

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Small, Simpson, Whiting, Brookman, Crane, Winser
Also present: Geoff Greenland (HAHA), Ted Angell (HAHA), Alfie Smith & William Owens (JOG students).
Mrs McKay (JOG teacher)

Alfie Smith (John O Gaunt School) would like to see the sports facilities in Hungerford improved. The recreation ground and the Triangle Field are not used by young people in their free time. There are no nets. Drugs and litter is a problem at the Skate Park. His main interest is football. Cllr Wood has expressed an interest of setting up a Youth & Community Group for sports. Mrs McKay advised that in order for the school ATP to be used out of hours adult supervision would be required. Alfie would like to see nets in place and a pitch marked out. This could be for 5 a side or full).

Councillors requested some ownership of the skate park and football nets with the users looking after the equipment, helping out and reporting any problems. Liaison with Hungerford Football Club was suggested as they have a liner to mark pitches. Litter picks were increased in the summer from weekly to twice weekly at the Skate Park. There are bins there but they are not being used. (**see item 3 for proposal**). The next R&A meeting will be held on 21st Feb and Alfie is invited to attend.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Benneyworth, Knight, Wood, Farrell
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllrs Simpson (Friends of Hungerford Library), Cllrs Small and Winser (Triangle Field Management Committee), Cllr Crane (Allotments)
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 22nd November 2016.** Cllr Simpson proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.

Update on actions

Quote for screening of skip at St Saviour's – 3 quotes were obtained. Cllr Crane proposed screening of the skip by panelled gate as quoted by R Cripps at £695, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour. All agreed to proceed with Mr James scrapping off the mud at the passing place and laying some gravel.

Action: Instruct contractors

Appointment of damp specialist for Croft Field – Quote is awaited from PCT.

Any others (see to do list to be circulated) – Cllr Crane proposed purchase of nets and sockets through Playground services at a cost of £980, seconded by Cllr Winser, all in favour. **Action:** Instruct contractors. Planning decision will be made the end of this month for the Garden Room at Croft Field Centre. St Lawrence improvements to open grave and felling of tree both wait a faculty from the diocese. We are awaiting a quote for repointing of the St Lawrence wall from Kevin Skeats. Repairs to Swimming Pool house have been completed. M J Sly is carrying out a valuation on the Bridge St War Memorial. The clerk has asked for a draft lease renewal for the Tennis Courts from WBC.

- 4. Hungerford Allotment Holders Association (HAHA)** (item taken ahead of update on actions)
Report under the Heads of Agreement – nothing to report

Drafting of Marsh Lane allotment lease and requested changes - Geoff Greenland (HAHA) detailed the requested changes to the Marsh Lane lease. This was to allow permission for some items already in place i.e. shed, hard standing, water storage and temporary portaloo (there for 5 months a year) and fruit trees (max height 2.2m). The tenancy agreement needs to start on 1st Feb from 2018. The lease will be for 5 years with 12 months' notice. HAHA has also requested permission for items not yet in place: - installation of a power supply (the electric would be used for pumping water, a generator is used at present), a 5x10m pond (HAHA would address any H&S issues), a composting toilet (to reduce the cost of the portaloo). HAHA thanked HTC for obtaining a 5 year lease.

Action: Cllr Small will draft a basic lease extension. The Clerk will contact M Norgate about permission for a single composting toilet, power supply and pond.

HAHA input for response to HSA DPD – HAHA has no details on allotments at Land south of Priory Road. They would be unsuitable due to flooding, poor soil, lack of space and exposure of the site. The cost and effort of moving a site is considerable. **Action:** Respond to consultation.

5. **Terms of Reference for R&A Committee** – These are essentially fine. **Action:** Clerk to add further detail. Cllr Simpson offered to help.
6. **Verification of assets as requested by the auditor** – **Action:** Ask maintenance man to check benches etc. are in all situ.
7. **Triangle Field Pumping station blockages** – A large plastic lid caused the last blockage. Warning signs and bins are in place to advise users not to place anything unsuitable down the drain. **Action:** TFMC will inspect and consider installation of hot air drier instead of paper towels.

Request for extension of patio (item forwarded to top of agenda as Rob Cox was present from the Rugby Club). It is very muddy around the Sports Pavilion and changing rooms, where the patio is not very wide. Broadmead have quoted £1100 excl. VAT for materials (150 slabs). The RFC have 50 slabs in addition. The labour is £2225 excl. VAT to lay 200 slabs. RFC would cover the cost of the labour. Would HTC cover the cost of the materials as it is improving the facility? The project could include more slabs outside the changing rooms. Astroturf could be added in future to provide a clean area leading up to the patio. The RFC will meet on Feb 9th to decide the project date. The ground works can start on Feb 25th.

Cllr Whiting proposed HTC fund in principle the £1100 but the Rugby Football Club will attempt to get funding from the Good Exchange, seconded by Cllr Brookman, 2 abstentions, rest in favour. **Action:** Set aside funds.

Management Committee minutes, copies have been circulated

8. **Playgrounds – report from working party inspection in November** – Pressure washer has been ordered which will be used to clean benches, play equipment and paving. The zip slide chain cover has been repaired. The fence at Smitham Bridge is ground level in the corner where it is being pushed down for access to a short cut. The rest of the fence is bent due to kids climbing over to retrieve balls. A higher more substantial fence may be needed in the future. All agreed to place order for 7 replacement climbing frame handles at Bulpit Park for £130.17 plus vat.

Actions: - (R Ballard)

- Repair Smitham Bridge Fence
- Rub down wooden springy animals and paint.
- Investigate if safety flooring can be re-laid under roundabout at Smitham Bridge.
- Fit 7 new handles to climbing frame once received
- Fill cracked seat at Bulpit park
- Tap to be changed at St Saviours to self-closing

Action: Cllr Whiting to speak to Cllr Wood about incentivising Alfie and others to take ownership of the skate park to improve litter problem.

9. **Library – Any update and confirmation of meeting with WBC** – Meeting has been arranged for Wed 1st Feb at 3pm in the Town Council office with D Boeck to hear WBC's response to HTC and FOHLS' proposals. Cllr Simpson has info from Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport and will be ready for a challenge on receipt of the WBC Full Council decision on 7th Feb. FOHL request the library staff at Hungerford to be maintained at the existing levels.

10. **Britain in Bloom – in conjunction with Littlecote House Hotel – Deferred**

Meeting closed 8.50pm