

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Keith Knight
3 Wessex Close
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0NT
Tel: 01488 644671
cllrknight@gmail.com



The Town Clerk
Mrs Claire Barnes
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

MINUTES of the Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee held on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.15pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Small, Benneyworth, Farrell, Brookman, Simpson

1. **Elect Chair** – Cllr Simpson proposed Cllr Small as chair, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour.
2. **Elect Deputy** – Both Cllr Farrell and Cllr Wood had expressed an interest in the role. Cllr Wood was not present. Cllr Simpson proposed Cllr Farrell as Deputy Chair, seconded by Cllr Small, one abstention, rest in favour.
3. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Winser, Bumbieris, Knight and Wood
4. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Small (TFMC - Triangle Field Management Committee), Cllr Farrell (Croft Field Management Committee), Cllr Simpson (Hungerford Library)
5. **Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 18th April 2017** - Proposal of minutes was deferred.
- Updated To Do List (circulated) – Installation of the toddler slide is not up to scratch. Playground services are relaying the safety surface and Proludic are sending a representative to check. K Skeats has quoted £845 to repoint the front wall and side wall all the way around to the canal (both sides), at St Lawrence churchyard. **Action:** Take this and comparative quotes to Full Council.
A revaluation as requested by the auditors for Bridge St War Memorial has been obtained of £17.5K and insurance adjusted. The ZIP wire needs attention as it is hanging too low and the matting is uneven. The blue pods are slack and the baby swing needs replacing. **Action:** Instruct Maintenance man and obtain alternative opinions for fixing trip hazards at edge of safety surface
6. **Quotations – Consider quote for re-laying of safety surface for roundabout at Smitham Bridge Playground** – Cllr Small proposed proceeding with the quote for £250 from Playground Services to re-lay the safety surface, seconded by Cllr Brookman, all in favour. **Action:** Clerk to instruct contractor
Quotes for re-pointing of St Lawrence wall – discussed under item 5
7. **Allotments**
- Update on drafting of allotment lease and requested changes and update on request for composting toilet, power supply & toilet – **Action:** Cllr Small will ring M Norgate to chase. Clerk will forward relevant email to Cllr Small.

8. Triangle Field – Report from Triangle Field Management Committee meeting –
Drainage by gate has been reported as a problem. **Action:** Check with maintenance man if gully blocked.

- **Consideration of outside gym and feedback from TFMC** – Money spent on a gym would not benefit as many as the rugby club does. We could give the underlease to the RFC but we would lose all use of the fields. Cllr Knight is looking to increase income. A mix of equipment would be needed for an outdoor gym. RC has looked into this. There is no money for this project.

- **Use of facilities for local health event** – It was thought this request would be better suited for the Croft Field rather than the Triangle Field. They are a group that are promoting health and wish to run a free boot camp and use facilities for free. Cllr Small proposed we offer an evening at the Croft Field for their use for free, seconded by Cllr Simpson, all in favour. **Action:** Clerk to contact group.

- **Consider annual payment to TFMC (taken after item 5)**– Nigel Pateman (NP) of (TFMC) produced accounts which show a balance of £1581. This balance has since been wiped out by payments to contractors. The Rugby Club pay a monthly income of £300, but excluding 2 months (July & Aug). They have a bill from Scofell of £631 which they can't afford to pay and the pitches are bare and need reseeding and fertilising. They have had a quote from Scofell who would provide the fertiliser free but charge for labour. Cost of the seed is £2k. The TFMC are hoping for an annual income of £3k from HTC which is usually paid on 1st April. NP advised the Rugby Club has no obligation for maintenance or to keep the pitches to a certain standard. They are wanting to drill and seed

Cllr Farrell wants to see the fields for use by all and not exclusive use by the Rugby Club. There is no calendar available to all, of bookings, how do you book? It was advised that Rob Cox (RC) is the bookings manager. Cllr Simpson said there should be better management of funds and sees the lines as unclear between the Rugby Club as a main user and the TFMC. Do NP and RC have a conflict of interest?

Cllr Benneyworth advised that the situation is better than previously and it is costing less for the TFMC to run it than HTC. TFMC had £3k for the first two years from HTC and £1500 last year. Previously the TFMC was set up with representatives from all user groups such as Wickham Wanderers, RBL and now there are 2 from the Rugby Club, one from theatre Co and 3 from HTC.

Cllr Simpson would like to see the TFMC self-funding. Cllr Small advised Cllr Knight is working on getting income from Car boot sales. NP asked what Cllr Simpson would like to see at the Triangle Field to make it more inclusive. Cllr Simpson suggested a sand pit and would happily fundraise for this. Cllr Brookman suggested a loan of £3k could be made to TFMC but the money would have to be justified. NP advised they are very low on finances and have agreed seeding costs. They are on 30 day terms with Scofell.

Cllrs Simpson and Farrell feel very strongly that more can be done to market the facility.

R&A can recommend action to Full Council so a vote was taken. Cllr Benneyworth proposed HTC make an annual payment this year of £3k to support TMFC, seconded by Cllr Brookman. 2 objections and one abstention (Cllr Small) – 2 for, 2 against – vote not carried.

Action: Clerk to put on the Full Council agenda for a decision. NP left.

9. Croft Field Centre – Tender and funding for garden room – Cllr Farrell suggested extending the project date for the garden room from 2 to 3 weeks.

- **Sketches for internal restructuring** – Cllr Farrell has been chasing Orange Key for sketches and they would charge. The cost for the whole project was estimated in excess £20K. This would include restructuring, new toilets/wet rooms, disabled access. What return would it make? Croft Field Centre is well used. No demand for change. **Action:** Cllr Farrell to obtain sketches at cost of approx. £200.

- **Consider increase in hiring charges** – After discussion it was agreed to increase all rates (except for regular users) by 5%. **Action:** Clerk to implement.

- **Consider booking request for car boot** – It was agreed car boots can be held when it's dry over the summer.

10. Sports Award – Cllr Wood – Defer as Cllr Wood not present

11. Library –Update from FOHL and Working Party meetings – Cllr Simpson advised they are in the process of setting up a CIO. Both 99 year lease and freehold options are being considered. We do not have figures yet from WBC. FOHL are getting a proposal together. The Clerk has applied for a £12k grant. The CIO and FOHL will work alongside each other.

12. Youth & Community Centre – Tennis Court lease renewal update – Clerk has gone back to Sarah House at WBC with amendments and waits to hear back.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting

Date.