

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 7th November 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Farrell, Bumbieris, Winsor, Wood, Small, Benneyworth, Chicken, Colloff

Also present: District Cllr Paul Hewer (PH), John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), Geoff Adams (The Advisor) and representatives from Wessex Rangers

Wessex Rangers Presentation: Captain Adam Dews and Lieutenant Shelley Tallack were presented with a cheque from HTC. Captain Dews thanked HTC for the donation which they intend to put towards training equipment.

Police Report: Two thefts, one of which was the theft of a fuel tank from a canal boat. Four cases of shoplifting. Six counts of making off without payment from the petrol stations. The Hungerford arcade was targeted with the offenders gaining access through the rear yard and then onto the roof. They gained access from the roof and investigation is still ongoing. Burglary took place in a dwelling whereby a residential room above a public house has been broken into. The investigation is ongoing. One count of theft from a vehicle around Charnham Street area and one count of criminal damage at John O'Gaunt school.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Wilson, Knight, Whiting, Simpson, Hudson, Police
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Farrell on cheque run.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 3rd October 2016.** Cllr Wood proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Brookman, two abstentions the rest in favour.
- 4. Mayor's Report** has been circulated. A highlight of the Mayor's diary this month was attending one of the events in the Arts for Hungerford. Also attended the Western Area Planning meeting which discussed the Prosperous Farm development.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports** have been circulated. PH attended the meeting to discuss the Prosperous Farm development, though declared his interest. Planning permission was not granted and it is thought that an appeal may be made. PH commented on the planning application of 36 Church Street which had 25 letters of objection, of which only three were signed. The planning application for the Priory Road was also granted. PH raised that the consultation on the re-shaping of the library services would continue until 11th December and be taken to WB full council in March. Hungerford Nursery School was awarded "Out-standing" following its Ofsted Inspection on 4th October. The road closures at Lower Denford were highlighted. Cllr Brookman asked if the restriction through Lower Denford could be lifted for the morning of 13th November as the High Street is shut for the Remembrance Day Parade. **Action:** DC Hewer would contact appropriate person in WB to see if the closure could be altered.

Accident on Hungerford High Street on Friday 4th November was discussed. There has been some discussion on social media about the accident. However, the police are currently investigating and DC and HTC will await the report.

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

R&A – Cllr Small – Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. TFMC met on Wednesday where routine maintenance issues were discussed. A working party was to be set up to look at the playgrounds and feedback from parents. Cllr Wood, Colloff volunteered and also Cllr Simpson. A quote had been received for fencing at St Saviour's Cemetery. No response has been received to the letter sent to Mark Norgate with regards to Marsh Lane Cemetery.

H&T – Cllr Brookman – Issues on pedestrian crossing in the High Street raised earlier in the meeting. Speed review of Charnham Street was not successful as average speeds were recorded of 32 mph in the 40mph zone. Cllr Brookman confirmed that the Council had given him authority to spend £1K on the pigeon reduction and remaining money should come from the Chamber of Commerce and Town and Manor. It was felt at this current point in time that this would not be productive as there were too many demands on resources. Brief discussion on the way forward took place. DC Hewer would raise the issue with WBC. **Action:** report back at next meeting.

E&P – Cllr Farrell – Planning for the Croft Field is going ahead. Other items have been general extensions. Site visit was carried out by Cllrs Farrell, Crane and Small to Hungerford Park Estate. The planned work was considered and understood by the committee. This was a long term project and the changes were to move 2 building to behind the walled garden.

T&E – Cllr Crane - The last committee meeting was cancelled. Cllrs Crane and Brookman attended a meeting about the A4 tourist route in Wiltshire running from London to Bath which was well received. A major grant was being awarded to allow more study with phase II looking at devising itineraries for tourists from Germany, US and Russia. Money for the welcome sign was being sought. WBC had complained about the banners on the bridge. These are not allowed as it distracts drivers. The only banners allowed are those that have a historic association with the bridge.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – No meeting held.

7. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris

a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for the last month. Included this month are payments for memorial wreaths and orders of service, repairs to the drainage at Swimming pool House and guttering for the Sports Pavilion. Cllr Bumbieris proposed authorisation of cheque run of £10,976.25 + salaries + VAT seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

b) Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report. Ahead of where it was anticipated as the installation of the Christmas lights has not been paid yet. Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

c) West Berkshire Budget Proposal consultations. A general email has been sent out about the latest reductions in funding. The consultation is live until 11th December. Matter to be discussed at next F&GP. **Action:** Arrange to be placed on the agenda.

d) Consider grant application for Newbury News Over 80's Parcel Fund. Same amount to be given as last year. Proposed by Cllr Crane and seconded by Cllr Bumbieris, all in favour.

8. Library Update – There was a meeting of the Friends of Hungerford Library tonight ahead of the public meeting on Wednesday.

9. Christmas Lights update – Cllr Brookman updated the councillors on deliveries and progress. The first batch of trees arrived 2nd November. Contractor had started decorating the live trees, though progress was hampered by the cherry picker operator being off sick for 2 days. Largest problem is that most of the trees will not be delivered until 18th November, which makes it challenging to dress all the trees and have in place by Sunday 27th November. Cllr Brookman was keeping to the price of £30K as set by the council, which is due to the loss of trees in Charnham Street and starting in the High Street at the Borough Arms. The council has directly purchased the trees as well. Each hour worked by a volunteer reduces the bill by £10. A range of volunteers have signed up, including 3 soldiers from REME. Cllr Crane stated

that a large number of pledges have been received and those that have supported the event will be acknowledged. A brief discussion took place about the lights covering tendering, feedback from businesses. Cllr Crane stated that the amount spent could not increase next year.

10. Standing orders – Working party review (Cllr Bumbieris). Standing Orders are to be reviewed every year. Cllr Bumbieris has identified minor alterations. Current standing orders are based on model NALC Standing Orders. Cllr Bumbieris is looking for volunteers to review document. **Action:** Cllr Bumbieris to circulate it.

11. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals –
Cllr Chicken – Youth Club has received an email from JOG School to confirm that the Youth club can remain in the building. An upstairs room has been decorated using volunteers and the building now hosts three children's groups.

Cllr Small – Chamber of Commerce is due to meet on Thursday 10th November.

Cllr Wood – Informed the Councillors that Hungerford Football Club is looking to extend its building with a total of £35K to be raised to cover costs.

Cllr Crane - confirmed arrangements for the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 13th November. The councillors will meet at 10:30 am prior to the parade commencing. It was confirmed that the French market which was to be held on the same day has been cancelled

Meeting closed at 8.17pm