

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 3rd February 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, M Wilson, Benneyworth, Holmes, Harding, Thompson, Bumbieris, A Wilson, and C Podger. Cllr Small arrived late.

Also present: Geoff Adams (The Adviser), John Garvey (Newbury News) and District Councillors Paul Hewer and James Podger

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Hudson, Farrell
- 2. Declarations of interest:** None
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 6th January 2014** – Cllr Thompson proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr M Wilson, 1 abstention, rest in favour.
- 4. Mayor's Report was circulated** – There have been 2 education consultations, the last meeting is tomorrow night (4th Feb 2014) between 4pm and 8pm. The Mayor went to the official opening of the new classroom at the Primary School which cost £500k to build. Cllr Small entered. Police reported by email that they have caught the culprit who caused damage at the Tragedy Garden.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports** – An email has been received by the clerk and circulated confirming WBC are giving HTC £9232.79 in Council tax support. Good news! HTC and Newbury's letters of complaint were taken on board. The amount is based on 75% of last year, next year will be 50% and 25% the year after. HTC can now budget. HTC will reconsider their precept demand at an extraordinary meeting.
Education Consultants, Ian Pearson and Irene Neille attended the drop in consultations. The consultation finishes the end of February. Meetings will follow with Governors and schools to discuss other options. There is a necessity for extra primary places and pupil numbers at JOG school need increasing. Single form entry primary school on JOG site has been put forward. There are cost saving measures (including Headteachers reporting to S Brinkley). WBC confirmed at the consultation that the budget will not rely on any CIL or S106 money. District Cllr Podger confirmed £2.75m will be ring fenced and has been voted by execs. Funding follows pupil numbers which is not advantageous for rural communities. The timescale is a concern as Sept 2015 is the target for completion and there are no plans at present. District Cllr Podger has been assured that timescale is achievable. Confidence in the school needs to be built up. S Brinkley has visited other all through schools that are working well. It is an affordable solution and answers both issues and is a massive investment in Hungerford.
Northview Development – There is a car park behind Northview accessible from Ramsbury Drive. Access from Northview would be useful. **Action:** District Cllr Hewer will meet Cllr Thompson on site. There will be no S106 from Northview as no net gain and same for Fairfields. Primary school parking is a problem. Whilst **Fairfields development** is going on can a drop off point be arranged? Is a one way system possible? Housing Survey demand was for 2 bedroom starter homes and density could have been increased to include this. Northview, how do we mitigate traffic problems during work? The Park Street/Priory Ave junction is too tight and HGVs can't turn. **Action:** PH will speak to officers and a site visit will be arranged.
PH suggested DC surgeries are held quarterly on Saturday mornings in the Magistrates Room inviting HTC, CofC, MP and public. Cllr Crane also would like a regular meeting to discuss smaller issues.
Action:- need to sort how this is done. Cllr Small asked can DCs come to CofC meeting. District Cllr Podger will attend. When Sovereign plans come in, PH will attend the HTC meeting.

6. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)

R&A – Cllr Benneyworth - None of the contractors have increased their fees for next financial year which is good news. T&M leases letter has been received and the trustees will accept partial surrender. The new Chair and Treasurer were appointed at the last users meeting. Smitham Bridge play equipment has been repainted. The Theatre Company need containers re-sited which is a work in progress. As reported the ASB at the Tragedy gardens has been dealt with. In future the wreaths left at Bridge Street WM will be secured to stop them blowing away.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – New Model Standing Orders were discussed. The Clerk is amending as agreed and this will go back to another F&GP meeting.

E&P – Cllr M Wilson – A number of extension applications have been passed. A Cobbs site meeting was attended and the application supported. Mr Barletta's plans have been refused by WBC. HTC were in support. He may appeal. District Cllr Podger would be happy to call in, but it is too late. Mr Barletta could resubmit (would have to pay). **Action:** - Advise Mr Barletta.

H&T – Cllr Roger Thompson – Pot holes are reappearing due to bad weather. District Cllr Podger advised there is money ring fenced for this contingency. It was a good gesture from WBC to keep the H1 bus route and to reroute it. Cold Harbour residents are concerned about traffic there. WBC promised they would look at area once the building finished. HTC are very grateful for the members grant obtained for tennis court.

T&E– Cllr Crane is trying to get HTC on the Thames Valley CofC map. Saxon and ADP are owned by foreign companies. Cllr Crane is looking to promote inward investment. FGW agreed to the costs of signage at the Railway Station. There is a T&E meeting on Monday.

TTH will meet on Monday to determine their long term strategy. A number of their leaflets produced have gone into the REME soldiers packs. There have been complaints that The Bear are selling the vintage clock. The Coach drivers association's main book now lists Hungerford.

7. Finance - Cllr Bumbieris –

a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments. Cheque run £32,792.04 + VAT. JP left. Cllr Bumbieris proposed cheque run, seconded by Cllr Benneywoeth, all in favour. Xmas Lights remain in the Church St Car Park trees. These need attention. Exp is above budget by £6k due to paying toilets in a difference month H&T - The budget has been kept to, due to more contribution collected by Rod.

b) Propose year to date accounts (carried out every month). Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by M Wilson, all in favour.

c) Propose costs for Ashburn Planning. Cllr Hudson (not present) recommends by email that Ashburn Planning complete their report at a cost of £900 + £80 per meeting (4x) total cost of £1,300 per year. E&P have a £5,000 budget to cover these costs. Cllr Thompson proposed the £1,300 expenditure seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour. AP have already established suitability of sites. Once we have report finished we are in better position to challenge and will be better informed.

8. Triangle Field – progress on drainage plans and legal documents. JK and sovereign have been in negotiation. Both the tank and drainage manhole are within the Triangle Field grounds. Cllr Small has drafted one legal document and is doing a second and will submit them to Cllr Benneyworth, Crane and Bumbieris. The Triangle Field will be taken out of the SHLAA. Alan Law has agreed a meeting with Cllrs Crane and Small.

9. REME welcome home parade arrangements. Parade format is agreed. Church Street Car Park will be closed until 3/4pm on the day. 3 x 30 tonne REME vehicles will be on display. 2 in the car park and one outside the Town Hall. A REME stand will be on the steps. Cllr Holmes will help all Cllrs to host guests, meeting at the Town Hall at 1pm and after the parade at 2pm until 3.30pm. Cllrs will wear namebadges. The General and Cllr Crane will speak at the parade ground. Cllr Thompson is visiting JOG at 1.15pm tomorrow to see the scroll. Security levels are low. There will be road closures around 1.30pm and a rolling closure. Police are ensuring the parking is sensible. JOG Pub are providing beer downstairs. There will be wine upstairs and nibbles, teas/coffee downstairs. Rod is arranging the flags and regimental flags will be available to wave. HTC need to welcome the families as well as REME who should see Hungerford as a second home. Need to consider annual future events for REME .

10. H1 bus route – Roger Thompson. Covered earlier

11. Centenary Commemorations. There will be a joint service in the Town Hall at some point. Poppies to be planted. Ideas to go to H&T such as an Old Time Tea dance.

- 12. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) - all councillors.** C of C meeting on Thursday at Three Swans. Community Centre - A preferred quote is needed from the Community Centre and HTC to look at WBC lease details. **Action** - Email to Cllr Small. HTC wish to keep the community centre building within the new JOG plans.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm