £12k was collected in donations towards the Xmas Lights by Cllr Crane. **Action:** Cllr Finlay will look into options for collection on-line. What volunteers do we want for the project? Let Penny Post know and they will promote.
13. **Triangle Field – Report from Triangle Field Management Committee AGM meeting -** The TFMC met for their AGM and Committee meeting. Cllr Small was voted as Secretary, Nigel Pateman as Treasurer and Cllr Winser as Chairman.
14. **Attendance of Councillors.** Cllr Colloff has resigned due to personal circumstances. Her presence and knowledge will be missed. There is often not a good attendance at the Committee and FC meetings. Those that don't attend regularly due to other commitments have offered to step down. Councillors can join from the age of 18 and HTC has had young councillors in the past. If you commit to being a Cllr you are summoned to meetings and should attend unless you have a valid excuse and then apologies

should be given. Cllr Finlay has been spending lot of time in the North. He advised his role may change tomorrow.

*Cllr Crane proposed acceptance of the resignation of Cllr Wood and Cllr Whiting with hope they can help again in the future, all in favour.* The acceptance of Cllr Whiting's resignation was later overturned by a special motion.

- 15. Response to West Berks Council Litter Picking Consultation. Action:** Cllrs to put comments in writing to the Clerk. The Clerk will collate and respond. It was felt that litter picking should be retained particularly in an AONB.
- 16. Neighbourhood Plan – Update on research.** Cllr Knight has spoken to Stratfield Mortimer and their NP cost £10k. WBC is not supportive and B Lyttle (WBC) stated that the only difference NPs make is to the CIL money. A team of about 6 people would be needed to drive this.

A formal vote of thanks to Sue was noted for her help with the Post Office Outreach service.

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

Meeting closed at 9pm

**Hungerford Town Council  
Mayor's report**

**Sept 2017**

**September**

- 2 Hungerford in Bloom Presentations at Croft Activity Centre**
- 8 Greenham Common Trust 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- 9 Reading Crown Court Open day**
- 11 E & P C'tee and T & E C'tee**
- 12 Attended BALC Council Budget Training at Calcot**
- 13 H & S training (HTC) at Croft Activity Centre**
- 14 Buzz Event at Newbury Showground**
- 19 Neighbourhood Watch Meeting in Corn Exchange**
- 20 Hungerford Library & Community Trustee Meeting**
- 20 Western Area Planning Meeting at WBC offices**
- 21 Arts for Hungerford viewing at Town Hall**
- 22 500<sup>th</sup> Penny Post celebration in Magistrate Room**
- 23 Arts for Hungerford Town Mural painting**
- 25 E & P C'tee and H & T C'tee**
- 27 Meeting with Police in Community Room Firestation**
- 27 AGM of Triangle Field Management C'tee**
- 28 Meeting with Dist Councillor (James Podger) plus Deputy Mayor**
- 28 Lord Lieutenant's Awards ceremony (Easthampstead Cnf Centre)**
- 29 Start of charity bike ride across Berks from Nationwide in Hungerford**

**Keith Knight**

**Town Mayor**

**1 October 2017**

## **POLICE REPORT – update from September 2011 from**

**Alan Hawkett**, Neighbourhood Sergeant 212, Hungerford Downlands & Rural Crime

The team have had a busy month. Our mobile Police Station has been on a tour of Hungerford and Lambourn, stopping at various locations to answer questions, offer advice and give Crime Prevention ideas. This was very well received by residents so we are planning more deployments in the future. Sgt Hawkett and Inspector Ward attended the Neighborhood Watch meeting at the town hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> and a parish councilors meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> whilst the rest of the team have been carrying out patrols of hotspots areas across the district in response to reports of antisocial behavior.

On the evening of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> there was an incident at Bulpit Skate Park whereby an altercation has occurred between a group of youngsters from Newbury and a group from Hungerford. On attendance Police have located a group from Newbury who have been searched following information received that a bladed article was seen. All details were obtained by attending officers, and a knife was found in a nearby bush. Enquiries are still ongoing.

Hungerford like everywhere else in the Thames Valley is policed by emergency response and neighbourhood teams. The emergency uniform response is a 24/7 service. The dedicated neighbourhood policing team deals with local policing issues. This team works a mixture of day and late shifts and is not available every day. The officers and PCSOs covering Hungerford are part of a larger team also covering Downlands so when appropriate they will provide mutual support.

The new Tri Services station is not a traditional police station but instead provides a base for response and neighbourhood officers and PCSOs working in the Hungerford area who start and finish the day in Newbury.

They will use this facility for refreshment breaks and the completion of administrative tasks without the need to return to Newbury. The station does not provide a front counter service and the presence of officers in the building does not necessarily mean they are available for ad hoc personal visits.

In order to contact the police members of the public should call 999 or 101 as appropriate. There is a survey being run on Thames Valley Alert at present on when to use these numbers and I would urge TV alert recipients to complete this and share with others.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted via email at [hungerfordanddownlandsnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:hungerfordanddownlandsnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

The email box is checked daily so even if the local team are off, colleagues can review messages in case a prompt response is required.

You can also report incidents to TVP on line via our website [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk).

There is a letterbox on the wall to the right of the front door at the station. This will not be checked daily but can receive written correspondence.

Found property should not be left here. Found property can be notified to the police via 101 and details recorded. If the police need to take possession of the items arrangements can be made.

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

## FULL COUNCIL MEETING

2 OCTOBER 2017

### Tourism & Economy Committee

#### **Hungerford Trade Showcase**

The original concept of an Exposition of the major Hungerford Employers, has morphed into a Showcase to be held at John O'Gaunt School on 13<sup>th</sup> October (Friday 2 – 6pm with 1<sup>st</sup> hour devoted to students thereafter open to public) **FREE EVENT**

Take up has been reasonable with all the major players e.g. CDK; Kerridge Commercial Systems; Benchmark; Berkshire Labels and David Wilson Homes will be exhibiting.

All Cllrs, friends and Families are welcome to come and discover just what is on our doorstep. ***Also to distribute publicity Poster***

#### **Welcome Signage**

On-going discussion with North Wessex Downs to ensure correct usage of the AONB logo.

#### **Visitor leaflet**

Progress stalled awaiting full group meeting.

#### **Great West Way**

Recent meeting of steering team held in Town Hall, Hungerford, saw continued progress in the plan to launch this globally in 2019. Several local companies with complementary interests now looking to generate small Itineraries to be included in the scheme which now benefits from a further £1m grant (match funding) from Visit England.

Cllr Martin Crane

Chair T&E

## **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT REPORT October Full Council 2017 – Cllr Brookman**

### **Railway Station**

We were told by a GWR representative that we should apply for a grant from GWR and if this was granted to agree design of the Up line shelter with NR. We have now been told that we should get agreement from NR first. I am still trying to find out who is responsible for this.

### **Street Lights**

One street light has been replaced in Coldharbour Road and 2 more are due to be replaced this month.

### **Parking**

We have had several complaints of inappropriate parking in Church Way near the junctions of Atherton Road and Regents Close. WBC responded by saying that they feel that the parking restrictions are adequate and if there is an enforcement issue then this should be dealt with by TVP. A particular problem was that a large truck was regularly being parked which was being parked overnight causing an obstruction. I wrote to the Company concerned, based in Theale, and the problem seems to be resolved. Parking vehicles of this size on public roads is contrary to the Operator's Licence. It is WBC policy that parked vehicles is a traffic calming measure so long as no obstruction is caused.

### **Post Box in Park Way**

After several meetings with Royal Mail and David Wilson Homes, a position for a new post box has been agreed on the green outside Port Down. Royal Mail are insisting that a Victorian box is and will not be available and so it has been agreed to install a new style post mounted box instead.

### **Hungerford in Bloom**

Judging was carried out on 16 July by two ladies from Aldbourne Horticultural Society. There were some interesting entries! Certificates were presented to the winners last Saturday by the Mayor.

### **Noticeboards**

A number of volunteers turned out on Sunday, 13 August to renovate the noticeboards under the bridge. We painted our noticeboard in a bright blue colour with Oxford blue backing boards.



**ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE – October Full Council – Cllr Carolann Farrell**

Meetings attended

Full Council 4 Sept

E&P 11&25 Sept

F&GP 12 Sept

R&A 19 Sept

Site meeting WBC Council Planning Station Development.

WBC area planning, with Kieth for Oakes planning decision

Meeting with Police at TRI Station 27Sept.

As you will all know now the application for Oakes (Station Development) was refused. We await a decision on an appeal by the owner.

Salisbury Rd, - To be discussed later in this meeting. Full Details available on line.

Update of Police meeting. Helen.

No update on application for the Railway carriage to be used at Hungerford Park.

Application for an extra unit and increased floor on the orangey unit at the Charnham St Development, this already has consent for 7 units. HTC recommended refusal. For the 8th unit as over development.

Normal run of extensions. Etc.

Carolann.