

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES** of the **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs Benneyworth, Crane, Chicken, Farrell, Wood, Whiting, Brookman and Bumbieris. Cllr Small arrived late. Also present: Nick Fritz (Rotary), Ted Angell (HAHA), Rob Cox (Hungerford Rugby Club) and Geoff Adams (Adviser)

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllr Winser
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Crane (Allotments), Cllr Small on Triangle Field Management committee. Cllr Farrell on TFMC and has an interest in Croft Field Activity Centre. Cllr Wood (item 7)
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.** Cllr Crane proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Farrell, 2 abstentions, rest in favour
- 4. Allotments – HAHA report.** Fairfield full. Marsh Lane has let 2 plots this month and has 90% tenure. Ted asked if extension has been signed. (Cllr Chicken arrived). Ted explained that land used for temporary allotments is a no no for development. If dislocated the lease can continue but planning can still be submitted. Town and Manor have no land available due to restrictions. Triangle Field is an option to be considered. Frank Clothier has another piece of land closer to the church HUN012. 2 Paddocks on Parsonage Lane sold for housing so smaller plot and not big enough for all tenants. An HTC representative will have to look at this option as HAHA do not have the authority and balance what Marsh Lane has to offer and other options available taking into consideration length of tenure and potential for development. It was questioned whether the idea of using the Triangle field should be passed by all Councillors and Triangle Field Management Committee. Cllr Benneyworth thought that HAHA input at the next Full Council meeting would be useful.
- 5. Triangle Field**
  - **Venue for beacon lighting on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Discuss plans for event.** Nick Fritz, Rotary organised the building of the beacon, car parking and bucket collection for Queen's Jubilee in 2012 and thinks that a real fire would draw more public interest than a gas fired beacon. Cllr Crane pointed out that a real bonfire would not be feasible at the Triangle Field and there is an ideal area on top of the new bund that a gas beacon could be located. REME has shown an interest and the rugby club may assist with refreshments from the club house. Rotary are hosting an event to celebrate the Queen's birthday on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June in the Corn Exchange. Cllr Small arrived and Rob Cox arrived. Cllr Crane suggested a format similar to the Queen's Jubilee in 2012 and use the Croft Green and Croft Field for local groups to run stalls and events.
  - **Set up working party for celebrations in June for Queens 90<sup>th</sup>.** Cllr Crane to lead.
  - **Propose design and location of new HTC sign for entrance.** The Committee agreed that using the same format as Croft Field Activity Centre sign would provide continuity.
- 6. Agree project details for TESCO grant application.** The project agreed was to create an outside patio area for The Croft Field Activity Centre.

7. **Report from Joint Advisory Committee Meeting at Leisure Centre – Cllr Wood. Appoint new member to join the committee in Cllr Wood’s absence.** Cllr Wood reported that JAC meet every six months and outline what was discussed at the last meeting held in November 2015. The lease for the leisure centre is secure from cuts until 2022. Cllr Chicken agreed to step in for Shaun while he is away in America.
8. **Youth & Community Centre – Report from Committee Meeting – Cllr Chicken.** At present the Youth Club and the Centre are one of the same. The building needs to be extracted from the Youth Club and the committee are looking to get the building self funding rather than relying on grants. The building will, however, always have provision for a youth club. Cllr Chicken is in contact with Newbury College who are happy to use the building to run their courses but the question is what courses does Hungerford require. Cllr Chicken suggested a mailout of Newbury College courses within the Adviser to get an idea of what is needed in Hungerford and it needs to be clarified whether it would be a conflict of interest with JOG School. The Committee are deciding on a new name for the Centre and will brighten it up with paint and are planning an open day in May. The cost of inserting a leaflet in the Adviser has been quoted at £280. **Action:-** Put proposal on Full Council Agenda to agree cost of mailing.
9. **Croft Field**
  - **Propose quote for dry lining.** Cllr Benneyworth proposed quote from PCF, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
  - **Propose quote for hard flooring.** Cllr Crane proposed to use cheap lino at £574, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
  - **Update on outstanding money from WBC.** Letter was sent directly to Roger Croft at WBC first class on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016, we await a reply.
  - **Propose new hiring terms.** Cllr Benneyworth agreed the new hiring terms in principle with clarification of the deposit terms, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
  - **Propose discounts as detailed.** Cllr Whiting proposed discounts as detailed, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.
  - **Propose quote for work on ash tree.** Cllr Benneyworth proposed to agree quote for work on ash tree, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
10. **Library Closure Consultation.** The proposal by WBC is to close 8 of the 9 libraries in West Berkshire at a saving of £730,000, however there is no breakdown of costs to know how much it costs to run Hungerford Library. Not enough information has been provided to make an informed response and all aspects need to be examined. Cllr Benneyworth pointed out that it was his understanding that WBC are not obliged to provide a library. Cllr Crane stressed HTC need to go back to WBC with a plan of how the library building and library can be made viable. Cllr Wood informed the Committee that the Fire Service is becoming more integrated in communities and proposals for a new building to include a community hub are being considered, and this could include a library. The deadline for response is 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and there is not a meeting before, so will need an extraordinary meeting to propose response.
11. **St Saviour’s Cemetery**
  - **Consider drafted changes to regulations following responses to consultation.** Cllr Small to re draft to take to Full Council for approval.
  - **Quotation for work to skip area.** The Committee agreed to go with lowest quote.
  - **Decision on 2 Memorial application requests following site visit.** Both memorial application requests were agreed.
12. **Bulpit Park concrete wall - Outcome of meeting with Football Club and quotations for removal and installation of new fence.** A structural engineer needs to look at the wall before any work is undertaken. Cllr Whiting will ask Tesco whether this work could be considered for a grant as it will benefit the users of the play park.
13. **St Lawrence’s**
  - **Alternative vehicle access to back of church – Update on communication with landowners.** Cllr Small is in communication with the landowners and a letter needs to be written to the Canal and River Trust.

14. **Request for additional names on Bridge St War Memorial - update following site visit.** There is space on the existing memorial, so any request to add a name will be considered individually.
15. **Removal of moss at Bridge St War memorial – Site visit needed.** Edward Fenton forwarded the details of a product recommended to remove moss. It's PH value is 8. Need to check with Canal and River Trust whether the product is acceptable.

**Meeting closed at 9.10pm**