

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES** of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Chicken, Farrell, Small, Whiting, Bumbieris, Small, Colloff, Wilson.

Also present: Inspector Warren McKeown and Supt Jim Weems, Laura Edwards (Tesco), Keith Knight, Penny Ford & Sarah Powell from Dementia Action Alliance, Ted Angell (HAHA), Geoff Adams (Adviser), John Garvey (Newbury News).

**Police Report:** Inspector McKeown reported annual figures. Crime is down by 4% in Hungerford/Lambourn area. Violent crime up by 47% (from 38 to 56 incidences). This could be due to how it is recorded. Criminal damage is down by 10%, shop lifting down by 24% (from 29 to 22), domestic violence up by 22% (more is now reported), theft of vehicles, 16 again, and burglary from dwellings is down by 43%.

CCTV although most people don't know it's there and it has a limited effect it does help particularly with vehicle crime in Hungerford. Windsor monitoring station will remain as it is used for other locations not just West Berks. The police have a small amount of capital expenditure that could help towards funding CCTV.

**Action:** Clerk to pursue this with police. The closing of the Hungerford Police station will result in the police having a public facing environment possibly in the Library and a base in a shared environment maybe the fire station. The Mayor stated HTC's interest in the old Police building which could help with the station area development. The police advised there is not a need to contact police locally and ringing 101 works well. There is a perception of a speeding problem in Hungerford. HTC could set up a Community speed watch voluntary group. The police have 10/12 meetings every month to cover so will come to every other HTC Full Council meeting and when not attending will send a report. PC Paul Cole joined the team today.

**Dementia Action Alliance (DAA):** Is Hungerford a good place to grow old in? 1/3 people are on their own in the community. What services are there and how can we improve them? There is a need for education and raising awareness. DDA wish to target businesses, banks, Post Offices etc. to make them more user friendly. Signage could be made clearer for toilets etc. DDA wish to set up a group involving council, police & fire services and the community. They are looking for backing and network support and engagement with the local authority. Improvement could include: a slow lane in Tesco's, using chip and signature instead of PIN, use of a GPS tracking system. A committee could set up a regular event or meeting place for those facing issues with emotional and practical problems. Cllr Small advised Hungerford has some fantastic groups already such as the Resource centre, CHAIN and the Tuesday Club and suggested DAA are put in touch with them.

**Action:** Meet again in 4 months for update. Sarah to meet with the Resource Centre.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Hudson, Benneyworth, Winser and District Cllrs and Geoff Greenland, HAHA.
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Crane has an allotment.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meetings of the Full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and Extraordinary Full Council meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015.** Cllr Bumbieris proposed minutes as true record with one

amendment, all in favour. Cllr Chicken, proposed minutes of Extraordinary Full Council meeting as true record, seconded by Cllr Brookman, one abstention, rest in favour.

4. **Police – Inspector Warren McKeown & Supt Jim Weems – CCTV contribution, Closure of police station and police presence at meetings.** This item was discussed in the Police Report.
5. **Mayor’s report.** – The report was circulated to councillors. **Action:** Circulate to press also. Interviews for Deputy Clerk to take place on Friday.
6. **District Councillor’s Reports.** Apologies received.
7. **Co-option.** Keith Knight introduced himself. He is semi-retired, worked for BA for many years and moved to Hungerford last July. He was a school governor in London and cricket coach. He has signed up for CHAIN and wishes to join the Town Council. **(After item 14)** When K Knight left the room his application was discussed and Cllr Crane proposed Keith Knight is co-opted on to the Town Council, all in favour.
8. **HAHA – update on Allotments.** HAHA – Ted Angell advised a 1-year extension of the lease for Marsh Lane has been obtained. However, there is still a need to work with HTC to obtain a long term site and to look at alternative sites.
9. **Suggested adoption of Defibrillators by HTC – Richard Scofield (RS).** The new town guide map now shows where the defibrillators are placed around Hungerford. Richard Scofield advised 6 defibrillators have been installed in external cabinets. Locations are: CPI Ltd (Smitham Bridge), JOG School, RBL, Texaco, Library, One Stop. When a 999 call is made the ambulance service will instruct the caller where the nearest defib is. Defibrillator awareness sessions are available but training is not a pre-requisite. Hosts sites will provide power to the cabinets for heat and light. (not to the defib itself). Richard Schofield is wishing to donate the scheme to HTC as an asset. User liability is not a concern to adopter or host. Any liability for use will be with the ambulance service. The code to open the cabinet is only available through the ambulance service. The host needs to include the cabinet in their annual fixed wiring test of which a copy should be supplied to the HTC office. HTC public liability would need to cover theft and damage. The costs involved are £200 to replace a battery which lasts 4 years, £20 to replace electrodes which last 2½ years but if used will need replacement. RS advised they will provide a fund which should be self-supporting to cover these costs. Regular site checking of the cabinets is carried out by Neale Marney (i.e. to check light/heating is working). RS requested that HTC adopt the defibrillators and add them to their asset register. The host sites are not signed up for a particular length of time. Site checking relies on volunteers but equipment is very simple. Cllr Crane proposed HTC adopt the defibrillators, add them to their asset list and insure them, seconded by Cllr Brookman, 3 abstentions, rest in favour.
10. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

**R&A – Cllr Small.** A meeting of TFMC took place and a date for the circus was agreed. Containers are still to be clad. Quotes for the car park to be resurfaced have been accepted. Could allotments be put at Triangle Field? Could Newbury College use the Youth & Community Centre? Damp to be addressed at Croft Field building. Following St Saviour’s consultation, regulations need to be tightened up. Spoil is to be removed from cemetery. Vault grave at St Lawrence is to be made safe. Right of way to back of church is to be investigated. Quotes for repair of wall at Bulpit Park are being obtained.

**E&P – Cllr Farrell.** Marina development will soon be underway. Garden Art BREAM condition needs to be removed otherwise the development can’t happen. District Cllrs are in support of this.

**T&E – Cllr Crane.** No meeting has taken place. The Tourist Route meeting has been postponed. The new Town Guide has been published and delivered. Links to industry in Hungerford are needed.

**H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman.** Xmas lights will be under budget! This year HTC are looking to cut back on the number of lights. PAT testing for all lights has been completed so won’t need doing in the Autumn. A site meeting took place in Hungerford Newtown but still waiting to hear back from WBC. Priory Road site meeting took place to look at new footpath (funded by WBC). Robert James has suggested parking restrictions and Alex Drysdale’s views are awaited. A serious accident occurred at Lower Denford. The bushes as you turn right reduce visibility – Cllr Brookman will follow this up with WBC.

**F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris.** HTC became VAT registered from 1<sup>st</sup> December. £14k S106 money has been allocated. Fees for Croft Field have been reviewed and a 10% increase will be applied to help cover some

of the cost of VAT. Window Flowers a new contractor have been appointed for flowers in the High St. Annual Contractors quotes have all been approved for next year.

**11. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**

**a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated).** Cllr Bumbieris proposed cheque run, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

**b) Propose year to date accounts.** Christmas lights invoices have been paid and R&A income is up £3k from Theatre Company donation. Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

**12. Tesco grant.** (discussed after item 9). 5p bags money is going towards outside projects. Apply on line for a grant. Shops will have tokens for public to vote. Applications will be short listed to 10 and 3 are chosen for money. 3 applications are permitted with grants available of £12k, £10k, and £8k. Deadline is 31st March. Any group in town can apply. **Action:** Take to R&A.

**13. Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Celebrations.** Cllr Chicken will attend Chamber of Commerce meeting. Set up meeting with HTC/ Town & Manor/Chamber and REME. Beacon costs £300 and memorabilia for Primary students £200. Commonwealth Day is on 14<sup>th</sup> March when HTC will ‘fly a flag.

**14. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors.**

## **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.

**15. Signing of T&M Part Surrender. Action:** Write to the Football Club and Cricket Club to advise that HTC has signed the document. Thanks were proposed to Cllr Small.

**Meeting closed at 9.05pm**