

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Monday 17th February 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Benneyworth, Crane, Bumbieris, Farrell, Podger, Holmes and Small
Also: Ted Angell & Tony Drewer-Trump (HAHA)

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr M Wilson, Cllr Roger Thompson, Cllr A Wilson
- 2. Declaration of Interest** – Cllr Crane holds an allotment
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held 21st January 2014** - Proposed as true record by Cllr Crane, seconded by Cllr Farrell, all in favour
- 4. Allotments** - HAHA report – There are 3 empty plots at Marsh Lane and 4 on the waiting list and 3 empty plots at Fairfields and 1 on the waiting list. A working party met on Sunday to cut the hedges back and is due to meet again next month. The land left bare by Network Rail will be seeded with grass and wild flower. There was a request for these to include poppies or red flowers. Cllr Podger entered. The Report on finances was that income exceeds expenditure by over £1300. This will reduce due to other costs including the toilets. £2337 is the total assets. Cllr Benneyworth is trying to arrange a meeting with Rupert Thompson and Cllr Hudson regards future allotment land. **Action:** HAHA to advise their dates of availability. Empty allotment plots will be advertised and the Adviser may help but HAHA expect more interest soon as weather improves. The tenancy renewals for the two sites are due 1st April and 1st May. Sovereign have no plans to develop the Fairfields site. HAHA needs to get rid of a few tonnes of stone from Marsh Lane. **Action:** Is this OK by the land owner and could it be used at the Triangle Field?
- 5. Leases - Town & Manor** – HTC are waiting for a boundary meeting with T&M. **Action:** Chase this and put on March agenda to propose signatories for signing of the Deed.
- **Community Centre lease agreement** – The bike sheds are to be demolished during the May half term. WBC has agreed to cut the trees but we have no date for this yet. **Action:** Cllr Small will check through the proposed lease terms.
- 6. Report on Triangle Field Management Committee meeting** – Cllr Farrell felt the meeting didn't achieve much. However minutes were well written. The Triangle Field Management Committee takes over from 1st April. The next meeting is scheduled for 18th March which unfortunately clashes with R&A. **Action:** For future meetings request an agenda from TFMC to circulate to councillors. TFMC will report to the R&A every 2 months. **Action:** invite them to the first R&A following the 1st April.
- 7. Triangle Field development and drainage** – Cllr Small has drafted a Licence for alterations and a Deed of Easement. WBC can turn around the agreement quite quickly. However a more realistic date to start the contract would involve putting back the start-date by 14 days in order to have the legal agreements signed with both WBC and Sovereign. Once a contract is signed HTC will start incurring costs. VAT is a concern and is being considered. Cllrs Crane and Small's meeting with A Law (WBC) and H Cole resulted in WBC admitting the Triangle Field had been put in the SHLAA by mistake. A Law made clear that WBC would be able to sell it to us on the basis of a 'Public Open Space in perpetuity'. Cllr Crane has followed this point up in writing. **Action:** HTC to investigate process. A new valuation would be needed. **Action:** Find out cost of this.

During the meeting with A Law and H Cole the Croft Field was discussed. Previously HTC had agreed that T&M were best experienced to take on the running of the Croft Field. However R&A and the wider Town Council were also supportive previously of HTC stepping in where necessary to ensure that area is kept for the town's use. Cllr Crane, with this in mind, will investigate the possibility of HTC becoming involved in protecting the area.

8. **War memorial power supply** – John North has suggested that a power supply be installed for power washing. However a water supply would be needed also and it is unsuitable to use the stream or risk washing dirt into it. The moss has returned after being removed by the Community Payback team only one month ago. **Action:** Ask contractor to report on state of moss regularly and rid by brushing. Add this to the Risk Assessments.
9. **Theatre Company containers** – These are currently housed on David Liddiard's land but have now exceeded their planning permission. WBC head of planning has advised they would not be allowed to be sited on the triangle Field. Cllr Thompson is approaching other landowners.
10. **Options of memorial plaques on trees and benches** – HTC have received 4 enquiries recently for memorial benches and plaques on trees. It was suggested that existing benches could be used on which to place plaques and existing benches could be replaced with new ones. There is already a policy in place to sponsor a bench which would mean paying a fee for HTC to maintain it. **Action:** Assess St Saviours and Bridge St War Memorial for these possibilities.
Small trees could be planted in an area at St Saviours but advice would be needed on the type of tree. The Christmas tree at Bridge St could be replaced by a memorial tree to save annual costs.
Action: Approach T&M to discuss the idea of a community orchard and possibilities for this on Freemans Marsh. Standing orders were suspended. Perhaps the tree by St Lawrence that was removed by WBC could be replaced and a surrounding bench installed. Standing orders were reinstated.
The Church St bus stop might be a site worthy of a bench. **Action:** Investigate possibilities.

Meeting closed 8.10pm