

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 29th March 2016 at 7.25pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, Knight, Wilson, Colloff, Hudson, Brookman, Winser, Chicken, and Farrell

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Small, Whiting, Wood
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Farrell on Triangle Field Management Committee (TFMC) and Croft Field
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meetings of the Full Council on 7th March 2016.** Cllr Colloff proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Chicken, 1 abstention, rest in favour.
- 4. Considerations and actions following the WBC meeting on Phase 2 cuts.** All cuts were agreed at WBC meeting of 24/3/16. District Cllr Dillon thought WBC were in breach of their statutory duty.
Action: Question if a needs assessment is mandatory or advisory. No libraries will be closed without a needs assessment in place. H Cole will speak with HTC and Friends of Hungerford Library (FOHL) and will be working with Dept of Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) regards the needs assessment. WBC are keen to push self-service so no staff are needed, however they are unable to have children in a library whilst it is not manned. Return of business rates in 2019 from Government to WBC will not necessarily help the library finances. Wash Common have requested £35K. A needs assessment would include footfall, use, Equality act etc. It is reaching the point of a legal challenge against WBC.
Both District Councillors voted for the cuts.
Library budget has reduced from £1.5 m to £1.25m this year. One mobile library is to be lost and Theale and Wash Common libraries are to close.

Action: HTC needs to meet with H Cole and Mike Brook and with Friends Of Hungerford Library [FOHL]. A direct line of communication is needed with WBC giving us all the acts. All libraries need to meet to come up with a model.

WBC are not saying what the second year of transitional funding will go towards. FOHL wish to work with Lambourne. Check with NALC their view on the statutory duty. FOHL want options from WBC first. Five years ago financial problems were predicted – WBC failed to raise the Precept and now it is capped.

Action: Check when WBC precept was capped. .

Parish conference – WBC were keen to see what services Parish Councils can take on. Would HTC become legally responsible in future if it takes the library on and doesn't have enough volunteers?

Children's Centre (CC) – Newbury, and West Thatcham and Central, and Pangbourne area (are the only 3 areas being funded). It is not clear from WBC website the details of the how this effects Hungerford. Hungerford CC was held up as a good example for children's centres. It is currently run by head of nursery and serves other parishes. Continuity is vital. Is it a stat duty to provide Childrens Centres? The WBC consultation on line was not clear and the word 'closure' was not used where it should have been. Should HTC put questions via the FOI act to obtain necessary information on management responsibility/ legalities/ insurance and finances? YES.

The transports cuts were reduced from £820K to ½ million. Route 90 is being withdrawn from Hungerford to Lambourn. CHAIN are no longer permitted to use bus passes. It was suggested a circular bus route would save money, but different franchises make this hard.

5. **Freedom Awards.** Cllr Crane proposed 10 medals are ordered, seconded by Cllr Knight. Cost of medal £140.34. All in favour.
6. **Legion D'honneur.** This will take place next Sunday (12-12:30). A presentation has been organised in celebration of awards made to the three living Hungerford awardees. The Mayor of Ligueil is visiting for the occasion. Cllr Crane proposed £200 in expenses. All in favour.
7. **Croft Field Grant Proposal** – Cllr Crane proposed to go ahead with the grant application for the patio area and cover. All in favour.

Action: Clerk to provide HTC badges for Cllr Knight, Chicken and Colloff for Town Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm