

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 7th April 2014 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, M Wilson, Benneyworth, Holmes, Farrell, Harding, Thompson, Bumbieris, A Wilson, Small, C Podger, Brookman, Whiting and Leach

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

Police Report – Sgt Andy Matthews reported that on 14th March 2 males were charged with possession of Cannabis, for personal use, at Hillside Road. A meeting took place with Hampshire & Wilshire Police looking at rural crime across the border. There are fake £20 notes circulating in Hungerford and some have been seized. They are not easy to identify. Police need to be informed and notes can be seized on the spot. Network Rail are chasing the insurers of the vehicle that caused the damage to the bridge. **Action:** Clerk to email photos to NR. Inspector Donachy has emailed a response to HTC's concern regards the opening times of the police station. Shop safe is still running. Newbury use radios but in Hungerford the officers have a mobile phone which shopkeepers can call. The Police would like email messaging by Blackberry but this has been rejected due to cost. The Chamber of Commerce will be put in touch with the police. Cllr Leach can offer a discounted price on phones.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr Hudson
- 2. Declarations of interest:** None
- 3. Approval of Minutes** – Cllr Harding proposed minutes of 3rd March 2014 as a true record, seconded by Cllr Wilson, all in favour. Cllr Brookman proposed Extraordinary Part 2 Minutes of 2nd April, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
- 4. Mayor's Report was circulated** – Cllr Crane advised that the Community Centre has been selected by John Lewis as its 'token' charity for next month. If you visit Newbury's John Lewis please support them. Poppy seeds have been ordered for all pupils at the schools to plant. The Mayor has sent letters to Phil Brown and the Chief Exec of Network Rail regards the ransom strip. Work will start at 16 High St in 3 or 4 weeks time and the Co-op will consider some of the space being used as a Community Asset perhaps as a tourist point. The tenant has been advised. An application has gone through planning and a copy of the schedule of work will be sought. A sign at the River Dunn is also awaited.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports** – The Mayor was thanked for his Reception invite. DC Podger has been co-opted as a governor of JOG school. Although the Education Plan has been rejected in the short term £1million will be spent and works will be completed in 12 months. This could be increased to £1.2million. DC Podger has also applied to be a LEA governor of the Primary School. A plan of the proposed Bridge St crossing was passed around. Garden Art are about to appoint contractors and the S106 money from that development could fund the crossing. The actual cost of relocating the services is still awaited so the total cost of the crossing is still estimated. The plan meets all the legal requirements. WBC will push for funds. The Fairfields application has been received. Historical paperwork from 50 years ago when it opened was circulated. There is no recommendation on the plans at present. DC Hewer advised it can be taken to committee if required. The new application is for 15 dwellings replacing 19 so will not generate S106 money and shouldn't increase the traffic, although previous residents primarily used the buses. DC Hewer will attend the next E&P as Sovereign is on the agenda.

DC Podger advised work will commence outside the 3 Swans in the next 3 weeks to replace the tarmac with stones, remove the trip hazard of kerbing and install bollards. Cobbles near the Chinese takeaway will also be replaced as will those damaged outside the town hall. The T&M did not wish to move the position of the tree outside of the 3Swans.

The A338/High St resurfacing will be carried out during the summer holidays. The pot holes across the common will be repaired properly. Lighting at the Texaco garage near the pedestrian crossing will be improved. Possibilities are LEDS or illuminated poles. The Catholic Church is opening on Palm Sunday. The Western area planning meeting will take place on Wednesday. Cllrs Thompson and Brookman will attend.

A 20mph speed limit by the schools will be trialled using a flashing sign. Also the possibility of a pedestrian crossing by JOG school will be considered. Cllr A Wilson said the area by the Croft Nursery is dangerous. There have been no speeding issues reported. WBC supports the walk to school scheme. PCSOs will be asked to patrol the area.

The parking tariff review needs to be advertised and if there are no objections it will go ahead in a month or so. There are 26 parking spaces by the Catholic Church. A letter will go to the diocese about parking overflow. JOG school have been consulted about this.

An informal meeting will take place on Tuesday at 2.30pm between the Mayor and M Edwards. District Cllrs are invited.

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

R&A – Cllr Benneyworth – Cllr Leach has been co-opted on to this committee. The boundary has been marked between HTC and T&M land at the recreation ground and M Davenport has been instructed to approve the lease which Cllr Small has drafted and is now in hands of T&M. A budget of £3K has been formally agreed for the new Triangle Field Management committee in addition to the cleaning costs and this will be reviewed after one year. The litter bins budget has been transferred to H&T and R&A will look after benches. A preliminary meeting has taken place with C Broughton about the Croft Field and HTC are considering a long term lease.

E&P – Cllr M Wilson – The Cobbs' planning application has been refused by WBC. There are no locations in town to place the soft play area. Cobbs are not appealing but will be putting in a fresh application. The Marina application was requesting changes to floor space. This is not connected to the Cobbs application. HTC object to the Lamb cottages because they are outside the town boundary. HTC refused the St Johns application due to the design.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – £85K fixed term investment matured at the end of February. Barclays reinvestment rate was poor. Newbury Building Society offered the best deal with flexible and instant access and F&GP have voted to invest with them. F&GP agreed we should use BACS for the salaries which will cost £250 to set up and 35p per transaction. Following the receipt of £9.2K grant from WBC for council tax support it was agreed not to change the Precept request. £1K of the grant will be used for a centenary commemorations budget and the rest will be earmarked for spending on the public toilets in the year after next. Amendments to the standing orders are still be discussed and will be brought to Full Council for approval.

H&T – Cllr Roger Thompson was disappointed a meeting with M Edwards was cancelled. District Cllr Podger will be attending the next H&T. Network Rail is dealing with the repairs to the road by the level crossing. A tender document is being put together to obtain quotes for the cleaning of the public toilets for comparison.

T&E – Cllr Crane – No meeting has taken place. The Mayor is exploring ADPs new training academy and will put forward for inward investment consideration. Town Team Hungerford will not be meeting for another 6 weeks.

7. **Finance - Cllr Bumbieris –**

a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments. Cheque run £32,623.31 incl. VAT. Cllr Bumbieris proposed cheque run, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour

b) Propose year to date accounts (carried out every month). £15K of general reserves was committed to be spent last year in addition to the budget. So far HTC have underspent by £6K so have spent £21K less than budgeted. There was a higher income amount from the donations for flowers and lights than expected. Cllr Bumbieris proposed agreement of the accounts, seconded by Cllr Thompson, all in favour.

8. **Triangle Field** – The drainage quote came in at £5K over budget. Sovereign are requesting the right to reroute the drainage system should they need to. The likelihood that this would happen is minimal. A reservation can be put in the accounts. Legal documents are being worked on with Sovereign to diminish risk and will have to be agreed with WBC. Work will start but not on the drainage until the legals are

complete. £5k has been donated by the Gerald Ward Trust. Cllr Benneyworth proposed that this is used towards the increased project cost, seconded by Cllr Thompson, all in favour. The proposed start date is after Easter.

9. **Website Improvements update – Cllr Leach** - 3 quotes have been obtained. HTC need a basic structure with a new layout and updated look. A home page, templates, contact page, list page and basic search etc. is required. HTC need to provide the domain name and content. A .gov.uk domain is unnecessary. Hosting could cost a monthly fee of £40. The 2 most competitive quotes for building a new website are £1400 and £1500. The latter includes a half day training and a booking calendar. Cllr Crane proposed the 2013/4 budget is allocated for this project and authority is given to the clerk to proceed, seconded by Cllr Small, all in favour.
10. **LDF meeting report** – The AONB have voiced their concern with regards to Folly Dog Leg being developed up the slope. The report from Ashburn Planning will not be concluded until WBC carry out their formal consultation,
11. **Report on visit to JOG school** – 5 councillors attended and spent the morning with S Brinkley looking at what improvements are needed. Thank you to Sarah Brinkley for her time and inspiration. The Junior Council will be encouraged to focus on R&A issues. There is an allotment at JOG and HAHA will work together with the school on it. Cllr Leach advised Vodafone offer 40 volunteers for ½ a day to carry out work on a community project. This could suit the schools, youth group, canal trust etc. Cllr Whiting is happy to help with involving Hungerford fire fighters. The Junior Council met later than anticipated. The clerk will liaise with D Arden-Hunt regards future meetings.
12. **Any other reports - District Parish Conference** – It was suggested this could be hosted by Parish Councils. The agenda items are chosen by the Parish Councils and WBC usually include some training. Liaison should be encouraged with parish councils and visits from WBC officers.
Chamber of Commerce – The next meeting is 1st May. The town quiz takes place on Friday 25th April at the Croft Hall. Will HTC enter a team?
REME – Cllr Holmes is co-ordinating communications. A centenary commemorations meeting will take place soon. The Mayor's Reception takes place on 24th April.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm