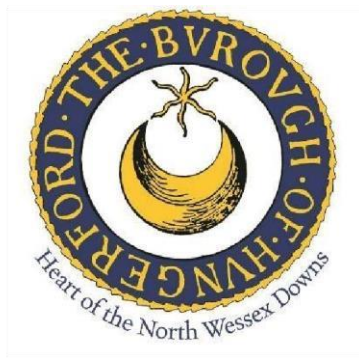


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs, Cole, Fyfe, Keates, Alford, Hudson, Knight, Carlson, Armstrong and Montgomery.

Also present: Representative from Penny Post, District Cllr Dennis Benneyworth (DB) from West Berks Council (WBC), and representatives from Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group (BTPG)

In attendance: Town Clerk, (TC).

Presentation of the Mayors Coin: Deputy Mayor Cllr Cole presented the two members of the Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group with a Mayor's coin and certificate in acknowledgement of their outstanding contribution to rail services and their tireless campaigning efforts. They are both retired commuters and have been running the group for 19 years. Their aim eventually would be to get a fourth platform at Westbury and an hourly service from Paddington to Westbury, but initially they are focussing on getting direct trains to Paddington. Network Rail want this and specified how it can be done by early 2030s. GWR are not getting any money from the Stonehenge transport improvements and are cost saving at present. It was noted the GWR franchise expires next year.

Cllr Fyfe asked if BTPG were aware of the south-east draft transport public consultation 2020 report and strategy to which the deadline is 17th March 2025. As they were not, the link was then passed onto the group.

Police report. (refer to our website for the full report). There were no questions relating to the report.

FC20250031 **Note apologies for absence.** Cllrs Simpson, Winsor, Coulthurst and Reeves.
Apologies also from, District Cllrs Denise Gaines (DG) and Vickers (TV) from West Berks Council

FC20250032 **Declarations of interest** – None

FC20250033 **Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 3rd February 2025 and outcome of actions**

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Knight

Resolution: Minutes of the meeting of 3rd February 2025 were agreed as a true record, one abstention.

Outcome of actions:

ACTION: DB will visit the office to go through outstanding actions one of which is the cleaning of the high street footway.

It was noted that the John O Gaunt pub pothole has been repaired. The definition for types of potholes repairs, can be found on the West Berks website 'Report a pothole'.

ACTION: DB will investigate if data on repair stats can be pulled off the 'Report a problem' website.

ACTION: Defer the outstanding action: The Mayor will request DG carries out a site visit to Station car park.
Cllr Cole, the Clerk and a WBC project engineer walked the stretch of the A338 that has no footway, from the Care Home towards Hungerford to see if it is viable to improve it by putting in place some sort of footway. WBC agreed it would probably be able to cut and clear back the verge to make it safer but putting in a footway is unlikely due to current usage and cost.

ACTION: Chase up response from WBC project engineer on outcome of A338 above site visit.
Other actions are underway or complete.

Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 27th January 2025 and outcome of actions

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Hudson

Resolution: Minutes of the meeting of 27th January 2025 were agreed as a true record, three abstentions.

The action to respond to the Local Plan Review Consultation was completed before the deadline.

FC20250034 Receive Mayor's Report – There is no report this month but there will be an extended one next month.

FC20250035 Receive District Councillor's Reports – DB has been in touch with Jon Winstanley (JW) who will be coming to the Annual Town Meeting, hopefully with Paul Hendry. JW has confirmed that the 30mph speed limit at Sanham Green has been agreed however the process to impose it will take around 6 months. This will encompass the whole area from the Triangle Field in Priory Road through to Sanham Green. It was a close decision, but the petition signed by 488 people helped and its proximity to footpaths and a bridleway. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Hudson and District Cllrs for their support. WBC were to plant bulbs on the roundabout apposite the Asda garage however it is a bit late in the year. Smarten Up Hungerford are coming to the Britain in Bloom meeting on Friday where options can be considered. Once Cllr Keates has a plan it can be sent to WBC. DB advised WBC had their budget meeting last week and an increase of 4.99% has been voted through. WBC are exploring more efficient options for the Resource Centre and DB hopes a way can be found for it to continue. Can WBC come and talk to us about maximising the use of the Resource Centre? WBC are looking at ways to fund the Family Centre which is not under threat at the moment. WBC have been successful in applying for £16m extra funding from Government to shore up budgets.

ACTION: DB to arrange for the Resource Centre to come along to the Town Meeting.

WBCs' preferred option would be for HTC to take on the 6 WBC bins. They would offer replacement of any old broken bins with new.

DB announced the sad news that Jo Naylor, West Berkshire's Building Communities Together Officer has passed away. Jo was involved in helping obtain many grants through the member's bids process amongst her many other roles. She will be very much missed.

FC20250036 Health & Safety – Receive any complaints or concerns. Including concern over state of garages off Park Way. Cllr Fyfe advised there are two sets of garages in Park Way and one set in Orchard Way totalling 80 garages.. Sovereign have cleaned up the area and it is looking much better however there are concerns with the group of 23 garages in Park Way where some of the concrete is cracking and sides are damaged. The group of 19 garages there have wood collapsing and gutters hanging off. The garages at Orchard Way Close have holes in the fascias and need painting. There is also an abandoned car and a garage door hanging off.

ACTION: DB to look into who owns these garages. Which belong to WBC/Sovereign or are private? Add this item to the H&T agenda.

FC20250037 Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated along with copies of invoices) for February.

Proposed: Cllr Carlson

Seconded: Cllr Cole

Resolution: Authorise payment run of £18,045.44 for February.

FC20250038 Propose year to date accounts – Refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report.

Proposed: Cllr Carlson

Seconded: Cllr Knight

Resolution: Agree accounts, with a positive variance of £52,373.

FC20250039 Propose opening of a CCLA account as recommended by F&GP

Proposed: Cllr Carlson

Seconded: Cllr Montgomery

Resolution: Open a new account with CCLA and transfer in £150k.

- FC20250040 Propose consultant fees for support of Hungerford's NDP including post examination amendments.** Cllr Hudson explained we are waiting for WBC to consider our NDP at their next meeting on 27th March. Following that the next stage is a 6 week consultation. The fee estimate received from our consultant would be to carry out any required updates to our NDP and potential work for an Examination in Public, depending on the inspector's findings. £1687 is a best estimate based on 3.5 days work.
Proposed: Cllr Hudson
Seconded: Cllr Montgomery
Resolution: Agree consultant fees of up to £2,000 for NDP amendments.
- FC20250041 Update on Hungerford's Purple Socks fundraiser** – Cllr Coulthurst has been instrumental in raising a grand total of £973, including £86 from the church, towards this fundraiser in aid of Swings and Smiles. Council expressed their thanks for her success.
- FC20250042 Propose signing of allotment land BK190645 and BK98447** – Following a site visit the condition of the boundary wall to the north of the land has been flagged as a safety concern. It was agreed to appoint a structural engineer to carry out a survey and to delegate the outcome to committee to consider further.
- FC20250043 Confirm Town Council diary events for 2025** – RBL is planning to engage with REME about Armed Forces Day and putting on a function/bbq for them. Any future Freedom of the Town event might not take place until the autumn. It was agreed that HTC will not hold an event this year for VE Day as we held a large event last year for D-Day. We will not be organising a lighting of a beacon. Town & Manor are organising a VE Day dance and Aldbourne are putting on an event. HTC can support these events.
- FC20250044 Receive any reports (no more than 3 minutes per report which cannot contain any proposals).**
The concrete planter tubs that are on order will help prevent parking on the footway. Cllr Fye reported the Parcel Force van has been parking on the wigwags in the high street.
Proposed: Cllr Keates
Seconded: Cllr Hudson
ACTION: **Resolution:** Report the offence to the Police using CCTV footage available.
The Clerk advised CCTV footage to support criminal investigations is sent directly to the Police and for accidents, it is sent to the insurance company.
ACTION: Chase up WBC for an update on changing the bay outside Dods to a loading/drop off point.

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.

- FC20250045 Consider cycle to work scheme for employees**
Proposed: Cllr Keates
Seconded: Cllr Montgomery
ACTION: **Resolution:** Agree to offer a cycle scheme to HTC employees as per the report submitted.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

**FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 3RD MARCH
2025**

MONTH 11 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2025

101 FINANCE:

Full Precept received.

102 ADMINISTRATION:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £3,768 positive variance. The £1,046 insurance claim was for the Swimming Pool House leak repair.

103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:

Net Expenditure is a £4,127 negative variance. The Hungerford Library Grant of £4,127 was not budgeted in this month. There is £873.50 remaining to be paid out.

104 POOL HOUSE:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £114 positive variance due to the annual rent increase.

105 CONTINGENCY:

No Expenditure this month.

106 TOURISM SUPPORT BUDGET:

No Expenditure this month.

107 ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING:

No Expenditure this month.

109 HUNGERFORD 2036 PROJECT:

No Expenditure this month.

201 RECREATION & AMENITIES:

Net Income over Expenditure is an £1,830 positive variance. HAHA's annual Marsh Lane fee was received this month but not budgeted.

202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:

Net Expenditure was a £67 positive variance this month.

203 ST SAVIOURS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £33 positive variance. No Burial Fees this month.

204 CROFT FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £456 negative variance. Income was down by £440.

205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:

No Expenditure this month.

206 TRIANGLE FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is an £91 positive variance.

301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

Net Income or Expenditure is a £653 positive variance. No new purchase were made but budgeted.

302 HIGHWAYS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £2,219 positive variance. A Good Exchange Grant of £1,000 was received from one of last year's Hungerford in Bloom judges towards our Britain in Bloom entry.

303 CCTV:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £143 positive variance.

9001 RESERVES

A total of £1,275 was moved from EMR for Tree works and SP House Front door repair.

February's Net Income over Expenditure is an £3,920 positive variance.

The Year to Date Net Income over Expenditure is a £52,373 positive variance.

Claire Winsor

Chair of F&GP, 1st March 2025