

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES** of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs Crane, Brookman, Farrell, Bumbieris, Winsler, Small, Chicken, Colloff, Wilson, Knight, Whiting, Simpson and Hudson

Also present: District Cllrs Paul Hewer (PH), James Podger (JP) John Garvey (Newbury Weekly News), Geoff Adams (The Advisor), PCSO Kelsey Johnstone, PCSO Zoe Gibson, Suzanne Taylor (ST) (Hungerford Nursery), Shelley Hambrecht (SH) (Family Centre) and Daphne Angell (DA) (Chair of Governors), Jan Giggins (JG)

**Police Report: (5/11/16 to 5/12/16)** – There have been 3 burglaries from other dwellings (The Tavern, a garage and from Great Grooms), 2 non-payments at the petrol station, theft from the garden centre, dwelling burglary, theft from vehicle on Hungerford Common, vehicle keyed on Charnham Park, shop-lifting incident, car jemmied on Hungerford park, burglary in Homefield Way and hay lorry damaged shop.

Police advised that non-payment at the garage is an on-going problem but effective cctv is in place. The accident at the pedestrian crossing was caused by the driver having a medical episode. PH asked if the break-ins locally are linked. He has received many text alerts. Police advised Kintbury has a lot of incidents at present. These are not linked. The Police are patrolling on foot at night. There have been opportunist burglaries. Police advice is to leave lights on at home. There have been complaints about cars parking on the grass at Atherton Crescent and on the pavement by the pet shop. PH and JP will look into this.

**Hungerford Nursery – Successes and Challenges:** ST advised there are 115 children at the Nursery and will be 140 in the New Year. Since September they are taking on 2year olds, 32% of which have free entitlement. 18% of 3/4 year olds are vulnerable and 12% are special needs. This is their 3<sup>rd</sup> year as being marked as outstanding by OFSTED. 81% of children are making more than expected progress. They have good engagement with parents. Children benefit from an outdoor experience at Boxford Woods. They have had 15 years of continuous improvement at literacy and numeracy. They trained 200 people last year and 2 staff are specialist leaders. It is a challenge to keep the funding and they are under threat. They are part of a national lobby group and the local MP has written to the education minister. There is the challenge of the implementation of 30 hours from Sept 2017.

SH advised the Children's Centre has a change of name to the Family Centre. There has been a reduction from 12 centres to 4. They cover an area of 160m<sup>2</sup> and 942 children are eligible of which 791 are registered. They have 2.4 staff! They lease a room in the Croft Hall, Hungerford and in the RBL in Lambourn and also in the Jubilee Centre in Kintbury. Targeted work is child protection and child in need cases. They run courses and help develop the person and peers support programme. The Mayor expressed thanks to ST and staff. Their future plans involve becoming a teaching school and becoming sustainable. Their service is critical to the community. At present they have a service level agreement with WBC. DA advised they are currently looking for a new Governor. JP expressed his support for the centre. The Nursery is open for a coffee morning and all are welcome to look around. Thanks were expressed to the Nursery for their help with the library competition.

**1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Benneyworth and Wood

2. **Declarations of interest.** Cllrs Simpson and Knight – Friends of Hungerford Library (FOHL), Cllrs Winsler, Farrell and Small – Triangle Field Management Committee (TFMC)
3. **Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.** Cllr Crane proposed minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.
4. **Mayor's Report** has been circulated. BBC Radio 4 is producing an 'Aftermath' programme next year. They came to the light switch on. It will be on how towns recover. The Tragedy plaque is to be moved to the War Memorial pillar where it is more fitting. The Mayor attended the launch of Achievement for All which R Benyon MP is supporting. This is helping vulnerable children and can offer help locally. The Charity concert raising money for the Rosemary appeal (cancer care unit in Newbury) was stunning.
5. **District Councillor's Reports** have been circulated. Clerk advised an extension has been received until 11<sup>th</sup> Jan from WBC for HTC's decision on the Salisbury Road application. PH advised it is worth watching outcome of an outline planning application for Coley Farm, Newbury from Donnington Homes as it went against policy. It is a similar scenario to the Salisbury Road application in Hungerford. It will go to District Planning. There is a site visit Wednesday and a decision the following Thursday. JG stated that instead of referring to the Salisbury Road application WBC are now calling it Land South of Priory Road which is confusing. Referring to the HSA DPD, JG asked when we will hear the results. We have seen preliminary draft notes and now there is a consultation on main modifications. We were supposed to hear in December. JP replied that the proposal is to extend the consultation period so all get a chance to respond. JP expects this to be supported and the Inspector will publish the report in the Spring. JP advised the Land South of Priory Road application is premature and he thinks it is right to refuse it on these grounds. It was noted the planning application was written in August and is out of date. JG advised the Irish Hill application in Kintbury has been refused and is going to appeal. This is outside the DPD.
6. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

**E&P – Cllr Farrell** – A discussion (only) took place on the Land south of Priory road application and no decisions were made. HTC thought an extension at Stronggrove inappropriate and WBC has agreed and refused the application. An application from the Football Club is expected.

**R&A – Cllr Small** – A spreadsheet has been circulated showing an update of R&A actions. R Ballard is now carrying out the Legionella checks and cleaning at Triangle Field. The Playground Working Party has met.

**H&T – Cllr Brookman** has asked for a non-skid surface either side of the crossing. The telephone box is listed and unlikely to be moved. Hungerford Newtown has a box that will be removed unless objected to. It has made no telephone calls in the last 12 months.

Xmas lights costs have been reduced by HTC purchasing the trees and avoiding a mark-up, by involving volunteers (saving £1500) and by obtaining a further reduction from the contractors of £2625. Charnham St and the top of the High St have not been decorated to produce a saving of around £3k. The overall cost is £30k and pledges of around £8k give a net cost of £22k. Many thanks to all! The switch on event was a success. The Mayor thanked Cllr Brookman for all his involvement and the Clerk for the road closure. Thanks were given to Adam Winslet for arranging prerecording of the Primary school children.

Cllrs Crane and Knight met with Mark Edwards (WBC). WBC wish to put up car parking prices from 50p an hour to 80p an hour (a 60% increase). Cllr Knight has proposed increasing to 70p instead, including ½ hour free parking, and introducing 70p on a Sunday for all day parking. This will give an increase in revenue by 30%.

WBC is looking at a coach drop off point and a one way system at Charnham Park. The Chamber of Commerce are in support of coach parking. Cllr Knight advised the extra income received for parking should go into the car parking or road maintenance pot. Long term parking costs are favourable to increase rather than short term.

**T&E – Cllr Crane** – Cllr Crane wants to involve the Town & Manor and Chamber of Commerce in the Tourist route to Bath project.

**F&GP – Cllr Bumbieris** – Budgets were discussed. Contractor's fees were agreed. The cost to maintain St Saviours has increased for the first time in 4 years.

7. **Ashburn Planning meeting – Report by Cllr Crane** – Cllrs Crane, Hudson, and Clerk met with Rob Megson from Ashburn planning who are concerned that the interim report from the inspector waters down the problem and suggests that the inspector will recommend Land South of Priory Road as a site. WBC needs to show special justification for building on land in the AONB. The application if refused is likely to go to appeal. The number of houses is now 119 rather than 100. These points and the traffic impact are strong grounds for an objection. WBC were anticipating 50 traffic movements on the Prosperous farm application (7 dwellings) and only 80 for Land south of Priory Road (119 dwellings)? Cllr Hudson advised the 119 dwelling could create 600 car trips through our High St a day. When challenged by PH, Cllr Hudson advised he lives 1km away from the development and has no need to declare an interest. JG asked PH if he has declared an interest. He advised he has because he works for Sovereign.
- Procedure and response to planning application 16/03061** – Cllr Crane proposed we continue to pay our Planning consultant, Ashburn Planning to advise HTC, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour. Cllr Crane proposed we register our strong objection to the planning application, reserving our position on details for the time being, all in favour.
8. **Propose response to WBC Library Consultation** – Cllrs Crane, Knight and Simpson met with Dominic Boeck. WBC are taking into account all villages and towns and in West Berkshire and splitting the £150,000 financial support request by population. None of the 3 options put forward by WBC fit the bill. FOHL aren't supporting any of the options and have a different solution. WBC options need Hungerford to find 50/60 volunteers, which is not sustainable. The Mayor went around the table to obtain individual comments. These included: - relying on volunteers is not feasible, concern of liability if volunteer option fails, concern over sickness/holiday cover, 77 out of 4000 libraries are currently on a volunteer basis and most are not working, HTC should support FOHL in their response, the library will fail if use WBC option, Hungerford will make it work, if not sustainable it is set to fail. Cllr Knight advised 80% of WBC spend is mandatory. The library budget of £1.5 million is being cut by 50%. Newbury Library is staying intact which is unfair. FOHL propose taking over maintenance of the building as a CIC and WBC maintaining the library service (i.e. providing 3 staff, books, computer system). The building could be used as a community resource and rebates would be available on rates. It was queried if S106 money was paid for the library. D Boeck had advised that the solution does not have to be one of WBC's options. Cllr Knight has already suggested that Newbury library move into the West Berkshire Council office and sell the wharf building. PH agreed WBC want ideas.
- Cllr Crane proposed supporting FOHL in our response to the consultation, one abstention, rest in favour.
9. **Finance – Cllr Bumbieris**
- a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for the last month** – Cllr Bumbieris proposed the cheque run of £37,546.29 plus VAT, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
- b) **Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report** – This is to the positive due to £8500 income from WBC. The H&T Expenditure is up due to Christmas lights but so too is the income. Cllr Bumbieris proposed the year to date accounts, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
- c) **Triangle Field sewage pump – Quotation for replacement of the current pump with a dual pump**  
**Action:** Defer as quote not arrived and circulate details to TFMC.
- d) **Cemetery management package - Quotation for consideration** - Cllr Crane proposed the purchase of a Cemetery Management Package at a cost of £1,585 plus £85 technical support with PEAR Technology, all in favour.
- e) **Consider and propose a budget for Ashburn Planning 2017-18** –Hungerford has been advised by Ashburn to consider a neighbourhood plan at a cost of £50K upwards. We have no budget for this. This year HTC spent £3700. We will need assistance if the Salisbury Road application goes to appeal. Cllr Crane proposed a budget of £2K, all in favour.
- f) **Propose Budget figure for 2017-18** –The budget includes £10k for the library and includes £2k for the Tourist & Economy Committee. The budget total is £278,769. General Reserves are to remain fixed at £50K so any unspent budget i.e. £9,214 can be taken off the next Precept.
- g) **Propose Precept figure for 2017-18** After discussion and following a previous meeting of F&GP (see minutes of 29/11/16) Cllr Bumbieris proposed the Budget at £278,769 and the Precept for 2017-18 at £269,555 which shows a 5.74% increase on last year, the band D figure will be approx. £116.19 subject to confirmation of the tax base from WBC, seconded by Cllr Crane and all in favour.

- 10. Propose Standing Orders as amended.** The standing orders have been circulated with some minor adjustments. One adjustment is to page 191 FOI items to be dealt with by F&GP committee. Cllr Bumbieris proposed the amendments to the standing orders, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.
- 11. Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals - none**

**Meeting closed at 9.00pm**