

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

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

Also present: Geoff Adams (The Adviser), John Garvey (Newbury News)

The police sent their apologies and a report has been circulated by email. There has been a break in at The Bear and money stolen from the cash machine. The clock is not safe to have in a public area and will be secured in a cabinet. Sgt Ian Ward has moved to Newbury.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Police and District Cllr Podger.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** None
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – Cllr Bumbieris proposed minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 as a true record, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, 1 abstention, rest in favour. Cllr Bumbieris proposed Extraordinary Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> February, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, one abstention, rest in favour. Cllr Benneyworth proposed minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> February, seconded by Cllr Crane, one abstention, and rest in favour. Cllr Podger entered. The minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> February are not yet written.
- 4. Mayor's Report was circulated** – Cllr Crane mentioned the fantastic Town Show put on by the Community of Theatre Company and that a meeting will take place with REME at 10.30am this Thursday.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports** – Apologies from District Cllr James Podger
- 6. Propose co-option of councillors** – Standing Orders were suspended for candidate Sarah Leach. She bought a house 10 months ago in Hungerford, previously went to Reading University and has worked for Vodafone for 3 ½ years in Business Improvement Management. She loves Hungerford and evening commitment to attend meetings would not be a problem.  
The council has 3 vacancies which can be filled. Ballot papers were given to all councillors with the option to vote for the three candidates, Sarah Leach, Rob Brookman and Paul Whiting.  
The clerk gathered the ballot papers and the results were announced. All three candidates were voted in by a majority vote.
- 7. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**  
**R&A – Cllr Benneyworth** – A meeting will take place tomorrow at 10.30am to mark the boundary at the Recreation Ground for the purpose of the lease. Cllrs Crane and Small met with Alan Law and Hilary Cole. At this meeting WBC admitted they had made an error and the Triangle Field will be withdrawn from the SHLAA. Hilary Cole suggested that the Triangle Field should be re-designated as an Open Space in Perpetuity. HTC should obtain a new valuation on this basis. The future of the Croft Field has yet to be determined. The negotiations between T&M and WBC have stalled. Cllr Crane proposed he continues negotiations on HTC's behalf to save the Croft Field from the developers, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour. The Community of Hungerford Theatre Company (CHTC) has applied to WBC to store containers at the Triangle Field. This has been rejected. CHTC are considering the Croft Field and other locations. There are 4 containers and £20k of assets.

**E&P – Cllr M Wilson** – The Co-op has been asked to repair its external buildings. M Barletta’s application although supported by HTC has been refused by WBC and will go to appeal. An application has been received for the Vodafone Mast. HTC supported the Cobbs application and the Garden Centre alterations.

**F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris** – A meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday. WBC has allocated HTC and extra £9.2K following complaints. HTC have not reduced their Precept request to reflect this.

**H&T – Cllr Roger Thompson** – H&T didn’t meet this month. The committee’s budget is likely to come in on target which is partly due to the huge amount of donations collected by Rod for the Xmas Lights. There is a meeting on Friday regards speeding at Strongrove Hill. Cllr Thompson will attend. WBC will be chased for reinstatements required by contractors and filling of pot holes, once their flooding emergency has reduced. A meeting regards the North View/Park St junction is planned. Residents are urged to plant red flowers in their garden this year for the centenary commemorations. The footway outside the new Catholic Church has been reinstated but should have been made narrower so a footpath could be placed on the opposite side also. Cllrs need to look 5 years ahead to avoid these problems in future. Cllr Crane has a contact that can come and speak to the council about this. Xmas Lights equipment needs to be moved from the lock up to the storage area. Lease conditions need to be checked. Nothing to report from TTH.

**T&E– Cllr Crane** met with Janet Duffield to pursue inward investment opportunities. FGW have agreed to add a welcome sign to the Hungerford sign at the station. A toilet sign has been requested near the BMW garage. Cllr Crane will attend the launch of the business awards.

**8. Finance - Cllr Bumbieris –**

**a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments.** Cheque run £11,895.68 incl. VAT. Cllr Benneyworth proposed cheque run, seconded by Cllr Crane, one abstention, rest in favour.

**b) Propose year to date accounts (carried out every month).** Cllr Benneyworth proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Thompson, all in favour. **Action:** RFO to attend next Full Council as end of financial year.

**9. Triangle Field – progress on drainage plans and legal documents –** Two licences are needed. The WBC licence has almost been concluded and verbal agreement has been given. Stuart Roberts, Sovereign has given verbal agreement but there are queries from Natasha today. **Action:** Keep chasing for drainage figure from RGC. - **Propose signatories for deeds** Cllr Crane proposed signatories for licences should be the Mayor, Clerk and Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Thompson, all in favour.

**10. Centenary Commemorations – Propose expenses for flowers and poppy displays.** Standing orders were suspended. Rod Desmeules advised it would be best to have separate troughs at ground level for the poppies and to have red flowers in the usual troughs. There are no troughs between the two bridges. This gap could be filled by extra hanging baskets. He would also like to put poppies on the railway bank. The poppy troughs would cost £15 each and there would be 38 of them, totalling £570. The costs include seeds and soil. Rod will raise donations and stay within budget. **Action:** Look at budget at F&GP to see if additional funds can be allocated for the centenary commemorations. Mention at Town meeting that residents should be encouraged to plant poppies. It shouldn’t take Rod much longer to look after the extra troughs as they are ground level to water and no dead heading will be needed. A team should help Rod.

**11. SHLAA consultation report – Cllr Hudson** – The consultation on 27th January had a good turnout of planning officers. Chris Scorey and Cllr Hudson are happy with the notes from the event, apart from some corrections to names. **Action:** Cllr Hudson will advise WBC of corrections. Rob Megson from Ashburn planning is assisting us with the SHLAA process and looking for sites for another 170 houses. The report is in draft at present. The consultation process is on-going and it is best left in draft until the formal consultation takes place in around 6 months time. The Housing Survey has gone to Ashburn Planning and all are happy with the survey. **Action:** Check with Arlene that she is happy for it to be released as a public document.

**12. John O Gaunt School Council – Cllr Farrell** has spoken to Miss Spink (JOG) and Cllr A Wilson has spoken with Mrs S Brinkley. They are keen to proceed with the involvement of HTC with the JOG Youth council. Cllr Benneyworth is visiting JOG school on 18<sup>th</sup> March at 9am and other councillors are welcome to look around the school. The contact that set up Newbury Youth Council is available for assistance. **Action:** Feedback to next meeting.

- 13. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) - all councillors.** Chamber of Commerce AGM is this Thursday at the Bear.  
Power point bullet points are needed ahead of the Town Meeting on Thursday. The agenda is up and a banner will be displayed.  
Congratulations to HEAR for an excellent report for the Education Consultation. HTC submitted a good document. WBC confirmed at the consultation that there is no link between CIL and education improvements. The headteachers are not interested in developing the 'All Through' School concept. JOG school will receive £1million in investment which will be £700K once the debts are paid. A good analysis of population was provided by HEAR. The mayor requested positive support for JOG which is on the up.

**Meeting closed at 8.35pm**