

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials Committee held on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 7.00 pm in The Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Simpson, Cusack, Winser and Alford

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllrs Brookman, Farrell, Hawkins,
- 2. Co-option of Cllrs Alford and Hawkins on to the Committee** – *Cllr Simpson proposed the co-option of Cllr Alford on to the R&A Committee, seconded by Cllr Winser, all in favour. Cllr Winser proposed co-option of Cllr Hawkins on to the R&A Committee, seconded by Cllr Simpson all in favour.*
- 3. Declarations of interest** – Cllrs Winser and Cusack (Triangle Field)
- 4. Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 17th July 2018 and update on actions:** *Cllr Winser proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, subject to the amendment to item 6 (alter CRB to DBS) and to item 3 (alter post-holiday check to pre-holiday check), 2 abstentions, rest in favour.* Cllr Cusack has invited a Sports England official to walk around the town to see what grants are available.
 - **Updated To Do List (circulated)** - A letter has been sent to the building inspector about the unlevel floor at the Croft Field and a response is awaited. A new spinner is now in place at Bulpitt park with a partly new safety surface. Playground Services Ltd has gone into liquidation so the work placed with them will be cancelled. Broadmead has been instructed to replace the railings that have been damaged by a vehicle outside the front of Bulpitt Play park. A claim is being made but the excess is likely to be payable as nobody has admitted responsibility. The bench schedule is being updated as the benches are cleaned.
 - **Update on trees at Bridge Street Memorial** – discussed at F&GP recently
 - **Out-standing inspections on allotment sites (request for volunteers)** – **Action:** Cllrs to contact the Deputy Clerk with dates that they can attend.
- 5. Vision for Arts Centre at the Triangle Field** – Deferred until November meeting
- 6. Allotments - Update on the signing of the allotment lease at Marsh Lane** - £500 costs have been paid to Awdry Bailey, the landowners solicitor, for the review of the lease.
- 7. Triangle Field (lead by Cllr Winser)**
 - Report on out-standing maintenance work** – Cllr Winser advised both the rubber door seal in the main store room and an update on the external lights for which they obtained a grant, are being discussed tomorrow at their meeting. Changing rooms 3 and 4 have been painted.
 - Update on statutory checks (emergency lighting, legionella etc)** She is receiving regular reports of the checks being carried out by the maintenance man. A Fire Risk Assessment was carried out on 1st May and there are some outstanding actions. The waste service pump was serviced 3 months ago and is being done regularly. PAT testing in the kitchen is complete.
 - **Update on planning application for flood lights** - There is no update on the floodlights' application from R Cox yet. **Action:** Cllr Winser will find out if this is to be done on an old application.
 - Action:** Clerk to invite councillors to join the TFMC. One more councillor is required.

8. Skate Park

Feed-back on the success of the Skate Park Awareness Day – Good feedback was received on Facebook. The event featured Olympic standard skateboarders and BMX riders. 20 to 30 kids attended. The event started a bit early in the day on a Sunday morning and wasn't busy until after lunch. The MC was very good and gave advice about the equipment we have and what we might like to add to it, such as a 'hop' which the kids in Thatcham enjoy. If we hold the event again, consider a Saturday (as there were 3 complaints about the noise), advise the neighbours in advance and hold in July before the schools break up to enable advertising in book bags. In future contact Scott Hamblin the MC who can obtain quotes for SPA days from different companies. **Action:** Put on the agenda to discuss an event for next year in the spring.

Consideration to the ways of securing the car park at the Skate Park – It was agreed to monitor the activity in the car park.

Consideration of the removal of the shelter at the Skate Park (see attached report) The MC's advice echoed the Police's advice that HTC should remove the skate park shelter. Older kids loiter in the shelter and intimidate the younger ones that wish to skate, preventing the park being used for what it was intended. Complaints in this respect have been received from the public and recently there was a case of Arson. The shelter is in a poor state of repair. It was noted that by removing the shelter: it may not stop the problem, the anti-social behaviour may move elsewhere, and the yellow seating may also need removing.

Action: *Cllr Simpson proposed removing and disposing of the skate park shelter using the cheapest method, seconded by Cllr Winsor, all in favour.*

Action: *Cllr Simpson proposed new signage is bought and erected at £20 a sign to limit age to 16 and under, and time park is open from 8am to 8pm.*

9. St Saviour's Cemetery

Committee asked to review the request of a Hungerford resident to reserve a plot in the Garden of Remembrance (see attached report) – The rules state 'Reservation of plots for future use is not permitted save in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Council.' The committee wished to have guidance on what is deemed an exceptional circumstance. *Cllr Winsor proposed the request is taken to Full Council and the wording in the Cemetery Regulations is reviewed, seconded by Cllr Simpson, one abstention rest in favour.* **Action:** Add to FC agenda.

- **Proposal to set an annual review date for the Schedule of fees and charges relating to St Saviour's (see attached report)** – *Cllr Simpson proposed in future the cemetery fees are reviewed annually in March and any changes are effective from 1st April, seconded by Cllr Alford, one objection, rest in favour.*
- **Proposal to determine how the fees will be increased e.g. in line with RPI (see attached report)** – *Cllr Alford proposed fees are increased annually by RPI, seconded by Cllr Winsor, one objection, rest in favour.*
- **Proposal to increase some fees to be in line with other councils (see attached report)** – *Cllr Winsor proposed with immediate effect the fee for 'a second burial in an existing grave', increases to £225, and with effect from April next year increases to £350, seconded by Cllr Simpson, one abstention, rest in favour.*
Cllr Simpson proposed with immediate effect the fees for 'cremated remains in an existing grave space' and 'subsequent interment of ashes in an existing plot' both increase to £100 and with effect from next April both increase to £125, seconded by Cllr Alford, all in favour.

10. St Lawrence's Grave

Update from Chair of R&A on repairing of graves following meeting with the Vicar - Cllr Simpson advised Rev Mike Saunders that the Town Council are finding the cost to repair the ironwork surrounding graves very expensive and his response was, although we are not allowed to remove it from site, it could be buried instead, providing permission from the diocese is obtained.

Update on repair work to grave 1 (action is out-standing) **Action:** Clerk to write to the diocese to inform them repairs will not be made and instead the action identified above will be taken. The broken ironwork cannot be left in place due to the Health & Safety risk identified by HTC's consultant.

Consideration of Cllr Cusack research on responsibility of HTC maintaining church yards – Cllr Cusack advised there are grants available for restoring graves from English Heritage. Cllr Simpson suggested we consider the grant finder website when we are looking for funds for a particular project.

11. Swimming Pool House

Consider the replacement of the storage heaters with an up to date heating system as requested by the tenant – It was agreed in principle that the storage heaters should be replaced. The current tenants have carried out improvements to the property and garden. **Action:** Clerk to circulate photos. **Action:** Clerk to obtain quotes to bring back to Full Council.

12. War Memorials

Update on registering land at Bridge Street – Our solicitor has quoted £400 for 2 hours of investigatory work to see what the best course of action is. **Action:** Cllr Simpson proposed this is put on the Full Council agenda to decide if this is required, seconded by Cllr Winser, all in favour.

Feed-back on the war memorial following its clean (see attached report) – Photos have been circulated of the memorial which is much improved. It is doubtful if the green staining can be removed by further cleaning. Cllr Simpson would like to have a stone engraved to commemorate the centenary and has ideas for the design. It could possibly be fixed to the War memorial. **Action:** Add this to the Full Council agenda for discussion.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

R&A Committee 18th September 2018

Agenda Item No :

Background

The last increase in the Cemetery fees and charges was March 2017. Other local councils (Marlborough, Newbury and Thatcham) review on an annual basis and their fees are effective from 1st April each year. See attached Excel document for a comparison of what each council currently charges.

Objective

- 1) Propose to revise the Schedule of Fees and Charges relating to St Saviour's Cemetery annually in September / October in line with the RPI, to be effective from 1st April each year, starting in April 2019.
- 2) Propose to increase some of the fees charged to be in line with other local councils.

Options

- 1) The attached Word document shows what the fees and charges would increase to in April 2019 using the current RPI of 3.2%. (Note that as from December 2015 VAT has been added to the cost of Memorials.)
- 2) The main difference in our fees is the amount we charge for subsequent burials in existing graves or subsequent interment of ashes in existing plots. Other councils do not show a price for subsequent interments as they just charge the same price as for first interments. If we did the same, our charges would increase as follows:

Interments	Current Charge	Amended Charge
Second burial in existing grave	£100	£350 which seems very high

		(could we charge half which would be £175?)
Cremated remains in existing grave space	£75	£125
Cremations		
Subsequent interment of ashes in existing plot	£75	£125

Financial and Legal implications

If both objectives were adopted, this would generate an increase in income to enable more money in reserves for the maintenance and upkeep of the Cemetery and to potentially allow the purchase of more land as and when needed.

Recommendation(s)

To agree both increases as above.

Signed: Sarah Hennessey 20/08/18

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Moving or removing the Skate Park Shelter

New Signage to limit age/opening times of the skate park

Report to:

Full Council/R&A

Agenda Item No 14: Skate Park Shelter

Background

Following a number of recent incidents at the skate park including an arson attack (see photo below of the damage caused) and following feedback from the police, it has been requested that we either remove or relocate the skate park shelter. This will ensure visibility either through the CCTV camera or from public and police when passing the site. They have also requested that we put up signs (maybe age limit or times) so that police can have powers to enforce the rules. They suggest an age limit of 14 years and below and opening times of 8.00am-8.00pm. If a council employee had to lock and unlock the gates every morning and night, this would incur an extra cost for wages. The gates would not necessarily have to be locked and unlocked but a sign would help the police enforce the rules.

Objective

To help alleviate some of the problems with drugs and anti-social behaviour and to support the police who are monitoring more regularly at our request. This will also show residents

that we are continuing to make changes and improvements following reports of anti-social behaviour.

Options

- 1) Remove the shelter – quote received for removal to scrap £695. Waiting for a second quote.
- 2) Re-locate the shelter so the opening is visible from the car park area but still in grass – quote received for £1295. (The CCTV camera will need adjusting so it still pans round to enable to see into the shelter).
- 3) Removal of back and side panels to provide an open shelter – quote received for £380.
- 4) Add new signage – cost approx. £20 per sign.
- 5) Consider the possibility of allowing police to view skate park CCTV footage directly through a tablet/ipad – waiting for report from Smart.
- 6) Ignore advice.

Financial and Legal implications

Costs – see above

Reference to Council Strategy, where relevant

Public responsibility

Consultation:

N/A

Other information

Police engagement, Neighbourhood watch, accounts of anti social behaviour. Following the recent Skate Park Awareness Day on Sunday 2nd September, the MC at the event commented that at the majority of Skate Parks which he is involved with, there is no shelter. He felt, in his opinion, it would be best to remove the shelter as this would discourage youths from congregating there and hopefully encourage those who want to use the Skate Park as it is intended.



Recommendation(s)

To choose the best option, based on the above information and following debate.

Signed: Helen Simpson / Sarah Hennessey
29/08/18





The ferrous screws on the Afghanistan plaque have been replaced with non-ferrous screws:



