

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Martin Crane OBE
28 Cottrell Close
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0HF
Tel: 01488 684804
martincrane41@sky.com



The Town Clerk
Mrs Claire Barnes
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerfordcouncil.co.uk

MINUTES of the **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 22nd September 2015 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Small, Farrell, Winsor, Brookman, Bumbieris (arrived late). **Also present,** Geoff Greenland and Ted Angell (Hungerford Allotment Holders Association - HAHA) Roger Thompson (Community of Hungerford Theatre Company) and Rob Chicken, HTC, Alison Blake (Deputy Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Benneyworth & Crane
2. **Declarations of interest.** Cllr Farrell and Cllr Small (Croft Field and Triangle Field).
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 21st July 2015.** Cllr Farrell proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Winsor, 1 abstention, rest in favour.
4. **Allotments - HAHA report.** Ted Angell reported that income at Marsh Lane is down due to uncertainty of future use, it is at 86% of total, 9% below normal and HAHA will work in line with limited income and will break even. Fairfield site is full but there are 14 empty plots at Marsh Lane due to the uncertainty. Extra income had come from the Open Day and a donation had been made to charity from money made from the show which was held in conjunction with Royal British Legion. Geoff Greenland reported that the new sign at Marsh Lane includes 'provided by Hungerford Town Council'. A meeting arranged with Mark Norgate, Donnington Homes has been postponed due to the delay in the publication of the Development Plan Document by West Berks Council. The lease runs out on 30/4/16 and allotment holders will need to be given notice by 30/1/16. The DPD is now due to be published on 5th November so we might get sight of it in the first two weeks of November, but this is not guaranteed, so a meeting with Mark Norgate with HTC before this time would be advisable. (Cllr Bumbieris arrived). Positivity has kept plot holders committed but this can't keep going. **Action:** HAHA were invited and agreed to attend and address the October Full Council meeting with a view to the Council taking action if possible.
5. **Croft Field.**
 - **Use for Christmas lights and Theatre Company.** Standing orders were suspended for Roger Thompson to join the discussion. Cllr Brookman put in a request to use the former canoe store to test the Christmas lights and dress the trees. The room would be needed to test the lights in the next few weeks, and then again in the last three weeks in November to dress the trees, and also in January when the trees come down and the lights are taken off. Agreed that this is acceptable in principle subject to issues of space and security being addressed satisfactorily. Roger Thompson reported that the Theatre Company would like to work alongside HTC to paint the flats for their sets from mid-November to February with 1-3 people working most evenings and weekends. It was agreed that a users' meeting should be arranged to consult them and find out if this would affect their activities, and that agreement should be reached over a fee to be charged. Both proposals would also be subject to vehicles being prohibited from crossing the grass.
 - **Signage.** Cllr Brookman proposed to purchase a new sign 850mm x 700mm with A3 lockable poster case and steel posts at a cost of £240, seconded by Cllr Winsor, all in favour.
 - **Propose cost for relocation of alarm.** Cllr Bumbieris proposed Chris Lewis Fire and Electrics relocate the alarm at a cost of £910 + VAT, seconded by Cllr Brookman, 1 abstention, rest in favour.

6. Triangle Field Management Committee

- **Report from meetings.** Two committee meetings had been held since the last R&A meeting in July. The first took place on 17th August and had been mainly concerned with the Theatre Company's planning conditions, with some discussion also about a new sign outside the entrance (decided against) and whether the rugby club should pay for use of the refurbished kitchen (as to which it had been agreed that this should be factored into the club's annual fee). At Cllr Farrell's suggestion it was agreed that the kitchen should be checked by West Berks to make sure it is fit for use. The next meeting was held on 15th September 2015 and Cllr Small read out the brief minutes which Rob Cox had circulated by email. He said that the committee is working well and Cllr Farrell agreed.

- **Car Park.** Cllr Benneyworth, Cllr Farrell, Claire Barnes and Rob Cox had met with the contractor last Friday. Clearing the vegetation by the roadside will make the car park a third bigger and it was noted that with the car park higher than the pitches, drainage should be put in. The contractor had quoted for the extended car park area at £2,300 and £1,600 for the drainage. Cllr Farrell pointed out that the original quote from the contractor provided for a surface of tarmac planings which the new quotation did not include. It was agreed that despite this, the larger car park is the better objective but that other quotations should be sought in view of the higher cost.

- **Licence with Theatre Company** – draft terms have been drawn up by Cllr Small and circulated. It was agreed that some minor changes are needed but otherwise the draft was approved and will now be printed out for signature (by David Clayton on behalf of CHTC) Roger Thompson said that CHTC is extremely appreciative of the work and support of TFMC

- **Rugby Club rent review** – this fell due on 1st April with the rent being subject to adjustment in line with inflation. Jeff Ford has been asked to advise as to this.

- **Review Rugby Club annual pitch fees.** Cllr Bumbieris proposed that the current figure of £3,000 should remain unchanged, seconded by Cllr Winsor, 2 abstentions, rest in favour. Cllr Small reported that the Licence for Alterations had been signed on behalf of the club so this will be completed shortly.

7. St Saviour's Cemetery

- **Outcome of site visit as to where graves go next.** It was decided that the graves will go behind the skip as a continuation of section E.

- **Cemetery regulations** - these include rules relating to memorabilia and stone plaques on grave spaces. After much discussion it was agreed that stone plaques can be permitted, that the regulations need to be checked and changed as necessary and that undertakers should be notified and required to inform grave holders that the rules must be complied with as regards the new burial area.

8. Tragedy Garden Project.

Stacey Tuttle was unable to attend the meeting. Her proposed design was circulated for information.

9. Propose quote to tidy shrubs at Bridge Street War Memorial.

Cllr Brookman proposed to accept quote of £225 from Ben Howells to tidy shrubs, seconded by Cllr Farrell, all in favour.

10. Parks

- **Bulpit Park zip wire complaint.** A complaint had been received via West Berkshire Council about the location of the zip wire after a 2 year old child had been knocked over as he ran underneath it. The Deputy Clerk read out an email which she had drafted in response to the complaint and this was approved.

- **Skate Park fence and gate, vandalism and quotation for improvement.** A quotation had been received but as the cost to replace the fence is in excess of £8,000 it was decided a site visit was necessary. This has been arranged for Monday 28th September at 5.30pm at the skate park.

11. Consider new bench contractor quotes.

The cheapest quote received was £1,000, much more than the last contractor had charged. The committee felt that enquiries should be made as to whether this is something that community payback could do, or someone local who might be happy to take it on.

12. Property Portfolio update.

All areas have been covered apart from the Smitham Bridge Road playground and St Saviour's Churchyard which Cllr Leach was going to look at, but she did not attend the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm