

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** held on Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 7.00pm in the Town Council Office, The Library, Church St, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Bumbieris, Crane, Thompson, Brookman, Benneyworth and Small (arrived late)
Also present Claire Barnes, Town Clerk and Jeff Ford, RFO and Éoin Walsh, Bookings Coordinator & Facilities Manager, Hungerford Youth and Community Centre

- 1. Apologies for absence – Wilson**
- 2. Declarations of interest – none**
- 3. Minutes – Propose minutes of meeting held on 13th October 2014.** Cllr Bumbieris proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.
- 4. Community Centre to present update – Eoin Walsh (EW). Consider future budget.** No budget as yet from HTC for next year. Community Centre runs on £10k annually and just breaks even. 80 people turn up to youth club each week. There is a shortfall for this financial year and £3k shortfall for Youth Club next year with no grants secured. Expenses include insurance £500, volunteer expenses £3,500, training CRB etc. £1,500, activities/equipment £1,000, admin £1,000. Subs received are £1,500 annually. Management team need to approach HTC/T&M/GCT as Centre needs money also. Centre has some money left this year but £4,500k needed. Cllr Bumbieris said that HTC will continue to support the Community Centre financially. £4,500 was suggested. The Centre gives the Youth Club free session so does help support it. Cllr Crane suggested approaching G Lundie for a grant as Lambourn use the Youth Club. Cllr Thompson and EW will put plan together and give HTC split in numbers where children using the Youth Club come from. EW left 7.35pm
- 5. Review Xmas Lights expenditure.** Rewiring of every junction box has taken place resulting in replacing of some of the junction boxes and installing of waterproof glands for each cable. The invoice for electrics has been received so now looking at £5,482 plus original quote of £13k. This is a one off as rewiring won't need doing next year. We need public to buy Grand Prize Draw tickets to support this cost. We have already received some prizes. There were issues with dates of arrival of Christmas trees this year. Next year we need to look at contractor doing ordering of trees.
- 6. Propose recommendation of budgets for agreement at Full Council.** Civic expenses budget needs upping to include flags and REME, to £1,200. £2,000 is held in reserves for the LDF. HTC contribution to the leisure Centre is increasing by RPI 2%. Hanging baskets costs reduced to £500. **Action:** Clerk to approach T&M for a donation for flags. £30 a month is now paid for linkage between websites. Budget has been allowed for a Welcome sign. **Action:** Consider alternative quotes for maintenance at the recreation ground. It was decided to cut down on the money put aside for the Skate Park and Croft Field (to save £6,370) as it is believed lower budget is adequate.
Cllr Bumbieris proposed to recommend to Full Council a precept of £230,142 less grant, with 5.26% increase, Band D rate 96.25p, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.

7. **Consider pension proposal.** By 1st January 2017 HTC legally have to offer a pension scheme to all employees. If all 3 employees want to enter the scheme (and pay a contribution of 5% (HTC pay 16.5%)) with 16.2% to 16.8% pension increase happening, the cost to council would be £2100 approximately. Cllr Thompson proposed 1st April 2015 offer pension scheme to all employees seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm