

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor  
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**MINUTES** of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs Winser, Fyfe, Alford, Hudson, Greenwell, Schlanker, Armstrong, Cole, Knight, Simpson, Carlson, Keates, Cusack and Coulthurst

Also: West Berks District Cllr Denise Gaines (DG)

Representatives from Penny Post, Everyone Active (Richard May, Sally Thomas, Steve Salva) and West Berkshire Council (WBC) (Jeanette Hodge, Jude Thomas and April Peberdy). Two members of public.

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk),

**Police Report:** A report has been circulated (**see attached**).

**Everyone Active (EA):** Steve and Sally talked through their power point presentations (**see attached**). EA manage 235 leisure facilities, 7 of which are in West Berkshire (Hungerford, Lambourn, Northcroft, Willink, Downlands, Kennet and Cotswold) and work with 67 local authorities, employing 15,000 employees (65% female and 69% locally). They provide a national swim lesson scheme and other sports facilities. Their mission is 'Colleague, Community and Carbon'. Hungerford will have a new purpose-built fitness studio which will increase community activities and provide a social area for all ages. It is hoped this facility will be complete early next year. EA offer apprenticeships and free membership to carers, those that have been through the care system, and Parkinson sufferers. They have a sporting champions scheme which supports talented athletes, headed up by Colin Jackson. 5 athletes in West Berks have benefitted from this mentoring programme.

EA confirmed they have 2 apprenticeships at present, both at Northcroft but they are recruiting and aiming for 5 across the West Berks area. The dance/fitness studio is being funded by WBC. EA are not able to invest and will be operating at a loss for the first two years of their 10-year contract with WBC.

The Mayor commented that HTC contribute around £36K annually to Hungerford Leisure Centre and would like a seat at the table. Jude (WBC) confirmed that the JAC (Joint Advisory Committee) is not in place, but she is aware of the urgency of involving Town Council in future meetings and will be looking at terms of reference.

EA confirmed a membership tier system is in place offering members the opportunity to use leisure facilities in other locations. Hungerford Leisure Centre has around 10,000 users per month.

A concern over the plastic waste generated by issuing new swimming hats was voiced. EA confirmed that the hat colours are useful for the lifeguards to see which children are safe in the deep end of the pool etc. but they are looking into recycling these and having bins at the centres.

WBC will raise the request for Electric Vehicle charging points in the Leisure Centre car park with their colleagues.

**FC202300168 Note apologies for absence.** All councillors were present.

Apologies from District Cllrs Tony Vickers (TV) and Dennis Benneworth (DB)

**FC202300169 Declarations of interest** – None

**FC202300170 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, and outcome of actions**

**Proposed:** Cllr Winser

**Seconded:** Cllr Coulthurst

**Resolution:** To approve minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 as a true record. 4 abstentions. Rest in favour.

**Outcome of actions:** It was noted that the dog waste bins by the church and canal are overflowing. DG is due to have a meeting with Jon Winstanley on Thursday and will learn if the cracks have grown in the building at the top of the high street. This is in the hands of the surveyor however enquiries are being made to see if the process can be accelerated. The Mayor is concerned the cracks will be badly affected by the winter weather and there is some concern over the safety of the footway.

**ACTION:** DG advised there is no budget for the cleaning of signs so she is asking for one. Weeds along school alley are particularly bad. Email photos to DG.

Cllr Cole confirmed the first steering group meeting for the Town Strategy will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct at 6pm in the Town Hall. The first item on the agenda will be TORs. In theory the group will be sponsored by WBC.

A virtual opening event will be held for both the Croft Field and Skate Park as mentioned in the Mayor's report. CCTV is in operation at the Skate Park and fencing and signage is being considered for the perimeter although funding will need to be sought.

**ACTION:** Consider the offer made by Town & Manor for provision of 48 stackable chairs, free of charge, for use at the Croft Field Centre.

Other actions are complete.

**FC202300171 Receive Mayor's Report. Report attached.** The Mayor added that she hadn't mentioned in her report the escalating costs of the traffic lights at the top of town or the poor state of the pavement in the high street. Cllr Armstrong recently witnessed someone trip over. Complaints have been logged with West Berks Council, but little has been done. The parking bay outside the almshouses is in very bad condition with many potholes.

**ACTION:** Clerk to chase up West Berks Council for a site visit of the footways in the High Street.

Cllr Fyfe mentioned Avonline a subcontractor to Gigaclear had sectioned off an area in Crown Mews to dig up but had not consulted anyone. DG confirmed it is an unadopted road so not a WBC issue in this case. A meeting is needed with Gigaclear.

**Presentation of Mayor's coin.** Peter Whiteside's role is street maintenance, working for West Berks Council, however Hungerford Town Council has received numerous comments from different residents on how he goes above and beyond his role. The Mayor wished to recognise Peter's hard work for the town by presenting him with a Mayor's Community Champion certificate and coin. Thank you, Peter, for doing an excellent job for Hungerford.

**FC202300172 Receive District Councillor's Reports. Please see attached.** DG read through both reports. Cllr Armstrong add that the wall of her house had been covered with grafitti again and she was planning on speaking to the headteacher to see if the kids could produce an artpiece there instead. She may put up another camera facing the wall. The Mayor advised she had received complaints about the recent ASB and had escalated this to the Inspector. We are encouraged to report all incidents to the Police.

**FC202300173 Health & Safety – Any complaints or concerns.** A manhole cover outside Coffee1 has been reported as a trip hazard. There is another in The Croft that has also been reported.

**FC202300174 Receive any committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report) –** These have been circulated. **See attached.**

**FC202300175 Receive report from Hungerford 2036 Project Team (Cllr Hudson) – Report attached.**

**FC202300176 Propose authorisation of payment run.** (circulated along with copies of invoices for September)

**Proposed:** Cllr Winser

**Seconded:** Cllr Simpson

**Resolution:** Agree payment run of £188,163.28

**FC202300177 Propose year to date accounts –** refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report

**Proposed:** Cllr Winser

**Seconded:** Cllr Schlanker

**Resolution:** Agree income and expenditure report with £130,280 negative variance, due to phasing issues with receipt of the precept.

**FC202300178 Approve asset register** – (refer to circulated document)

**Proposed:** Cllr Knight

**Seconded:** Cllr Keates

**Resolution:** Approve the asset register.

**FC202300179 Review updated action plan** - (refer to circulated document)

**ACTION:** The clerk will continue to work on the action plan and add this to the next Full Council agenda. The document is a work in progress but can be viewed in the shared councillor drive. Any comments are welcome.

**FC202300180 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.

**FC202300181 Note retentions on current projects pending queries** – These were noted.

**FC202300182 Feedback from meeting with Police and Sovereign** – The Mayor gave an update.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

## **POLICE HTC UPDATE October 2023**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> August we held another Scam and Fraud Awareness event on the steps of the Town Hall with colleagues from Trading Standards. We had lots of questions, comments and handed out lots of advice leaflets. We will be looking to hold another one hopefully before the end of the year.

For the month of September:

3 reports of Anti-social behaviour

3 report of Criminal damage

0 reports of Shoplifting

4 Theft.

0 Burglary

On the 5<sup>th</sup> September following a collision on Church Way a person was arrested and charged with driving a vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol.

A further plea to anyone experiencing anti-social behaviour or who is a victim of crime to report it. In recent weeks we have had various people in conversation, come and tell us about crimes but these are not appearing on our crime data – so are going unreported and meaning our patrol areas (which we decide on from crime data) are taking us elsewhere.

The easiest and quickest way is our online reporting tool on our website.

## **The Team**

The current set up of the Hungerford and Downlands Neighbourhood Police Team is 1 x Inspector, 1 x Sergeant, 3 x Police Constables and 5 x Police Community Support Officers.

The team are contactable by email but this should not be used in an emergency or for reporting crime as it is not monitored 24/7. The email address is below –

[HungerfordandDownlandsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:HungerfordandDownlandsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

And finally a plea to keep reporting incidents to us via 101, the TVP website ([www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)) or 999, in an emergency

## **Mayors Report – Oct 23**

### **Awards**

September started with the grant awards ceremony and Hungerford in Bloom presentations. This was the first event held in our newly re-furnished Croft Field Centre. Everyone was excited to see all the changes made. As always, the grant awards ceremony gives an opportunity for awardees to share news and let us know how they plan to spend their grants. It is also a lovely opportunity to network and share experiences.

The Hungerford in Bloom competition wasn't as well supported as in previous years. HTC has some new ideas to make the competition bigger and better next year. I want to say thank you to everyone who entered. Your gardens were a joy to judge, we'd like to congratulate all those who took part.

### **Freedom of the Town**

Congratulations to this year's awardees Charlie Barr, Tony Drewer-Trump, and Stuart Hofgartner. It was a wonderful evening; the medals were awarded by The High Sherriff of Berkshire Simon Muir. It is always an honour to award such deserving individuals. They all give so much to our community, their dedication and commitment as volunteers within Hungerford is humbling. Congratulations!

### **Croft Field Activity Centre**

The Croft field centre works are finished, we've had a few teething problems which are being addressed. Molly has been busy buying the smaller bits and pieces to make the centre look more inviting. HTC will be creating an opening video for social media platforms; we felt the reach may be wider than a smaller ribbon cutting ceremony.

### **Skatepark**

The new skate park is absolutely thriving. I have been receiving so many comments from parents whose children are really enjoying the challenging new course. Please take note of all the safety rules at the entrance of the park and encourage each other to wear helmets and appropriate safety clothing. We will do a similar opening video for this site to.

We have received a couple of comments regarding the late use of the park. Fencing will be the final part of the build; this is extremely expensive, and HTC will be looking for funding opportunities to help us achieve this final part of the build. We now have CCTV located on site covering the park and surrounding areas.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Sadly, Hungerford is again experiencing escalating levels of anti-social behaviour. Hungerford Town Council was a recent victim of this. Youths entered the library building and disrupted a meeting, they then went on to flood the public disabled toilet and rip the decals from the library doors. Town and

Manor had a similar incident a couple of evenings later. A report has been made through 101 and is currently being investigated. If you witness anti-social behaviour, please report through 101. It is very important to log all incidents. The more incidents recorded the more resources will be sent. I will be addressing my concerns with the local police team.

### **Big Issue**

I have been informed by Big Issue that; the Hungerford vendor is no longer licensed to sell the big issue magazine in the town.

### **Royal Mail**

I know many Hungerford residents are still struggling with the lack of service from Royal Mail. MP Laura Farris recently posted on social media, Laura has written to head office for an explanation and plan moving forward.

### **Boots**

Sadly, I am still receiving complaints about the service levels and stock of medication in Hungerford. I am still in contact with the area manager who is convinced the store is improving, new staff members are currently being trained. I will be escalating your concerns to our MP if there is no further improvement. In the meantime, please do not take your frustrations out on the hard-working staff, they are doing the best they can, please be patient and ensure you give adequate time to prepare your prescriptions.

### **Social Event**

Hungerford Town Council would like to thank Hungerford Town and Manor for hosting a social event on Friday. Thank you for your warm hospitality. This was a wonderful opportunity for Town Councillors and Trustees to network. Building strong working relationships which benefit Hungerford and its residents.

### **Holiday**

Thank you to Deputy Mayor Claire Winsor for stepping up whilst I was away. HTC was in very safe hands.

Cllr Helen Simpson  
Town Mayor

## **Hungerford Town Council**

### **District Councillors September report**

A new council strategy has been published setting out the priorities and direction for West Berkshire Council over the next four years.

Thames Water Utilities Limited has been ordered to pay more than £10,000 in compensation for permit condition breaches following a successful prosecution by West Berkshire Council. They are also going to be questioned in the Scrutiny committee next Wednesday 11th.

Community Forums We're inviting you to share your thoughts on topics that matter to you for our future Community Forum meetings. No matter how big or small, your ideas can make a significant impact on the way we plan, develop, and improve our community. To submit a topic suggestion, please email us at [executivecycle@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:executivecycle@westberks.gov.uk).

Public Rights of Way survey finishes on Thursday 23rd November

Berkshire Age UK/West Berkshire a special social event to connect with fellow resident's, embrace active living for a healthy and vibrant retired life, and explore local resources that can offer support for a fulfilling retirement. Please join us on 5 October, 1pm-3.30pm at St Nicolas Church Main Hall, West Mills, Newbury RG14 5HG

Cycle to School Week Next week, 3–7 October, is National Cycle to School Week and we should encourage children to get out on their bikes.

Parking Survey This survey is due to be release in the next few days. It will be active for 6 weeks and their will be posters with a QR code on parking meters in order for residents to have additional avenues to have their say.

Police Superintendent Helen Kenny didn't make it to our meeting on Wednesday due to operational issues. The meeting is to be rearranged.

Asylum Seekers In the news, its has attracted National coverage. We have two Asylum Seekers currently in tents outside Market Street. Channel 4, ITV and BBC have all had interviews with them and Lee Dillon (leader).

Concern with graffiti I have been approached by several residents about graffiti now appearing on buildings, walls, and telephone exchange boxes. These seem to be one of only a couple of different "tag". This is a worrying trend.

District Councillor Denise Gaines

Here is a brief report for your meeting this evening.

1. Local Plan. Discussions with stakeholders relating to NE Thatcham strategic site ongoing. No other main modifications being sought by new Administration. Responses to Inspector's 77 searching "Preliminary Questions" had to be extensive (and would have required corresponding extension of time to respond without a change political control in May) but have now been sent – will be published very soon. His next move awaited but no Examination of the new Plan due now until "early 2024".
2. Backlog in processing planning applications. We have applied for grant from DLUHC to enable us to clear backlog by April 2024. Meanwhile 'minor' (non householder) PAs suffer most but by redeployment of staff (from Planning Policy) we are managing to stop backlog increasing and two new officers recruited are also helping cut it slowly.
3. Neighbour Notification Letters. System due to commence mid-November District-wide for most types of PA.
4. Parish Notice Board Posters. Design being updated and likely to be published for each Ward by end 2023.
5. Community Forum. Next one late November on "Country Matters".
6. North Wessex Downs AONB. I am this Council's new rep on Council of Partners and had my induction this morning.
7. Biodiversity Net Gain / Ecology. Government has slipped the deadline for mandatory BNG from next month to "next year". Guidance still not published by NE. Serious lack of trained experts to advise / implement / monitor. We will nevertheless continue to give this highest priority and will this week update the Climate Emergency Declaration to include Ecological Emergency.

ClIr Dr Tony Vickers  
Liberal Democrat (Hungerford & Kintbury Ward)

**FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
ON 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**MONTH 6 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

**101 FINANCE:**

Budgeted Precept of £172,345 not received this month. £166 Bank Interest received.

**102 ADMINISTRATION:**

Net Income over Expenditure is a £2,365 negative variance. £1,365 Audit and £1,867 Quarterly PAYE costs not budgeted for in this month.

**103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

No Expenditure this month.

**104 POOL HOUSE:**

Net Income over Expenditure is a £25 negative variance.

**105 CONTINGENCY:**

No Expenditure this month.

**106 TOURISM SUPPORT BUDGET:**

No Expenditure this month.

**109 HUNGERFORD 2036 PROJECT:**

Government Grant of £10,000 received this month.

**201 RECREATION & AMENITIES:**

Net Income over Expenditure is a £28,450 positive variance. The balance of £27,067 from the Good Exchange Grant for the Skate Park was received this month.

**202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:**

Net Expenditure was a £45 positive variance this month.

**203 ST SAVIOURS:**

Net Income over Expenditure is a £3,156 positive variance. Burial fee income increased by £1,785.

**204 CROFT FIELD:**

Net Income over Expenditure is a £653 positive variance.

**205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:**

Net Expenditure was a £140 positive variance this month.

**206 TRIANGLE FIELD:**

Net Income over Expenditure is a £61 negative variance.

**301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:**

No Income or Expenditure this month.

**302 HIGHWAYS:**

Net Income over Expenditure is a £779 positive variance.

**303 CCTV:**

Net Income over Expenditure is a £3 positive variance.

September's Net Income over Expenditure is a £130,280 negative variance.

Claire Winser, Chair of F&GP, 28 September 2023



# INTRODUCTION TO KEY PERSONNEL

Sally Thomas-Ellis: Regional Contracts Manager

Steve Salwa: Area Contracts Manager

Richard May: Contract Manager



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## THE SLM STORY SO FAR.....

- Incorporated in 1987 as SLM and becoming Everyone Active in 2007
- Established & respected track record
- Managing over 235 leisure facilities nationally in partnership with over 65 local authorities
- Employing over 15,000 colleagues committed to providing a quality service



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## ACROSS THE REGION

### Bournemouth,

#### Christchurch and Poole

Everyone Active Leisure Centre:  
Ashdown  
Poole  
Rossmore

### Bromsgrove

Bromsgrove Sport  
and Leisure Centre

### Buckinghamshire

Chesham Leisure Centre  
Chalfont Leisure Centre  
Chilterns Lifestyle Centre

### Dorset

Blandford Leisure Centre  
Weymouth Swimming Pool  
and Fitness Centre

### Everyone Active

Everyone Active Stadium

### Hatton

Hatton Swimming Pool

### Slough

Langley Leisure Centre  
The Centre  
Salt Hill Activity Centre  
Slough Ice Arena

### Solihull

North Solihull Sports Centre  
Tudor Grange Leisure Centre

### Stratford on Avon

Shipston Leisure Centre  
Southam Leisure Centre  
Stratford Leisure Centre  
Studley Leisure Centre  
The Greig Leisure Centre

### Stroud

Stratford Park Leisure Centre

### Somerset West and Taunton

Blackbrook Leisure Centre  
and Spa  
Taunton Swimming Pool  
Vivary Golf and Adventure Centre  
Wellington Sports Centre  
Wellsprings Leisure Centre

### Warwick

Abbey Fields Swimming Pool  
Castle Farm Recreation Centre  
John Atkinson Sports Centre  
Meadow Community  
Sports Centre  
Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre  
St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre

### West Berkshire

Cotswold Sports Centre  
Hungerford Leisure Centre  
Kennet Leisure Centre  
Northcroft Leisure Centre  
and Lido  
Winkink Leisure Centre  
Lambourn Centre  
Downland Sports Centre

### Wythenshawe Forum Trust

Wythenshawe Forum



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## MISSION & VALUES

- We're called Everyone Active for a reason– we have built a strong reputation for delivering well managed leisure facilities, which have successfully proven to encourage **everyone** to be more **active**.
- Whether it's the most state-of-the-art equipment, sports facilities, Swim England accredited swim programmes or fun and sports activities for children; we have something for the entire community.
- We're enthusiastic about being active and staying healthy . We've made it our mission to encourage more people to participate in **30 minutes of moderate physical activity, five times a week** either in centre or online
- We have established values which are **Inclusive, Supportive, Positive & Progressive**
- **Colleagues, Community and Carbon**



## Local Employer

- 69% of Hungerford Leisure Centre Colleagues live in the RG17 postcode
- 65.52% are female and 34.48% male
- Average age 42.25 years
- Our training partner 'Lifetime Training' delivers a comprehensive programme which currently has 286 Apprentices working for the Company Leisure Team Member/Leader Level 2
- Our sickness and absence rate is just 2.25%, compared with the industries overall rate of 4.2%
- Our colleague turnover is just 1.59%
- 96% of our colleagues understand what our organisation is trying to achieve
- 95% of our colleagues understand their part in achievement the business objectives



## Capital Investment

- New modular fitness studio coming to the site
- An improved experience for the fitness users
- Opportunities to improve the senior and community offering



## Free memberships and access

	PARKINSONS	CARED FOR CHILDREN		CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE
Age Range	N/A	0-10yrs	11-16yrs	16-25yrs
Included in Membership	GYM SWIM GROUP EX EXI SYNERGY DANCE®	SWIM SYNERGY DANCE® SOFT PLAY GYM	GYM	GYM SWIM GROUP EX
Membership Length	N/A	As turn 11yrs Can be renewed after 12 months	As turn 16yrs Can be renewed after 12 months	As turn 26yrs Can be renewed after 12 months
Evidence	Doctors / Consultant Letter	Council Family Support Teams / Foster Carer Identity card		Council Family Support Teams / Foster Carer Identity card



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## Activities, Health & Wellbeing



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## Sporting Champions

- The Sporting Champions scheme from Everyone Active gives talented athletes the opportunity to make use of training support and mentoring sessions to further their burgeoning careers.
- Launched in 2016, the Sporting Champions scheme has been responsible for more than £1 million worth of support to over 1,000 athletes across a huge variety of disciplines; from wheelchair basketballers and swimmers to artistic gymnasts and figure skaters.
- From a total of 30 Sporting Champions competing at the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, our athletes achieved a combined five gold, two silver and three bronze medals.
- The programme has been designed to assist this country's next generation of superstar athletes in making the most of their natural talents.
- As an Everyone Active Sporting Champion, they benefit from access to FREE training facilities at any of our 200-plus sports centres located all over the country, as well as to mentoring days throughout the year. These days are hosted by performance experts, including sporting superstars such as Colin Jackson CBE, Lauren Steadman MBE and Lutalo Muhammad, distributing their wisdom and knowledge, as well as encouraging the sharing of ideas between you, the athletes.
- This year has seen 5 local athletes of West Berkshire join the scheme.



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