

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES** of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Benneyworth, Wilson, Bumbieris, Small, Farrell, Whiting, Winser and Chicken

Also present: Geoff Adams (Adviser) and John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News)

**Police – Not present.** Cllr Brookman rang the police to complain about vermin shooting close to his house. The shoot had not been registered with the Police. This also occurred in Hungerford Newtown from 8.30pm on 5/4/16 and in Lambourn Woodlands from 9pm.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Knight, Colloff and Wood. No apologies received from District Cllrs.
- 2. Declarations of interest.** None
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Full Council of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016.** Cllr Bumbieris attended. Started slightly earlier than 7.30pm. Amend Cllr Dillion to D.C. Dillon.
- 4. Mayor's report and Town Meeting Feedback.** Cllr Crane met with D Arden-Hunt at JOG School who is happy to work towards an exposition in November. **Action:** - Clerk to send list of companies to DAH. Town Meeting went well. Cllr Podger said the Library is safe for next 2 years. Still waiting to hear from District Cllrs about the outstanding £8.5K. Cllr Hewer could apply for another membership bid? It is a case for Local Council ombudsman. Cllr Small to write letter to confirm he agrees with Cllr Crane and was at the original meeting.
- 5. District Councillor's Reports.** District Councillors not present.
- 6. Consider Co-option.** Rob Findlay not here. Helen Simpson also interested – she is contacting Clerk.
- 7. Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report).**  
**R&A – Cllr Benneyworth.** Cllr Knight was co-opted to R&A. Croft Field – Agreed £500 expenditure to seal the wall and agreed to repair fire door. Both actions now done. Bulpit Park – Surveyors report yet to be carried out on wall. **Action O/S:** Lockable post to be installed at rear of church.

**E&P – Cllr Farrell.** Very few applications in last month. Public consultation on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2pm-8pm for Salisbury Road proposed development.

**T&E – Cllr Crane.** Due to meet on Monday. Cllr Crane visited Berkshire Labels, Hypertek, Kerridge and CDK. They were favourable to the idea of an exposition at JOG school. Cllrs Brookman and Wilson to attend meeting next week for A4 Tourist Route.

**H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman.** Meeting cancelled this month. CCTV contractor felt Clock Tower wasn't right as base for receiver. WBC have given permission for equipment to be placed on their lamp columns. Cllr Brookman to arrange connection agreement with SSB. Energy consumption charges will be in the region of £170.

**F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris.** Met on 15/3. If HTC invoice for income from Triangle Field they would have to opt to tax on that premises. Instead TFMC will invoice and whether they receive a grant will be decided at an F&GP meeting. A 2 year fixed contract was agreed for British Gas. TFMC don't market the field at

the moment – topic for future discussion. Agreed to purchase 400 medals for Primary School students to celebrate Queen's 90<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**

**a) Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated).** Bus subsidy and Leisure Centre contributions have gone out. Cllr Bumbieris proposed cheque run of £41,261.29.

**b) Propose year to date accounts.** £20k to the good. R&A – Croft Field expenditure is higher than expected due to money o/s from WBC. Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour. £24k has been spent on Croft Field to date.

**9. Any further information on Library closure and budget cuts. Next steps. Library -** Update from Cllr Knight – He met with Lambourn library yesterday. Hungerford Library share their staff. FOHL (Friends of Hungerford Library) have received a letter back from Dept. for Media, Culture and Sport who advise yes WBC must do Needs Assessment and can't close any libraries beforehand. WBC need to hold another Public Consultation which will take to June at least. The ideal working model would be for HTC to own/lease the building and be responsible for funding the shell, with WBC to continue to employ staff, own books and central computer system. Lambourn would prefer this model. It would involve the setup of a CIC to include Lambourn. Our share could be half (£30K) possibly less the £17K rates. Hungerford could have a lottery to raise money. FOHL have sought a meeting with Cllr Crane. HTC have General Power of Competence is in place. **Other budget Cuts** – The Children's Centre has been told it can remain in Hungerford but has not had written confirmation of this or the £97k budget promise. **Action:** - Arrange meeting with Suzanne Taylor. Not heard recent update on buses. Regards the CHAIN shortfall of £3,500, at the Town meeting Cllr Podger promised to investigate if funds are available through Adult Social Care budget.

**10. Youth & Community Centre - Report by Cllr Chicken.** Committee are trying to increase usage and are arranging Open Day on a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning (will avoid clash with Circus). They have created fliers and posters. 4 stands already booked and will have more. Décor is tired. Outside school hours heating is not on unless caretaker is contacted. In future would like separate electric/heating from school. Will HTC support this financially? New sign needed. Cllr Chicken has designed one. GCT £3k grant has been received. Sign options £280 or £420 (latter sits proud – looks smarter). **Action:** Get quote for comparison from the company HTC have used recently. Head of JOG thought service charges are high. **Action:** - Clerk to chase and speak to Penny Setter.

- **Propose cost of mailing for Open Day.** £269 for printing leaflets and £300 for delivery - £570 total. Cllr Crane proposed £300 to be taken out of advertising budget, to pay for a full page in the Adviser instead costing £300, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.

**11. St Saviour's Cemetery – Amendments to regulations.** Set up new rules going forward. How do we police no ornaments? What do councillors prefer? Suggestions were: limiting number or ornaments but not specifying types, adhering to old rules with updates to allow biodegradable and fresh flowers only, rule out stone surrounds, fresh flowers only. It was noted: we have received 3 complaints and artificial flowers can be removed under existing rules. Further suggestions: Set up Friends of St Saviour's Cemetery, visit every 3 months to see what is there, stress need to abide by rules if you want interment at St Saviour's, no work undertaken by anyone other than stone masons, don't use word 'discretion', once headstone up, only have flowers.

**Action:** Set up small working party for St Saviour's. Cllrs Crane, Small, Benneyworth, Farrell, Whiting, Wilson to sit on committee

It was agreed all permanent items should be approved by a monumental mason. Future grave owners should sign an agreement for what is allowed. New rules should be in place for New Section of cemetery Flower display should be fresh or biodegradable. No ornaments.

Cllr Crane proposed that in the new section, after a headstone is in place (or after 6 months) only fresh flowers or biodegradable flowers are allowed, all in favour.

Previous graves should be left as they are. However new working party will contact grave owners where condition of grave is a concern.

**12. Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Celebrations - Update on arrangements. Beacon Lighting 21<sup>st</sup> April 7.30pm.** Cllr Whiting to check risk assessment and RFC to open bar and sell burgers. Band to play.

**Queens 90<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> June** - Circus might also bring rides and Cllr Farrell organising Hog Roast. Need outside bar as well as RFC. Do we send Queen a Birthday card? **Action:** Cllr Winsor to look into.

**13. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals-** Constables Parade 9.45am start

**Meeting closed at 8.30pm**