

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**Draft MINUTES** of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

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

Also present: Police (Sergeant Holly Nicholls on behalf of Inspector Warren McKeown), District Cllr Paul Hewer (PH), (JP) John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), Brian Williams (Adviser) and Tony Bartlett

The Mayor announced Cllr Wood's birthday and the Town Council sang Happy Birthday!

**Police Report** (Sgt Nicholls) – Hungerford Police Station is being sold and will be based at the Fire Station. Officers will be working from Newbury at the start of the day and then coming in to Hungerford. Their new business model consists of 3 parts; Neighbourhood team, 999 response and Investigation hub. They are reducing 999 and improving customer services. They will deal better with complaints and work closer with the council. Cllr Chicken asked if all 999 calls are being attended to in the Thames Valley. The Sgt advised they have just had an inspection and were categorised as 'good'. 101 or 999 will always be attended. They don't deal with shop liftings under £100.

Cllr Farrell asked for clarification of this last point which was confirmed by the Sgt, who went on to say burglaries, vehicle crime and crime prevention are priority. Cllr Small entered.

They have civilian investigators (usually retired staff with experience) so have no lack of man power and still have the same number of police staff. Chris Ward is the new Inspector and Alan Hawkett the new Sergeant. Cllr Farrell – How will we stop crime growing if smaller shop lifting incidents are not being dealt with? The Sgt advised they will still be dealt with and parents spoken to but no arrests will be made.

PH – The mobile speeding van is seen on the A4 and A338. Requests have been made for it to check other locations but this has not happened. The Sgt advised if a number of complaints are received they will consider them.

PH – Coming from the West into Hungerford is dangerous. Please can pressure be put on to speed check there? The Mayor asked for an invite to be passed to the inspector to come to the Annual Town Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Cllr Margaret Wilson**

After 20+ years of being on the Town Council Cllr Margaret Wilson is stepping down. A presentation of flowers was made and photographs taken. The Mayor thanked Margaret for her contribution to the town not only on the Town Council for an exceptional time but as a well-loved Hungerford Primary School teacher for many years, for running Hungerford in Bloom, and the Town Diary and as a member on Hungerford & Camburn Trust.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Hudson, also District Cllr James Podger and Inspector Warren McKeown
- 2. Declarations of interest -** Cllrs Winser, Small, Knight (item 6e), Farrell (Croft Field), Simpson (Library)
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and outcome of actions**  
– Cllr Brookman proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour.
- 4. Mayor's Report – Circulated.** Interest has been shown by Aldbourne to supply an outreach branch to Hungerford in the interim of the relocation of the Post office. An offer for Martin McColl and Heads of

Terms is due to be signed this week. The name of the company should be known by Friday. There will be no change of use. Cllr Whiting spoke with Mrs Newton who advised 3 shops were competing for the lease. These retailers have been advised through the Post office of HTC's involvement in the procedure.

5. **District Councillor's reports** – PH advised JP's report had been circulated. This was not received by all. The Mayor advised WBC are not helping to resolve the problems at 6 Bridge St. Mr Furr has supplied all the info required. PH said there were some confidential issues over ownership of the building which is now holding it up. PH advised nothing is happening with the empty building, Chestnut Care Home at present. Cllr Farrell advised a local resident group were interested in using it but PH said they have not been in contact. The Mayor advised JP had confused the dates for the invitation to R Benyon MP for the Trade Fair. The Salisbury Road planning application decision has been delayed as WBC are waiting for the Inspector's report. It is unlikely the report will be received before May. Cllr Winser advised residents have received a letter that the developers are reducing the number of houses to 100. PH announced congratulations to the Local MPs and HTC on the electrification result. Cllrs would like to see the route extended to Westbury.

6. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**

a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for the last month** – Most payments are now by BACS. Cllr Knight proposed the cheque run of £11,646.02 plus vat, totalling £12,607.10, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

b) **Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report** – F&GP accounts show £1000 received back from GWR as the station project did not go ahead. R&A figures include income of £6k from a Parish Plan grant. H&T expenditure is down this month as Xmas lights payment happened last month. Cllr Whiting proposed the year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour.

c) **Propose payment to Orange Key for building regulations for the Croft Field Centre** – Cllr Crane proposed payment to Orange Key of £375 plus vat to obtain building regulations, seconded by Cllr Knight, one abstention, rest in favour.

d) **Propose burial fee increase as recommended by R&A** – After discussion Cllr Small proposed agreement of the increase in Burial fees to become more in line with other councils, as recommended by R&A, to introduce a charge for the Exclusive Rights of Burial for a coffin of £200 and ashes £100, and also increase the cost of a first inscription to a memorial to £100 and the second inscription to £40, seconded by Cllr Crane, one abstention, rest in favour.

e) **Propose payment by HTC of mixing valve for Triangle field at cost of £750 plus vat** – Changing Room 1 showers are scolding hot. The mixing valve is very old and worn out. This is considered more than routine maintenance and HTC have been asked to pay for it rather than TFMC. Cllr Brookman proposed payment of £750 plus VAT to Les Evans for replacement of the valve, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, 2 abstentions, rest in favour.

7. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

**R&A – Cllr Small** – R&A met on 21<sup>st</sup> and George Ham (Church Warden) attended. Permission was given to fell the tree, which has since fallen down. It was agreed to purchase a self-closing tap for St Saviours. A meadow area will be allowed at St Lawrence Churchyard. Marsh Lane lease and noting of amendments has gone to M Norgate and awaits F Clothiers agreement. A new toddlers slide has been purchased with money from the Parish Plan grant. The TFMC are considering a town open day on August Bank holiday. A tree surgeon will be looking at the overhanging trees at Triangle Field. A working party is being set up to deal with the Croft Field damp and access issues.

**H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman** – After prolonged negotiations GWR will be running Bio mode trains (which include mains electric, a diesel motor and generator) from Great Bedwyn direct through to both Reading and Paddington. Thanks were expressed to Bedwyn Passenger Group, Claire Perry MP (Minister for Transport) R Benyon MP, HTC and Kintbury. John Willmott (co-opted member of H&T) met with GWR. We are waiting for the outcome of the meeting. GWR have been asked for budget costs for extensions to the London bound shelter. Network Rail agreed to help clear litter on 2/4/17 from the area to

the north of the station. Cllrs help would be appreciated at the litter pick. From the report on our 104 street lights, 2 columns will need to be replaced in 2017.

**E&P – Cllr Farrell** – The Salisbury road application decision will probably happen prior to May so before the inspectors' decision is due. A hearing date has been set regards a development at the station and a meeting is being arranged to discuss this. An application has been received and conditions are being requested to be lifted. HTC need to be seen to adhere to conditions.

**T&E – Cllr Crane** – T&E met with the Chamber of Commerce, Town & Manor and Penny Post. The Town Guide has been put aside for now and a visitor's guide is being designed which will link to the web. T&M and Cllr Crane are meeting with Littlecote. What do they see attracting their residents to Hungerford Town? The Great West Way conference takes place on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Richard Bennett has expressed an interest. He has permission for building a hotel at Charnham Park. A Hungerford Trade Fair will be held in September at JOG to coincide with their careers event. R Benyon MP will be invited.

**F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris** – F&GP have not met.

8. **Events - Annual Town Meeting (Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm) - Presentations are required next week** – Refreshments are from 6.30pm. The Clerk will assemble a power point from presentations submitted. **Commonwealth Day (Monday 13th March, 9.40am) – Please support**
9. **Direct services to Reading and Paddington through use of Bi-modes** – Already discussed (Item 7)
10. **Library – update following recent meeting with WBC** – Cllrs Simpson & Knight, Town Clerk, Mike Brook & Paul James (WBC), Geraldine and Jo Pike (FOHL) met as a Library Working party. Revenue figures were looked at and are in line with previous estimates. WBC likes the model which will allow control of the building for other uses. Cllr Knight has arranged a visit to a community library next week. Conclusions on the set up are hoped by April. **Action:** Town Clerk to forward email from Roger Taylor to all. Cllr Small suggested considering purchase of the freehold. A charity possibly a CIO will be set up and an advert has gone out for trustees. A business plan is being put together and 3 years figures are required from WBC.
11. **Update on relocation of post office and post box** – Refer to item 4 regards Post Office. The Police have no record of the incident involving the Post Box being damaged by an artic lorry outside their station. The cost to repair is not viable at £2000. All Cllrs agreed they want the post box back.
12. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals** – The Chamber of Commerce AGM took place and a new chairman was appointed. A working party was set up of which Cllr Crane has become a member.

## 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.

13. **Ratify the nominations of the Freedom of The Town Awards 2017 as recommended by the selection panel.**

A decision was made and the outcome will be announced at the Annual Town meeting.

All agreed that the process is due a review.

**Meeting closed at 8.30pm**