

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.15pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs Benneyworth, Small, Wood, Leach Farrell. **Also present,** Ted Angell, HAHA, Jeremy Smeddle, HRFC, Steve Skipworth, HTFC and Geoff, Adviser.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Thompson, Bumbieris and also Geoff Greenland (HAHA), District Cllr Paul Hewer
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Farrell – item 5 re: resurfacing of car parking as her company supplied a quote. Cllr Leach – item 6 as she works for Vodafone.
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015.** Cllr Wood proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Small, one abstention, rest in favour.
- 4. Allotments - HAHA report.** Ted reported Marsh Lane has 4 empty plots and 3 plots have been let in the last month. There are 2 empty plots at Fairfields which is not unusual as annual rent is due, the waiting list needs working on. At the financial year end reserves should be £2,000 compared to £1,800 last year. The HAHA committee has not met since the last R&A so no open day date has been agreed, however Hungerford in Bloom Allotment judging day has been set for 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015, so an Open Day will be arranged around that time.

Following a positive meeting with Mark Norgate, Donnington Homes acting on behalf of the landowner of the Marsh Lane site before Christmas, HAHA are keen to have confirmation in writing that the lease will be extended beyond 2016 albeit dependant on the outcome of the DPD consultation, so this information can be passed on to plot holders when the letters regarding annual rents go out. **Action:** Set up a meeting with Mark Norgate.

HAHA AGM date tba but around 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June and they would welcome HTC support.

- 5. Triangle Field**
  - **Sports Pavilion – outcome of site visit regarding Defect Liability – Cllr Farrell.** It was attended by Cllrs Farrell and Benneyworth, John Kingham and Steve Lyford, RGC. Agreement was made to turf over area where grass seed has not taken and the shower manufacturers will be contacted regarding the problems with the showers. Retention money will be held back until these works are complete.
  - **Outcome of site visit regarding resurfacing and hedging.** This took place last week. Jim, Broadmead Estates also attended and looked at area to extend car park, remove bund and lay tarmac shavings on crushed concrete. It was thought the bund could be banked up around the edge of the area to give some protection from the road as hedging is sparse. It is thought that the work for the end of the car park where Theatre Company hope to locate the containers will cost approx. £15,000. Jeremy Smeddle pointed out that there is the area where the drain covers are now which could be developed and is obviously keen to maximise car park spaces to avoid cars parking roadside during big events. Offers have been received to

cut the hedges and push the hedge back on the west side to create more parking. **Action:** A specific brief should be drawn up to how the car park should look and look at ways to raise funds.

- **Update of Theatre planning application** – No further update.

6. **Update on leases.** The HTFC lease has expired and without a lease the club cannot play. The necessary 4 trustees have been appointed, an annual rent has been agreed at £100 and the lease should include all the land. HTFC would like to upgrade the changing rooms and to apply for a FA grant a 40 year lease is required. The telecommunications company are sitting tenants. The car park needs repairing and the triangle area outside the car park gates is also in bad repair and is unsafe for visitors. **Action:** Clerk to write to T&M with proposed lease.
  - **Croft Field lease.** Cllr Small met with Annette Thomas, WBC, Sarah House, WBC and Colin Broughton, WBC and reached agreement on the lease. Under the landlord and tenant act the lease has to be contracted out and WBC will now serve notice to us for the current agreement.
  - **Triangle Field** was also discussed and there should not be any problems with the lease. **Action:** revisit agreement with Alan Law, WBC. This is a good news story!
7. **HRFC Rent Review – current agreement ends 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015.** This needs to be proposed at Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 **Action:** Cllr Small to check current agreement.
8. **Sports Link Update – Cllr Shaun Wood.** Two questionnaires have been compiled and sent out. Approx. 30 have been received back from members of the public the ones to clubs should be completed by end of April. Get Active Berkshire has been running for 3/4 years and can organise ‘have a go’ days for various sports for different age groups which would be good to do in Hungerford. Also how Hungerford can be developed with cycling groups. WBC has set up a cycle working group and they would like parish support. Cllr Wood would like to set up a group or committee to include 1 or 2 councillors to create more opportunities for Hungerford residents to get involved with sporting activities across all ages.. The feedback from the public revealed the need for opportunity to play sports, more community involvement and develop the female and youth areas. Cllr Wood has spoken to the headteacher at the Primary School and will talk to JOG School. **Action:** Deputy Clerk to put questionnaires on website and publicise them on facebook.
9. **Cemetery Records.** All agreed that having extra help updating the cemetery records was a good idea with the objective of buying a cemetery management package to ensure the cemetery records are processed more efficiently and kept up to date.
10. **Cricket Ground fencing.** **Action:** check who is responsible for the fence and visit site to check the damage.
11. **Maintenance of Plane tree.** The Plane tree in Bridge Street on the corner of The Forge is growing too big for its site and neighbours complain about the amount and size of leaves landing in their gardens. WBC will no longer collect the leaves from the residents and the roots have already lifted the road and may well again. The tree is in a conservation area so cannot be readily removed. **Action:** Get advice from a tree surgeon.

**Meeting closed at 8.45pm**