

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor  
Cllr Helen Simpson  
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**DRAFT MINUTES** of the **Annual Town Meeting** held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm in Corn Exchange, High Street, Hungerford, RG17 0NF

**Present:** Approx. 120 people (including those exhibiting). Members of press were also present.

- 1. Intro** - The Mayor (Cllr Simpson) welcomed everyone for attending and commented on how well represented the town is by all the organisations present. She introduced all the different groups and thanked them.

Those exhibiting included:

Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan, Foodbank, Youth and Community Centre, West Berks Council (WBC) representatives from Highways, Adult Social Care and Transport, including District Cllr Denise Gaines, HEAT (Hungerford Environmental Action Team), Community Markets, HAHA (Hungerford Allotment Holders Association), Chamber of Commerce, Hungerford Legal and financial Centre, Town & Manor, Hungerford & Downlands Neighbourhood Policing Team, SCAS/Defibrillators, Smarten Up Hungerford, Sovereign, D-Day/Commemorative Convoys, Hungerford Primary School, Hungerford Rugby Club, Twinning Association and Hungerford Town Council.

The Mayor announced the arrival of a new Changing Places Toilet for Hungerford which is based in Church Street Car Park and provides facilities for the severely disabled with a hoist, full size changing table, shower and height adjustable sink. She thanked West Berks Council for funding the capital costs and advised Hungerford Town Council will be managing the on-going maintenance.

She highlighted the on-going Regulation 14 Public Consultation on Hungerford's Draft Neighbourhood Plan which closes on Fri 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and encouraged all to respond either at tonight's meeting, on-line, by email or by completing paper copies in the library.

A date for the diary is Hungerford's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day which is a weekend of commemoration and celebration planned to coincide with Armed Forces day. There will be a dance in town on Fri 28<sup>th</sup> June with a parade and convoy on the Sat 29<sup>th</sup> and an all-day event on Triangle Field/Rugby Club on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. We are raising money for the RBL and Veterans charities and welcome donations via The Good Exchange website to cover costs.

Hungerford in Bloom 2024 is now open for entries and we would love you to get involved. Application forms are on the Town Council website or paper copies can be picked up from the office or the library.

The Mayor expressed how much she had enjoyed working with the youth on designs for the new skate ramps and is pleased that we have been successful in raising grant funding to replace the skate park fencing.

A plea was put out for CHAIN who need volunteers to help man the office and are also short of drivers. If anyone can help, please get in touch. Hungerford Hub also needs volunteers.

A vital role for the community is a Flood Warden and we would welcome someone to come forward for this position. This is in conjunction with Hungerford's Emergency Plan.

2. **Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023:** *Cllr Simpson proposed the minutes, seconded by Cllr James Cole, no objections.*
3. **Opportunity to meet our exhibitors, ask any questions and view new project plans** - The Mayor encouraged everyone to mingle and view the exhibits. She advised the meeting would reconvene later for a question-and-answer session.
4. **Question and answer session –**

Chris Scorey, a trustee from Town & Manor of Hungerford gave an update on the Wetlands Project, which is sited on Undy's meadow, north of Charnham Park Road. He advised they are about to release a lot more detail as the first draft of the planning application will be submitted in the next two weeks. This includes hundreds of pages, including ecology reports and designs. He will soon publicise the planning application number and encouraged everyone to contact West Berkshire Planning to offer public support.

The Mayor thanked Chris, Jonathan, Kate and all the team involved.

Cllr Jerry Keates asked if there was anyone who did not know what was happening the weekend of 28-30<sup>th</sup> June! (*D-day information can be found on our website*).

**Meeting closed 8pm**