

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 22nd July 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, Small, Farrell, Leach, Bumbieris, Holmes, Wilson, Wood

Also: Ted Angell and Geoff Greenland (HAHA), Nigel Pateman and Rob Cox (TFMC)

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Thompson & Podger
- 2. Declarations of interest.** None
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held 17th June 2014.** Cllr Bumbieris proposed minutes subject to corrections under item 6. Croft Field Update and under item 4 Allotments, seconded by Cllr Small, 2 abstention, rest in favour.
- 4. Co-opt Shaun Wood onto R&A Committee.** Cllr Wilson proposed Cllr Wood as a member of the R&A Committee, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour. Cllr Wood was welcomed to the Committee.
- 5. Allotments - HAHA report.** HAHA prepared a briefing paper which was circulated prior to the meeting. To summarise, the Council has done a great job as the 2 allotment sites satisfy all requirements and has saved the rate payer £25,000, through grants and volunteers time. An initial set up cost is £20,000 and takes a tremendous amount of work setting the plot sizes out, producing CAD drawings, putting up deer and rabbit fencing and providing a water source. If the allotments move site, that needs to be realised and to keep enthusiasm going, make sure any new site is viable with the length of tenancy and quality of the land. Security of tenure is needed for the credibility to plot holders and grant funders. The critical time is March/April 2015 when invoices go out to allotment holders and it is at that time they will need to be informed that the lease will be terminated. Instruction is needed of how to move on. Pressure of campaigning may need to be used as this will happen before the next election. **Action:-** Cllr Benneyworth will organise the next working party meeting to go forward with contacting land owners of potential sites.
Both Marsh Lane and Fairfield sites look good and the judge for this year's Hungerford in Bloom commented how both sites have improved since she last visited 2 or 3 years ago. Income is exceeding expenditure this month.
- 6. Triangle Field**
 - Users Committee Report.** Apart from time consuming negotiations with British Gas, the finances are fine. The rugby club will make regular monthly payments over the season and income will come from the Legion FC. Unfortunately the Railway Tavern FC has collapsed. A good quote has come in for outside lighting to be installed on the car park end that work will go ahead. TFMC would like to convert the condemned kitchen area into a physio and first aid room. Cllr Farrell pointed out that in future she would like to see the kitchen used in conjunction with a new play park. TFMC stated that the store room should be kept clear of anything other than sports equipment.

- **feedback on meeting with architect.** Building works are on schedule and looks nice. Only problem is with drainage on Sovereign's side. The trenches have been dug but there is water under one manhole on TF side and 1ft of water under a manhole on Sovereign's side, until that problem is sorted drainage cannot be connected, it is the only hiccup and it is Sovereign's problem. Tenuation tank site looks fine and it will have a concrete top. The works should complete on schedule.

- **valuation. Action:-** Clerk to arrange an extraordinary meeting to agree terms set out by Carter Jonas regarding the valuation on 11th August 2014. **Action:-** DS to speak to Colin Broughton, WBC to see if WBC would agree these terms following Hilary Cole's suggestion that it should be subject to a special assumption 'that its use will be as public open space in perpetuity'.

- **agree cost of double doors.** Discussed before valuation. Cllr Benneyworth proposed a maximum spend of £1,800 on a new set of doors with the hope it comes in considerably cheaper, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour. Before NP and RC left they informed the Council that users did extend to girls with girls only rugby on a Monday and touch rugby on a Thurs requires 2 ladies in the team.

7. **Croft Field**

- **discuss quotations received and agree rent free period.** First is the need to clarify whether damp course needs doing – more investigation is required. Once a figure is realised, Richard Deal will be approached to value for rent and establish a rent free period. Boundaries need to be confirmed as maintenance of trees within the boundary and grass cutting needs to be taken into consideration.

- **consider future users and letter from Community of Hungerford Theatre Co.** It is of the opinion of the R&A committee that they do not want to see 4 containers permanently situated on the Croft Field, as the CHTC have requested. As a lease has not yet been agreed no decisions of use of the building will be decided at this time.

8. **Review quotes and consider budget for Skate Park fence and Swimming Pool House driveway.** Cllr Bumbieris proposed to spend up to £5,000 to replace fencing along the skate park and swimming pool house, seconded by Cllr Leach, all in favour. There is no budget for the driveway so it was not discussed further.

9. **St Saviour's Cemetery**

- **agree increase in cemetery fees.** Cllr Small proposed the increase of fees to match inflation, seconded by Cllr Bumbieris, all in favour.

- **quote and process for tree management.** Cllr Bumbieris proposed to go with quote from contractor of £475 to do work, seconded by Cllr Leach, all in favour.

- **reservations and memorial trees.** Cllr Small proposed that no reservations should be made at this time at St Saviour's Cemetery, seconded by Cllr Leach, 1 against, rest in favour.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm