

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES** of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex.

**Present:** Cllrs Simpson, Winsor, Fyfe, Downe, Alford, Lewis, Yakar-Wells, Schlanker, Mills, Shatford and Knight.

Also: West Berkshire District Cllrs James Cole and Dennis Benneyworth.

Representatives from Penny Post, Andrea Barratt (Eight Bells), Chris Boulton (CEO Greenham Trust), Steve Ardagh-Walters Portfolio holder for Environment (West Berks Council)

Members of public: Peter Sharland (Summer Festival),

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), Sarah Hennessey (Deputy Clerk)

**Eight Bells for Mental Health:** Andrea Barratt talked through her power point presentation on the services they provide. **(See attached).** They have been supporting mental health for 10 years and are open 3 times a week. They use volunteers to connect locally, and anyone can volunteer as a local navigator. Tasks involve getting community activities started, supporting via phone, and encouraging self-help. Eight Bells are keen to support Hungerford and also hope to find local navigators from Hungerford. Training available includes lone working, first aid, safe-guarding, and dementia training. Referrals are received from social prescribers and whilst providing the service through community navigators is ideal, the service can be accessed directly also. The Mayor suggested Eight Bells may wish to have a stand outside Tesco or on the Town Hall steps to create awareness locally.

**Greenham Trust (GT) (see slide attached)** Chris Boulton (CEO) advised they have been running for 25 years. Their rental income of £3-5 million a year funds projects in West Berkshire and North Hampshire. Due to Covid19 there are few large projects at present and fewer applications coming in. GT were the first in the country to get a community support hub up and running to help with the impact of Covid19 and this led to them creating their own appeals on The Good Exchange (TGE) putting in their own money to be matched by the public, raising £½ million. A major project during lockdown was helping schools. Many children did not have devices to work from home and there was no allocation from the government for West Berkshire as it was not seen as a deprived area. GT raised £1/4million for 1200 laptops to be deployed within 3.5 weeks. Mental health support is very high on their agenda and £100k was raised through TGE and £100k from the Council for this. Recently £23k was raised for the Afghan appeal and they are further looking to support housing of Afghans. For their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary they are creating a youth fund day which will be held in Newbury on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022, and they have made a commitment to plant 25,000 trees over a 5 year period. Distribution of these trees is aided by their own nursery.

Chris confirmed they are working alongside Woodland Trust with this project and their mission statement is to create real projects that make a difference to local community. Fortunately, their portfolio is linked to industry that wasn't directly affected by Covid and their rental income increased despite the forecast reduction. They are looking to support small local projects. There is no hospice in West Berkshire, and they will be looking to try and address this.

Peter Sharland (on behalf of Hungerford Summer Festival) thanked Greenham Trust for their huge support over the last 25 years.

DC Benneyworth mentioned Hungerford Nursery receives funding for 2 years but actually needs funding in advance for 3 years. Chris advised they do have a 3-year funding scheme which helps give some certainty and the Citizens advice benefit from this. **ACTION:** Advise Hungerford Nursery.

The Greenham Trust are working on collaborative funding, local and national and benefit from 23 funders at present.

**West Berks Council (WBC):** Steve Ardagh-Walters talked through WBC's Environment Strategy (**see power point attached**) and how COP26 is their prime target. WBC has committed to a net zero carbon footprint by 2030. Furthermore, the whole district of West Berkshire is committed to a net zero carbon footprint by 2030 which involves 160,000 people playing a part and WBC enabling, inspiring, and leading by example. There is the need to minimise impact of economic growth and encourage more cycling and walking. Steve talked through their key achievement plan including a plan for a large solar farm at Grazeley. BBOWT are recruiting volunteers to survey and where possible increase biodiversity. If anyone is interested, please let him know. Recycling is reasonably good but could improve. A quarter of black bin content is food waste. It was pointed out smaller food recycle bins are required and Steve advised they hope to roll out weekly food collections with smaller bins soon.

10% of new car sales in UK are of electric vehicles. In Germany this is 25% including hybrid. WBC has a duty to enable increases and they wish to roll out more electric charge points in public car parks and to allow kerbside charging. They are running a pilot scheme in Newbury to see what the public accept and want in terms of chargers and parking.

*Cllr Downe pointed out HTC had put forward specific examples for encouraging EV use for consideration by WBC and the response received was dismissive. Hungerford Environmental Action Team have carried out their own research. There are some charging points that just need allocation of parking spaces and the tourism industry needs fast charging points. There has been no update on the charging points promised for the station. Steve commented that there is a limited stream of funding and officer time, and consultation needs to be done thoroughly and properly so they get it right. WBC will consider models funded by private companies. There have been no specifics detailed on the joint WBC/Sovereign planning application for Chestnut Walk relating to sustainability. WBC should be leading by example. DC Cole has called the application in as it is our only opportunity to influence.*

Steve advised that WBC do intend to build to a high quality including solar panels and EV chargers although it isn't shown on the plans.

*It was questioned why Hungerford is not included in the roll out of new cycle lanes. The A4 footways from Hungerford to Froxfield have not been maintained in years.*

Steve advised the reason is lack of funding. Newbury is LEP funded and £1.5m was spent on a small area going east of the Robin Hood. The focus is on commuting rather than leisure cycling. WBC are seeking to improve the quality of the canal towpath through Hungerford for cycling.

Steve ended his presentation talking through the carbon footprint of buildings in West Berks with the schools having the largest followed by leisure centres, council buildings, and care homes. 3000 tonnes should drop to zero next year. WBC's 9.5 tonnes compare as 1% of the district's 0.9 million tonnes to be abated in 9 years time.

**FC202100158 Note apologies for absence** – Councillors Chicken and Hudson

**FC202100159 Declarations of interest** – None

**FC202100160 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and Extra Full Council meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

**Proposed:** Cllr Downe

**Seconded:** Cllr Winsor

**Resolution:** To approve minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 as a true record. 2 abstentions

**Proposed:** Cllr Knight

**Seconded:** Cllr Schlanker

**Resolution:** To approve the minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> September as a true record. 4 abstentions.

**Outcome of actions:** DC Benneyworth has been in touch with Sovereign and case holders have been assigned to deal with the various complaints. A 'town centre plan' meeting is being set up. The Heritage Trail is being worked on and costed. There has been no further progress with expanding the conservation team. CCTV has now been installed. A three-year contract with Shield Electrical for the Xmas lights has been agreed. Other actions are complete.

**FC202100161 Receive Mayor's Report** – The report had been circulated (**see attached**).

**FC202100162 Receive District Councillor's Reports** – The report should follow in writing soon. DC James Cole mentioned some of the main issues that have arisen. Concerns about a lack of maintenance of the Redwood House/Lindley Lodge buildings has been passed on to Sovereign. The path through the site is poorly lit and maintained which is a concern as school children regularly use it. In addition, it is difficult for emergency services to access as they need to go via Cold

Harbour Road. **ACTION:** DC Benneyworth to arrange a meeting with Sovereign about putting drop bollards on the Priory Roadside to allow another access, and to bring up maintenance issues. The drainage problem by Cottrell Close is on the scheduled list of works and has been escalated as much as possible. HTC was encouraged to put forward views on the Library Service Consultation and Hackney Carriage Consultation.

DC Cole attended the Councillors' Surgery led by the Mayor which could become a regular feature of the Food Festival market, perhaps every other month.

The Mayor was very concerned to hear directly from a new resident of one of the Bewley Homes that they had been told by the developer they would not be welcomed by Hungerford residents as they didn't want the houses built. It was agreed Bewley should be contacted about this, and a welcome statement put out to new homeowners. 12-15 of the 100 homes have been occupied so far. The press has asked Bewley for information on non-disclosure statements that residents had apparently been asked to sign.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Dec will see the rolling out of a 30mph speed limit on the Common.

- FC202100163 Health & Safety – Any complaints or concerns, including Impact of Coronavirus – No concerns were raised.**
- FC202100164 Hungerford 2036 – Receive a report from the Project Team – See attached report.**
- FC202100165 Receive Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report) - F&GP & R&A reports have been circulated. See attached.**
- FC202100166 Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated with copies of invoices) for September**  
**Proposed:** Cllr Winser  
**Seconded:** Cllr Simpson  
**Resolution:** Agree cheque run for September totalling £29,496.51
- FC202100167 Propose year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report.**  
**Proposed:** Cllr Winser  
**Seconded:** Cllr Knight  
**Resolution:** Agree accounts with negative variance of £8640. (*Approx. £3000 of income has not been recorded for an insurance claim and rent. An amended report will follow.*)
- FC202100168 Propose authorisation of regular monthly payment list – This would be to agree payments in advance for those contractors that we pay regularly, particularly those with annual contracts.**  
**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson  
**Seconded:** Cllr Schlanker  
**Resolution:** Deferred to F&GP
- FC202100169 Propose the issue of a mid-month payment run – It was explained that some contractors' terms of payment are not being complied with as payments are only made monthly.**  
**Proposed:** Cllr Simpson  
**Seconded:** Cllr Downe  
**Resolution:** Deferred to F&GP
- FC202100170 Receive update on progress with Croft Field improvement project – A decision on the planning is expected mid-Oct. Our architect is approaching contractors.**
- FC202100171 Christmas lights Switch on Event - The Mayor has booked Roger Beard to Switch On Hungerford's lights. He is a Freedom of the Town awardee and President's Day recently celebrated his 60 years involvement with the cricket club. The Switch on will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov from 4pm to 5pm outside the Town Hall. This year Disco Dan will be making an appearance. The schools and local theatre groups have been asked if they would like to be involved.**
- FC202100172 Consider redesign of the HTC logo – The logo is currently the same as Town & Manor and the schools which causes confusion. The Head of JOG School agreed it would be a good art project for the pupils to help design a new logo.**  
**ACTION:** HTC to design a brief.
- FC202100173 Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals – None**

## PART 2

### Confidential

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

It was noted that actions from the last Part 2 have been completed.

**FC202100174 Triangle Field Management Agreement – Receive update** – A response to our solicitor's letter has been received and terms have been agreed with one extra request.

**Proposed:** Cllr Winsor

**Seconded:** Cllr Downe

**ACTION: Resolution:** Decline request to include training area in the curtilage but offer the area for rent non-training activities.

**FC202100175 Leisure Strategy update** – A reply is still awaited from the asset management team at WBC as their last meeting was cancelled.

**ACTION:** Clerk to follow up.

Meeting closed 9.15pm



Eight Bells



Greenham Trust 25th anniversary presentati



Env\_strategy\_Hungerford.pptx

### Cllr Helen Simpson

#### Mayors Report Full Council 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021

#### High Sherriff

Claire W and I attending the High Sherriff's summer reception at Bucklebury house. This was the first large official engagement for a while and it certainly felt very strange to be back in company again. It was really nice to meet the other Mayors for the civic year ahead.

#### Food & Craft Market

I attended the Hungerford Food & Craft Market at the Croft Field on the 12<sup>th</sup> September. The market is very well attended and proving very popular. I also attended yesterday on 3<sup>rd</sup> October with Cllr's Daniel Lewis, Derek Alford, and ward member Cllr James Cole, running the councils first Councillor Surgery. It was really nice to meet residents, giving them the opportunity to share ideas or raise any concerns.

#### Hungerford in Bloom

It was really nice to welcome this year's competition winners to a presentation ceremony. The competition was hugely popular this year, we had a brand -new entry which took the top prize. I really hope residents will continue to support this much-loved competition. The judges were very impressed with the standard of entries and I'd like to say a huge thankyou to Sarah Chatters, Sarah Hennessey, Claire W, Judges and all those who entered this year's competition.

#### Grant Awards

It's always nice to gather the grant recipients together and give them the opportunity to share the stories of the groups, organisations and charities they represent. It's also nice to know how they're preparing to spend their grant awards. HTC knows the importance of these grants, even more so this

year because of the pandemic and the difficulties they've faced around fundraising for their organisations.

### **Horticulture & Handicrafts Show**

I was thrilled to attend the event for the first time this year and hand out prizes to the winning entries. I was so impressed with the entries and exhibits on show. There were some very strict judges this year but well done to all those who entered and supported this event. Thank you to Haha and the Royal British Legion for hosting.

### **Freshers Fair – John O'Gaunt School**

I attended the recent Freshers Fair at JOG school, I was delighted with the interest of students in extra-curricular clubs and community engagement activities. We are hopeful from the sign-up on the day of re-starting a youth council which will be supported by the school and link into HTC. Congratulations Cllr Derek Alford & Cllr Dan Lewis for your commitment to this project. Youth engagement has always been hugely important to me and the team, I'm really looking forward to getting involved.

### **Remembrance Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

This year's remembrance parade will go ahead as usual, we will socially distance the wreath layers to be 1m apart, the war memorial area will be managed so that we can ensure a safe space, we will enjoy having Hungerford Town Band and 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Close Battalion Support - REME involvement once more.

### **Summer Festival**

HTC representatives met with several Summer Festival organisers to talk about next year's 10day event. Needless to say, this much-loved package of entertainment will be back next year and will be packed with a program of events to entertain us all.

We really are so lucky to have such a varied range of events and talent right on our doorsteps. Please continue to support the brilliant calendar of activities being planned for next year.

### **EV Charging points in Hungerford**

WBC portfolio holder for the Environment Cllr Steve Ardagh-Walter will be attending HTC's full council meeting this month. HTC recently wrote to council leader Cllr Lynn Doherty to share our frustrations on HTC's request for some modest incremental measures which, would go some way to help alleviate some of the challenges faced by Hungerford residents, as we actively encourage them to switch to EV's. HTC feel that although the response from WBC was initially very positive, our request nearly 7wks later has failed to materialise. The response to our request for parking permit holders to have access to car park, based chargers even contradicts WBC's own ULEV strategy statement. We don't yet even have the four fast chargers planned for installation, although these have been promised since June. HTC hope that WBC will work with HTC to ensure Hungerford residents have the same opportunities currently being enjoyed in Newbury, agreeing to support the environmental efforts Hungerford is striving to realise for our community.

### **Planning application 21/01868/FULD Hungerford Old Peoples Home, Chestnut Walk, Hungerford**

It seems extraordinary with the background of WBC's Climate Emergency Declaration and Zero carbon strategy, that a new housing scheme half-owned by WBC Council is being proposed which isn't setting out to be an exemplar development. This should be a beacon showpiece for commercial housing developers to demonstrate what they too should be doing to make new homes environment friendly and to ensure the occupants of the homes can experience low energy costs without causing climate damage.

In the current application's design and access statement, the text is littered with non-committal, non-enumerated and vague aspirations regarding energy efficiency and low-carbon heating. Words and phrases such as "endeavour", "where appropriate", "subject to the viability" give no definitive information as to what standards these homes will be built to nor what the heating energy sources will be.

This planning application has been called to Western Area Planning committee by DC James Cole. Let's hope West Berks councillors realise the opportunity they have in front of them to address and amend the plans to show all developers the standards WBC/HTC aspire to.

## **Recreation and Amenities Report 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021**

**CLlr Helen Simpson**

Update on actions: Suggestions for a memorial to Jack Williams – a bench has been ordered and this will be placed at Bridge Street War Memorial site. Cllr Simpson will speak to the Cricket Club regarding a trophy/dedication plaque at the Cricket Club. RBL are unable to make a donation towards the cost of the bench.

### **Trees**

**Resolution:** To remove the two ash trees at St Saviour's Cemetery that are overhanging the road and starting to show signs of ash die back.

**ACTION:** Quotes to be obtained

Tree inspection – the office is waiting for quotes from two companies regarding improving the rooting environment at the War Memorial Avenue. This will be considered at a future meeting. All other actions were completed.

### **Croft Field Activity Centre**

The current processes are working well, and the committee agreed to continue with these.

– Update on progress of planning application – The application has been submitted to WBC Planning. As agreed at F&GP, Kennet Design will engage with contractors and submit plans.

**Skate Park** – This item was discussed following item RA2021044.

– Consider future plans for improvements to Skate Park. At the Full Council meeting in September, councillors expressed unanimous support for the concept of improving the skate park and creating a pump track using CIL money. The members of the public (Ben Howells and two minors) were present to discuss ideas for the type of equipment that could be installed to attract users to the site and to attract various sources of funding. For example, if there was a facility for BMX riders, British Cycling might look more favourably at providing funding.

Ben has been in contact with a company that specialise in the design and installation of skate parks, and they would be willing to come for an initial visit. He will arrange a site visit with the company and ask them to provide outline plans and approximate costings for discussion at a future meeting. HS will meet BH and suppliers to identify the best area for building this facility.

**Remembrance Sunday 2021** – Consider purchase of a Royal British Legion "Tommy".

**Resolution:** To purchase a pair of Lamp Post Tommy's at a cost of £405.

## **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

### **MONTH 6: SEPTEMBER 2021 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT**

#### **101 FINANCE:**

£153,345 Annual Precept received this month, 100% has now been received.

**102 ADMINISTRATION:**

Net Income over Expenditure £1,070 below Budget.

**103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

Net Expenditure £347 below budget. Year to Date figure of £2,656 remaining to be allocated.

**104 POOL HOUSE:**

No Income recorded for this month. £175 still outstanding from last year.

**105 CONTINGENCY:**

No expenditure recorded this month, £6,650 remaining Budget available.

**106 TOURISM SUPPORT BUDGET:**

No Expenditure recorded this month. £2,500 remaining Budget available.

**109 HUNGERFORD 2036 PROJECT:**

Net Expenditure £467 above Budget, £3,178 remaining budget available.

**201 RECREATION & AMENITIES:**

Net Income over Expenditure £878 above Budget.

**202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:**

Net Expenditure £55 above Budget.

**203 ST SAVIOURS:**

Net Income over Expenditure £1,788 above Budget. Wall repair £1050. Burial Fee Income £239 below budget. £3,228 remaining Budget available.

**204 CROFT FIELD:**

Net Income over Expenditure £181 below Budget. Income down by £224, 44.8%.

**205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:**

No Expenditure recorded this month.

**206 TRIANGLE FIELD:**

No Income recorded for this month. Business Rates of £422 paid, this will be the responsibility of HRFC when the new Lease has been signed.

**301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:**

No Expenditure recorded this month.

**302 HIGHWAYS:**

Net Income over Expenditure £1,487 below Budget. Hanging Basket Donations of £120 received.

**303 CCTV:**

Net Income over Expenditure £381 above Budget.

**304 TOURISM & ECONOMY:**

No Expenditure recorded this month.

**402 CIL FUNDS:**

Payment of £68,837 received to date.

Monthly Income down by £1,638 and Expenditure up by £7,002 giving a Net Income over Expenditure negative variance of £8,640.

Claire Winser

Chair of F&GP

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

**Hungerford Town Council**

**Public Report to:** Full Council meeting October 2021.

**Agenda Item No FC202100164**

**Current Activities**

Following the two initial public consultations in the Corn Exchange early in the summer about the 4 potential sites for new homes, two further consultation exhibitions took place in in the Croft Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. The H2036 Project also had a stall at the 12<sup>th</sup> September Hungerford Food and Artisan Festival to promote the activity.

As a result of these events and further local publicity approximately 220 mainly online responses have been receive from residents in all parts of the parish plus a few from further afield. The responses include comments for all of the 4 sites as well as some overall feedback. There have also been an additional 24 registrations from residents to receive updates about the H2036 Project as it progresses.

The consultation period ended at the end of September; the public responses will now be analysed by the team.

**Signed:** John Downe, Joint Chair H2036, 29/9/2021