

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, Small, Crane, Farrell, Winsor, Brookman, Bumbieris. **Also present,** Geoff Greenland (Hungerford Allotment Holders Association - HAHA)

1. **Apologies for absence.** Ted Angell (HAHA)
2. **Declarations of interest.** Cllr Farrell (Croft Field and Triangle Field Management Committee), Cllr Crane (Allotments)
3. **Minutes of meeting held on 22nd September 2015.** Cllr Crane proposed the minutes as a true record subject to amendment to item 11, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour.
4. **Allotments - HAHA report.** Geoff advised HAHA are £2000 in credit at present. HTC are progressing to obtain a 1 year extension on the lease for Marsh Lane. Once the WBC DPD plan emerges on 5th November HAHA will wish to speak with M Norgate again. Marsh Lane is 90% full at present but they aim for a 95% minimum. Fairfields is at 100%.
5. **Croft Field**
 - **Outcome of Management Committee meeting** – Clerk met with 4 other committee members. They agreed to meet every 2 months but to meet again after the building works are complete. Next meeting is scheduled for 20th Nov. The committee will look at requirements for the centre, deal with small maintenance issues and help with marketing. They are keen to increase income to comfortably cover the rent once the rent free period ends. Nick Furr has volunteered to Chair and Cllr Farrell will also join the committee.
 - **Re-naming of building** – Activity Centre, Burchett Hall or Burchett Activity Centre at Croft Field are suggestions. The Burchett's set up the Tuesday Club. **Action:** Consider this further and enquire into history of the name.
 - **Gate required** – The Croft Field Committee felt there was no need for a new gate to the field as there are no current problems with cars parking on the field. Instead Cllr Brookman will source a chain and padlock the entrance gate for a trial period of 2 weeks. Those that use the hall or need to access the nursery car park will have access details.
 - **Review hire contract** – After discussion Cllr Small proposed; we amend the contract to remove the 10% charge detailed in item 3b of the Hirers liability agreement, add a new line stating 'HTC reserve the right to charge a deposit of up to £200', and add to 3e 'and that this might result in the loss of my deposit', seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
6. **Triangle Field**
 - **Signage - Speed and entry** - The new RFC sign is very dominating. HTC are considering replacing the existing HTC sign which is inadequate. **Action:** Look at new design for HTC sign. HTC don't object to 5mph signs.
 - **Car Park update on works** – Work is underway and will allow plenty of parking once complete. Mr Hibberd will avoid grading too low near the large oaks in case of damage to their roots.

- **Maintenance of hedges and trees** – B Acworth has been asked to look at using the area for coppicing training. **Action:** Wait feedback from B Acworth
- **Review Rugby Club annual pitch fees – discussed last meeting**
- **Marketing and circus** – A circus has offered free use of their big top for the evening following their show if it was held on the Triangle Field. HTC could utilise the big top for an event such as a rock concert or jazz evening. **Action:** Cllr Farrell to find out further details and consider possible dates.

7. St Saviour's Cemetery

- **Review Cemetery regulations including rules of memorabilia and additional stone plaques on grave spaces** – A working party meeting has been arranged for 11am in the Town Council office tomorrow. Cllrs Farrell, Brookman and Crane and possibly Benneyworth will attend to discuss action to be taken following a complaint. The cemetery regulations are not being adhered to. It was agreed that an additional stone to commemorate an interment in a burial grave should be acceptable. The regulations will be amended to allow this. **Action:** Draft wording for Full Council approval.

- 8. Tragedy Garden project – Update on project and consider placement of plaque** – Cllr Crane proposed moving the plaque to fit on the corner pillar in the Tragedy Garden, which is more appropriate than it being on the football car park pillar, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour. **Action:** Ask a stonemason how this can be done.

- 9. Consider Bench contractor quotes** – **Actions:** Place an advert in the Newbury Weekly and Adviser for further quotes. Consider annual quote to do half the benches in a year. Request the RFO cost up employing a general maintenance man to incorporate some of the jobs currently contracted out.

10. Parks

- **Update on Skate Park fence repair** – This had been repaired again recently with stronger mesh but has since been vandalised. It is thought the youths are using the gap as a short cut to the play park. It was agreed to remove part of the fence for this purpose.
- **Concern over safety of Bulpit Park concrete wall** – **Action:** Cllr Farrell will arrange a safety check of the wall.
- **Review By-law** – This sign conflicts with the no dogs sign displayed nearby. **Action:** Clerk to send bylaw wording to Cllr Small to look at.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm