

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Martin Crane OBE
28 Cottrell Close
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0HF
Tel: 01488 684804
martincrane41@sky.com



The Town Clerk
Mrs Claire Barnes
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Small, Benneyworth, Colloff, Farrell, Winser, Chicken, Knight, Simpson, Bumbieris and Wood

Also present: John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), Brian Williams (Adviser), Paul James (WBC), Barnaby Smith (Barr's Yard), Christina Crane Finlay, Bruce Mayhew

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Colloff
2. **Declarations of interest** - Cllrs Small, Knight (Triangle Field) and Cllrs Knight & Simpson (Library)
3. **Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 6th March 2017 and outcome of actions** – Cllr Brookman proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Winser, one abstention, rest in favour.
4. **Mayor's Report** – Circulated. There was good attendance at the Annual Meeting.
5. **District Councillor's reports** – District Cllrs were not present. (Cllr Bumbieris entered)
6. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**
 - a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for the last month** – Most large payments this month are to WBC including the Leisure Centre. Cllr Crane proposed the cheque run of £36,068.50 inclusive of vat, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.
 - b) **Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report** – There is a slight anomaly which Cllr Bumbieris will speak to the RFO about. The annual budget should equal the year to date budget. Accounts show we are £41k to the good. Donations from the Christmas lights have helped. Cllr Wood proposed the year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Hudson, all in favour.
 - c) **Propose Cllr Bumbieris as a signatory on bank accounts** – Cllr Benneyworth proposed Cllr Bumbieris as a signatory on the bank accounts, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour.
7. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris – The committee met and agreed staff grades. A review of the swimming pool rent will take place in the summer. The budget to replace 2 street columns was discussed. F&GP agreed to go for a 2 year better deal on broadband with BT. RFC members attended and permission was given to start work on the floodlights installation.

R&A – Cllr Small – They met on 21st March and Cllr Small also gave an illustrated talk at the Annual Town Meeting of HTC assets. M Norgate has asked if HAHA really want all their requests as the allotment land may not be available long term. The Mayor will respond to this. Triangle Field Management Committee (TFMC) met on 27/4. The Rugby Club want a party in the park on 1st July and a Town Open Day will be held in August. Cllr Farrell met Orange Key at the Croft Field about internal restructuring and should have drawings by next R7A. The Tennis Court Lease renewal is with the legal department at WBC. Repairs to the Croft Field Alarm are proceeding. A cheaper option is being explored. We are waiting to hear back regards a Skate Park user group.

E&P – Cllr Farrell – Cllrs Farrell and Crane will be attending the WAP Meeting at WBC on Wed 5th. Cllr Hudson offered to go if needed. The site visit last week was well attended and WBC did answer some questions. It has been suggested HTC should request the secretary of state call in the application as it doesn't comply with the existing plan. Jan Giggins has already requested this and copied her letter to HTC. CPRE also wants to support that move. Cllr Crane will speak at the meeting. A meeting at 10am in the HTC office was agreed for tomorrow morning to agree the wording of the speech. This should include facts such as the application not complying with para 116 and HSA19 (which specifies 5 hectares when it is 7 hectares) and also focus on the traffic issue.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman – There has been no physical progress with GWR on station improvements. Cllr Brookman is trying to pursue a grant to replace or upgrade the London bound shelter and permission is needed from Network Rail. He will also require budget costs. Network Rail provided a small team at the Annual Litter Pick to clear the area immediately north of station platform. A brush cutter was also used to clear the undergrowth and approx. 25 volunteers litter picked other areas in the town. Charnham St Pedestrian Crossing has been upgraded and it is a fantastic job. Quotes are awaited to replace a failed street light bracket and 2 columns.

T&E – Cllr Crane – They are reviewing the visitors guide and making contact with Littlecote House. Cllr Crane will be meeting with the managers. Cllr Crane attended a conference for the great West Way project. It has a huge number of sponsors and a subsidy of £1million towards the project. A brochure has been produced. They are looking to provide info to overseas travel agents and compile an itinerary for visitors. A trade fair will be held at JOG school in September. The date will coincide with a Year 10 careers event and will be set this week. Cllr Crane advised this event will be extended to companies in the town particularly those that offer apprenticeships. Christina Crane Finlay (Chair of the Chamber of Commerce) advised the event should be open to all members of the Chamber of Commerce and they wish to grow their member numbers.

8. **Consideration of a Neighbourhood Plan for Hungerford** (this item was taken last) – This is a lengthy and expensive process and would provide some protection against developers. The outcome of the WAP meeting on Wednesday will show if the AONB is any protection. Cllr Farrell, Knight, Simpson and the Deputy Clerk attended Planning training and they touched on Neighbourhood planning. Cllr Farrell said the Town Plan offers no protection. The cost for a NP is not so high now. Would it be worth approaching and covering other areas in the AONB in the plan? Cllr Simpson agrees a NP is needed. It was noted some protection to the town is provided by the Town & Manor, owners of the Common and Marsh. Grants are available. The NP will need to embrace everyone and will go to a referendum. Cllr Hudson has assisted professionally on the transport aspect of NPs in the past and a huge amount of work can go into them. He would now like to have a NP but advised that it should be kept as simple as possible. Use can be made of the Town Plan and the planning consultants input so far. Binfield only spent £8K on their NP. Cllr Crane asked the press to note his proposal that HTC produce a neighbourhood plan and invite all interest parties to join. Initially the group to run it will be the E&P committee. All voted in favour.
9. **Reconsider response to Licence application 17/00239/LQN Unit 1 Barr's Yard, Bath Road, (taken after item 5)** - There are grounds for reconsidering the decision made to object to this application, which was made prior to the last planning meeting, due to the deadline. Artisan was left out of the last planning application. Cllr Farrell still has concerns regarding the fencing off of the area and locking of the gate with regards to security and a fire exit. She has also seen unit 2 is looking to have a restaurant. Cllr Crane advised that in reality Artisan has not been forthcoming to fill the units. Cllr Crane entered. Barnaby has been invited to speak. Artisan is not relevant to his licence application. He is looking for late opening one night a week but will probably only have late opening once a month. There will be wine tasting events and educational events and will be promoted in advance. A security officer would be on the gate to open and shut and it will be fenced off. Barnaby ran quite a few events whilst he was at Caviste but couldn't continue them there when it changed to Naked Grape. He has applied to be open 10 to 6pm with one night late opening a week which will be either on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. The building has started and the lease is with the lawyers. 6 units can be retails (20%) of the 22 units. There is huge investment on the site and the opportunity to get people in. Cllr Brookman doesn't object. It has no close neighbours and the nearby garage is open 24 hours. Cllr Chicken proposed to remove the objection, seconded by Cllr Crane, 9 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions.
10. **Feedback from events- Annual Town meeting and Annual Litter Pick** – Covered under items 4 and 7

11. **Boundary Review Consultation response - deadline 10th April** – A response to the consultation from HTC is required. The Hungerford ward is to be increased geographically to include Inkpen, Combe and West Woodhay and will retain its 2 ward members. Kintbury would reduce to one ward member. Another proposal by A Stansfeld was to amalgamate Kintbury and Hungerford and have 3 members for the 1 ward. Ward members get a small pay. It was suggested that Ward members should not be paid or be paid only for the meetings they attend. There were concerns over where the Ward members loyalties would lie. After discussion Cllr Hudson proposed voting for the Hungerford Ward to increase to include Combe, West Woodhay and Inkpen but not Kintbury, seconded by Cllr Simpson 1 abstention, rest in favour.
12. **Propose agreement of draft lease for allowance of floodlights at Triangle Field, as recommended by R&A** – The lease now includes a termination clause and refers to a detailed method statement and other uses of the floodlit pitch are not ruled out. The Rugby Club and TFMC have accepted the draft. RFC will need to comply with the terms of their planning permission. Cllr Small gave examples of what a serious breach could entail such as installing the lights in the wrong place or causing a disturbance etc. Cllr Chicken proposed acceptance of the lease to allow the floodlights, seconded by Cllr Knight, all in favour. The lease was signed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk.
13. **Library – update following recent meeting with WBC – (taken after item 9)** – Cllr Knight advised the Library working party has been meeting regularly with Paul James with the idea of running the library building as a community asset. They are setting up a CIO and have 6 trustees so far. The proposal is that the library will be transferred to HTC and let at a peppercorn rent to the CIO. The library service will remain with WBC who will employ the staff. Paul James (Culture Management and Manager of the library service WBC) was asked to speak. Hungerford is unique in retaining its full complement of staff. HTC may obtain the leasehold or the freehold. HTC voted to adopt Option A (44% cut in staff with £690K saving). They are still investing £1 million into services and want the help of Parish Councils and volunteers. PJ stressed Hungerford have the equivalent of 2 staff for 26 hours a week (but this is covered by 3 people). Hungerford are to run the building and WBC the library service which is fine if they can make the agreed saving. WBC needs to stabilise the library service and will only increase usage with local involvement. Options include opening the library longer and community activities. WBC welcomes the proposal from Hungerford. Asset transfer needs to be considered by members and he will try and expedite this. They are working towards a best fit for WBC and HTC. Cllr Simpson thanks Paul James and he left.
14. **Update on outreach service, relocation of post office and post box** – An outreach service for the Post Office is being set up in the small room in the Library and will start from 25th April. It will open Tuesday, Wed and Friday. There is an opportunity for a Victorian post box to be put in following the loss of the original one that was hit by a car. The likely site will be on Sovereign land.
15. **Model required for Terms of Reference** – R&A TORs were discussed. They are much longer and we have Standing Orders already. Do we want this model? It could be useful for internal procedures and new councillors. No decision was made – defer.
16. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals - None**

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.

17. **Consider Freedom of Information Request** – The press were already in receipt of the requested document from another source so this item was not required to be discussed.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm