

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES of the Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

**Present:** Cllrs Small, Simpson, Brookman and Winser. Also present- Ted Angell and Geoff Greenland (HAHA). Arrived later - Nigel Pateman (Rugby Club), Cllrs Bumbieris and Wood

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Whiting, Farrell, Crane, Benneyworth and Knight.
- 2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Simpson (Friends of Hungerford Library), Cllrs Small and Winser (Triangle Field MC)
- 3. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017.** Deputy Clerk was asked to include George Ham as being present at the meeting. Cllr Winser proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Simpson, 1 abstention and rest in favour.

- **Update on actions** - the idea of an outside gym facility had been discussed at the Triangle Field Management Committee which is interested in this facility, agreed that the Office should review the money available and what the possible options are, and that this should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Re-siting of the goal posts at the WMRG – waiting for work to commence. Proposed Skate Park users’ group – Town Clerk had emailed Alfie Smith, office to email Cllrs Wood and Whiting also to update on progress. Swimming Pool House - rent had been discussed at F &GP, a review to be sought in May/June.

- **Terms of Reference (TORs)** – these were reviewed by the Committee and though there were similarities with standing orders it was felt that new Councillors would benefit from having this type of information. Cllr Bumbieris said that there would be a need to keep the document up to date. Cllr Brookman noted some overlaps with H&T remit. **Action:** Deputy Clerk to email to Cllr Small. Cllr Simpson suggested that these should be put to full Council and that other committees may benefit from similar TORs. **Action:** Place on the agenda for the full Council meeting.

#### **4. Hungerford Allotment Holders Association**

- **Report under Heads of Agreement** - Rent collection is continuing at the Fairfields Site and rents will be collected from the Marsh Lane allotments on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The accounts will be available in early April prior to when the RFO requires them for the auditor. The news of the extended lease at Marsh Lane has been well received and the length of the lease means that funding can be applied for from the National Lottery. There is a turnover of plot users at Marsh Lane. Thanks were given to Town Clerk for the feedback on the trees at the Fairfields site. Concern was raised about the cost of the tree surgery.

**Update on drafting of allotment lease and requested changes** – The request for compost toilet and electricity will be formalised in a side letter to the lease. An email/invoice has been received from solicitors instructed by Mark Norgate in respect of their fees of £250 + VAT. Cllr Small proposed that this invoice was paid in full, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.

Cllr Bumbieris arrived 7:20 pm, Nigel Pateman arrived 7:25 pm, Cllr Wood arrived 7:30 pm

## **5. Triangle Field**

- **Consider draft agreement with Rugby Club** – This had been circulated before the meeting, with alterations to allow HTC to have use of the pitch when it is not required by the Rugby Club, and the inclusion of a termination clause. Two plans were referred to showing the positions of the lights and of the cabling. Commencement of the work had been discussed at F&GP, as the contractor was available earlier than anticipated. The concrete has set and further work is to commence during the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> March.

A discussion took place over the draft agreement. The Cllrs agreed that they had considered the draft agreement positively and would recommend the agreement to full Council. The committee had no objections to work starting and were content for the work to proceed.

- **Report from TFMC meeting** – draft Minutes had been circulated to the committee. They included deep clean of the changing rooms three times a year; use of the area for car boot sales in the summer when the TF is not in use for rugby; a Town Open Day at the end of August; a touch rugby tournament and ‘party in the park’ event in July which Rugby Club will pay TFMC £100 for the use of the field, additional paving outside the building and maintenance jobs to be carried out. The mixer valve is still on order

- **Consider Heating Quotes** - Cllr Winser is currently seeking quotes for the heating and insulation for the changing rooms, as well as hand dryers. NP suggested that this should be considered for the next season. **Action:** Next year money should be placed in the budget to cover this expenditure.

- Cllr Wood informed NP that the Hungerford Football Club was reviewing its tractors and one was available for sale.

## **6. Croft Field Centre**

- **Determine actions required by working party** – the previous suggestion of re-positioning the toilets and showers was discussed. The committee asked for clarifications of the plans in an informal sketch. **Action:** Cllr Farrell to provide an informal sketch of the changes.

- **Consider quotation for replacement of alarm panel** – the alarm has had problems and the contractor has been altered the access code, but there are still problems. The cost of a replacement panel and keypad is £438 plus VAT. Cllr Simpson proposed that an order be placed accordingly, seconded by Cllr Winser, with all in favour.

**7. Library and Post Office update** – Cllr Simpson reported that the Friends of Hungerford Library are meeting WBC every fortnight. It was intended to form a CIO trust to provide charitable status. She said that FOHL feels confident that the library will get a 80% rebate on its rates and that a Government grant may be available to help HTC to buy the library building, allowing the library to be rented back to the CIO. The library service itself would stay with West Berkshire. A business plan has been produced by FOHL. Trustees will be needed for the CIO – Cllr Small said that he might be willing to be one of them.

Post office – several companies have been approached including From The Heart, Tesco, Co-op and the new tenant of the Martins premises but all of them have declined. Ratnamss are interested and this was discussed, along with other options suggested. Cllr Simpson reported that the Post Office will not look at a new unit unless it has a retail outlet and some investment would be needed.

**8. Youth & Community Centre** – the Town Clerk has been in contact with Colin Broughton (WBC) about the issues with the break clause in the proposed new lease of the tennis court. A request for deletion of the 6 month notice clause has been made as the Centre intends to invest and replace the tennis court surface.

**9. Consideration of allowance of burial reservations and associated fees.** This was deferred until the next meeting.

**10. Comments from councillors on consideration of issues that had been brought to their attention.** Cllr Wood said that the Theatre Club was paying to use the dance studio at the Leisure Centre. Both are in receipt of grants from HTC and it was queried why the Theatre Club is being charged by the Leisure Centre. After discussion it was felt that this was between the parties involved with no need for the Town Council to intervene.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

**Signed** as a true record of the meeting

Date.