

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee** held on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at 7.00 pm in The Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs, Simpson, Cusack, Farrell, Winsor, Benneyworth, and Alford

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Hawkins and Brookman
2. **Declarations of interest** – None
3. **Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 20th November 2018 and update on actions:** *Cllr Winsor proposed agreement of the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Alford, one abstention, rest in favour.*

- **Updated To Do List** – The November list was read through and updated. It was noted the zip slide seat has been replaced and fluorescent tape applied to the railings to make them more visible. A checklist has been put in place for the Fire Regs at Croft Field and the grave surround at St Lawrence has been made safer by removing the sharp edges. Our insurers, H&S Consultant and the Diocese saw this as an acceptable solution. Planting has taken place at the memorial gardens.
Actions: Defer update on Triangle Field tree quote and actions to next R&A. Pots holes and repairs at Croft Field will be carried out by maintenance man and he will fit a drinking water tap ahead of spring.

Action: Cllr Simpson to check if tree undermining wall at St Saviour's has been felled.

Bridge St War Memorial registering of land – Letters have been sent to the Charity Commission and Co-op asking for information. **Action:** Defer to next R&A by which we hope to have a response. It was agreed this matter should be pursued to a conclusion and not left unresolved.

- **Actions from previous minutes** – The Clerk has been advised reducing the height of the trees at St Saviour's can be carried out at any time providing we avoid the nesting season and the ground is dry. Nothing was heard back about the defibrillator on offer from Inkpen school.

Cllr Farrell suggested we go to an architect's office to obtain a schedule of works for leveling the gazebo floor. It was agreed we should treat the levelling of the floor and general disabled access (car park) as two separate issues. **Action:** Clerk to obtain a price to level the floor from the entrance door outwards, not for the whole area. A wood strip fill is not acceptable.

The Clerk has reported the water leak to our insurers and is in the process of obtaining the 2 repair quotes required.

4. **Walk-arounds for HTC owed area** – health and safety checks - A sheet was handed around and dates were agreed for the first few walkarounds.

5. **Review the current Action Plan associated with the committee** – The action plan was reviewed at the meeting and changes made. **Action:** Clerk to update spreadsheet and upload to website.
Action: Copy of timesheets for cleaning at the Triangle Field to be sent to Cllr Winser.
TFMC are considering heating for the changing rooms.
6. **Consider any future projects for 2020-21 - to be in line with HTC Action Plan** – Priorities include having an up to date tree schedule and maintenance plan, improvements to Croft Field and bench maintenance. *Cllr Simpson proposed that the public are allowed to place a bench in an available space but will be charged an upfront one-off fee of £100 for maintenance, seconded by Cllr Cusack, all in favour.*
7. **Review of the Local Council Risk System** – This has been circulated and various amendments made. **Action:** Updates to risk assessments to be completed by the office. It is a requirement that these are signed off by Full Council this financial year.
8. **Youth & Community Centre - Report attached** - Cllr Alford read out his report. It was commented that there are plenty of sports clubs available but the age group 12-16 need somewhere like a youth café to go as the youth club is only open once a week. The Mayor advised she had received many comments on Facebook about ASB locally by youths. She wishes to have a Hungerford Neighbourhood Action Group or similar put in place. Neighbourhood watch could help and perhaps we need a youth council.
9. **Skate Park Car Park – Discuss future use of area and fencing following councillor action to view site** – A suggestion was to have two concrete table tennis tables placed on the site or some outdoor gym equipment. However, this might mean losing the area as a car park for main events such as football matches and there is the concern it could attract ASB back to the skate park area.
Action: Councillors to carry out a site visit.
10. **Memorials in the Garden of Remembrance** – see private report– *Cllr Simpson proposed the plot holder is asked to adhere to regulations and remove the unauthorised memorial and if this is not actioned HTC will arrange for its removal, seconded by Cllr Winser, one against (Cllr Cusack), rest in favour.*
11. **Dog Fouling recommendations** – consideration of use of signage – **Report attached** – A site visit found many signs are already in place. It was agreed no further action is needed. H&T committee will be considering dog fouling issues generally.
Action: Cllr Simpson will speak with RBL about removing the poppies at the start of each new year.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

R&A Committee 22nd January 2019

Agenda Item No: 11

Dog Fouling Recommendations.

Clarification of proposal from R&A meeting 20th November 2018.

Background

Further to Item 7 from R&A meeting minutes of the 20th November:

- **Request for Dog Signage at War Memorial Avenue** - **Action:** *Cllr Hawkins proposed the office order a sign to state that the area is covered by CCTV and please pick up after your dog, seconded by Cllr Farrell, all in favour.*

The office requests the committee consider whether further signage is necessary due to the following reasons:

- 1) The area is already well signposted



Dog waste bin with notice at entrance to avenue from Bulpit Lane

General waste bin with dog fouling notice at avenue near memorial stone



No dog fouling sign on fence at back entrance to skate park common

No dog fouling sign on fence into cricket ground from



- 2) there are no further areas where signs can be put up in the avenue (e.g. fences or posts). Signs such as the ones in St Lawrence's churchyard (see photo) could be installed but with recent anti-social behaviour in the area of the skate park there is a concern that these signs could be easily removed.



- 3) the area is not covered by CCTV (there is a camera and a sign that covers the skate park, but this does not cover the war memorial avenue)



Options

- 1) To consider whether further signage is necessary and order signs as per R&A minutes of the 20th November
- 2) To order signs similar to those in the churchyard
- 3) To continue with the current situation

Recommendation(s)

The best option based on the above information.

Signed: Sarah Hennessey 18/01/19

Youth club report

I visited the Hungerford Youth Club on Monday 14th January's evening session. The sessions are now from 6 to 7:30. The numbers were low. There were several reasons for this. First night's opening since before Christmas. Only years 7 to 9 can now be members. Also in the past, some of the older members have been over boisterous. This is believed to have put off many of the youngsters from attending the youth club. So there is now the hope that this will change, it will take time.

When the club closed some of the members, helpers and young leaders stayed. This was so that they could put forward their ideas on what food and drink could be sold in the kitchen on club nights. Ideas were then needed on new equipment, for the kitchen and club activities. This is so the club can ask for a grant from the Greenham trust.

The third discussion centered on what young people felt they needed in Hungerford. The following was put forward.

1. A cafe for young people so that they can meet up. Many do not have directional interests or hobbies, but are happy to meet, chat and have fun.
2. An area of artificial grass, maybe behind the skate park, for football and games.
3. Two concrete table tennis tables, again behind the skate park.
4. To move the youth club to a more suitable area away from the school and residential area. Pool House was suggested, when or if the present tenants move out. This is because of its near location to the play area. I do not think this is going to happen.

Young people in Hungerford do need somewhere they can call their own, not just for one evening a week. It would be good if the youth club could open more evenings. But there is a lack of interest in Hungerford for adults to become volunteer youth leaders. Some of older members have become helpers and young leaders. This works better when they are helping with the younger ones. But this can be more difficult for them with their own age group. There is still a hope that year 10+ have a youth club session sometime in the future. If possible on a Monday night, but unlikely to be at the youth centre.

The youth club has gained a bit of a reputation, but now needs to show it can go through a change. But reputations once gained are hard to shake off. I hope it can and will. Those that volunteer to work with young people deserve our support and our respect, for what they take on is not easy.