

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 7th March 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

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

Also present: Anthony Buckwell, Richard Hughes (Police), Ted Angell (HAHA), Geoff Adams (Adviser) and John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News) and Peter Harries

Police – Anti social behaviour, litter and parking issues are being targeted daily. Criminal damage to vehicles took place in Crown Mews. 2 males were arrested for hare coursing locally and in Wantage. The vets had an attempted break in which was caught on CCTV. Arcade thefts of £8k and £12k, also caught on CCTV. There has been an increase in shed breaks. The Police recommend using the immobiliser website to register makes/models. PC Hughes warned not to leave valuables on show in cars. Ashdown House car park gets targeted along with the Common and Coombe Gibbet. An incident took place on Common with dog biting – Police will look into as didn't have information.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Whiting, Wood and Hewer
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Colloff (Interest on part 2 item 17), Cllrs Knight & Crane have allotments.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meetings of the Full Council on 1st February 2016 and Extraordinary meeting of 29th February 2016.** Cllr Brookman proposed minutes for meetings held on 1st February and 29th February as true records, seconded by Cllr Wilson, 2 abstentions, rest in favour.
- 4. Mayor's report.** Report circulated and to be put on noticeboard. Cllr Small has been elected as member of Chamber of Commerce
- 5. District Councillor's Reports.** James Podger reported it was a shock that the forecasted £10m cuts were increased to £19m. WBC are not legally allowed to present a budget that doesn't balance. Phase 1 budget cuts were agreed by WBC. The consultation period closed today. Phase 2 cuts are not agreed until analysis takes place. An Extra meeting on 24th March will decide Phase 2. Transitional funding available is £1.4m this year and £1.4m next year. £170k has already been allocated and the rest will be spent on front line services. WBC reserves are at their lowest legal limit.
Cllr D Boeck and Cllr Podger attended the Children's Centre meeting. The Children's Centre supports families as a whole. The proposal is that the hub will be at Newbury not Hungerford.
Cllr Podger hopes that a proportion of transitional funding will go towards Hungerford Library. Can some of the 2% increase in council tax for adult social care go towards children's centre? With WBC reductions in staff (£5m cuts) how can meaningful reactions be made to consultation response? Cllr Podger advised WBC are considering responses as they arrive. The web is misleading as it indicates the Children's Centre is run from the Nursery School. £1m is available for phase 2 cuts but £1.5m cuts are to be made. Cllr Knight - Could 2/3s of funding could come back to the libraries? Cllr Knight hopes to get back ½m which would save most libraries. JP supports Cllr Knights work. Funding of library long term

will have to change. Cllr Small – how viable is HTC obtaining a lease on the building? Cllr Podger advised HTC would support communities helping themselves. HTC has not received a full cost breakdown from WBC. Cllr Podger advised officers too busy to sort figures. WBC need to produce the budget by 1st April which is why the consultation period is so short. What will happen to the Town Council office and toilets if library closes? Cllr Podger doesn't know. District Councillors probably not available for the Town Meeting as it clashes with the WBC meeting on Phase 2. **Action:** Clerk to change date of Town Meeting to 31st March if possible and book Corn Exchange

6. **HAHA – update on Allotments.** If Marsh Lane lease ends – what are the alternative sites? Could they include part of Triangle Field as an alternative. Action: Take to TFMC on Wednesday for discussion. At this stage include the Triangle Field and consider the Recreation Ground. Geoff Greenland met with Liz Alexander of WBC today. Liz will advise in writing how they recognise difference between temporary allotment land and allotment land.
7. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

R&A – Cllr Benneyworth. Committee met on 16th February 2016. A new sign has been ordered for the Triangle Field. A grant will be applied for to create a patio area at the Croft. Cllr Chicken will be the HTC representative on the JAC whilst Cllr Wood is away. A promotional leaflet for the Youth Centre will be issued. Flooring and dry lining is proposed for Croft Field and new hiring terms agreed. Libraries were discussed. St Saviour's terms and conditions are being updated. Discussion is on-going over alternative access to rear of churchyard. Surveyors report is being obtained on concrete wall. It was agreed in principle names could be added to the Bridge Street War Memorial.

E&P – Cllr Farrell. Cllr Farrell and Crane attended Garden Art meeting. BREEAM condition has been lifted. Rowlands planning designs have been improved.

T&E – Cllr Crane. Meeting with A4 tourist route (Hungerford → Bath) rescheduled for next month. Chamber of Commerce don't have link with major employers. Cllr Crane has met with CDK, Berkshire Labels and others. Parking issues came to light. Cllr Crane would like employers to have stand at John O'Gaunt School.

H&T – Cllr Rob Brookman. Maintenance to the access onto A4 at Denford has been done and visibility improved. JOG School footpath has been moved – work is underway. Ramsbury Drive parking compliant was reported to police who have checked it and deemed it not dangerous. Legal work is outstanding still for loading bay/taxi rank. Site meeting will be set up to discuss some parking issues.

F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris. The committee has not met.
8. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**
 - a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated).** Cllr Bumbieris proposed cheque run of £13,950.34 including VAT, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
 - b) **Propose year to date accounts.** £4k to the good. Lower expenditure in F&GP and H&T (as NI is paid quarterly). Croft Field income of £8,500 from WBC not received. Cllr Bumbieris proposed year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour. NALC to take over from Audit Commission – will go on an agenda (F&GP).
 - c) **Ratify acceptance of CCTV quote as recommended by H&T.** £9949 +VAT + £1,200 annually. TVP grant will be available towards this. The quote includes 4 new cameras. Cllr Crane proposed acceptance of the quote, Cllr Bumbieris was against, one abstention, rest in favour.
9. **Any further information on Library closure and budget cuts. Next steps.** Need to put plan in place in case outcome of 24th March is not favourable. Look into how Ramsbury and Aldbourne are run. WBC has a statutory duty to provide libraries. HTC lease HTC office and pay rates for and run toilets in Library building
10. **Public events - Fly a flag for Commonwealth day, Monday 14th March 9.45am Town Hall Steps.** Cllrs Crane, Knight, Farrell and Benneyworth will attend.
- Litter Pick Sunday 20th March 10am, Town Hall Steps. Cllrs Winsor, Brookman, Wilson, Hudson and Crane to attend.

11. **Youth & Community Centre – Agree cost of mailing for Open Day.** Youth & Community Centre is holding an Open Day in May and re-naming centre – so revisit at a later date.
12. **Queens 90th Celebrations - Update on arrangements.** Beacon lighting will take place on 21st April. Cllrs Knight, Small and Farrell will form a working party for a celebration event on June 18th – in big top. Town to do own street parties on 12th June.
13. **Deed of Surrender – Propose registration.** For the record the deed has now been now signed and completed by T&M. Original document is being sent to the Land Registry to be registered. **Action:** Look into suggestion of letter of comfort.
14. **Town Meeting – Suggestions for presentations.** AONB video to run. Cllr Hudson – LDF, District Cllrs – WBC cuts.
15. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals- all councillors.** 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.

16. **Propose nominations for Freedom of the Town Award as recommended by panel.** Previous nominations were also considered this year. Cllr Small proposed the nominations, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
17. **Internal review into Freedom of Information request.** Cllr Crane proposed not to release the data, seconded by Cllr Benneyworth, all in favour
18. **Propose renewal of contract for maintenance man.** Cllr Benneyworth proposed renewal of contract for a further 2 months, Cllr Crane seconded, all in favour.
19. **Propose staff grading as recommended by the Staff Committee.** Cllr Benneyworth proposed the grading as tabled, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm