

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 1st July 2019 at 7.00pm in the Corn Exchange Complex, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs, Winsor, Downe, Chicken, Crane, Hawkins, Alford, Fyfe and Gaines

Also: Representatives from Newbury News and Penny Post. District Cllrs Dennis Benneyworth (DB) and James Cole (JC). A member of the public.

Police – PCSO Steve Vaughan advised there had been 175 incidents for June which included two burglaries from businesses and one from residential, two thefts from motor vehicles, one theft, one assault and six domestic violence cases. There were six reports of anti-social behaviour in Hungerford, five traffic incidents and five welfare cases (missing persons). The team have visited eleven schools and seven fetes and held seventeen ‘have your say’ events. They are losing a police officer who will be transferring but they will be replaced. The team consists of 6 PCSO’s and 2 PCs. When asked how the incident figures compare to other months, he advised they vary but with no particular trend.

Sue Ryder – Ashleigh Embling spoke about the services provided by Sue Ryder who have been providing end of life and palliative care for 65 years. They have a hospice based in Reading and satellites in Wokingham and Newbury. Hungerford has access to the Community clinical nurse specialists (CNS) and the day centre in the Rosemary Centre, Newbury. There are also outpatient services, physiotherapy and bereavement support available. They have three teams which need £4.7 million each year. £3.5mill is received as statutory funding. They are fortunate to receive legacy gifts but are looking to lengthen their income streams. Currently they are fundraising through the token scheme in Tesco. It is against their ethos to pass on any financial cost to those receiving treatment. Ashleigh will send the office details of their open day. In order to consider a grant HTC would need statistics of Hungerford residents benefitting.

- 1. Note apologies for absence** – Cllrs Brookman, Cusack, Simpson, Knight, Lewis and Hudson
Also District Cllr Claire Rowles (CR)
- 2. Declarations of interest** - None
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting of 3rd June 2019 and outcome of any actions** - *Cllr Crane proposed the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Downe, all in favour.*
- 4. Mayor’s Diary** – Refer to attached report
- 5. District Councillor’s Reports** – DB went to ex-Cllr Margaret Wilson’s funeral and advised that it was well attended. At H&T it was agreed to arrange a meeting with West Berks Council to discuss the taxi rank, pigeons and speed reviews. DB confirmed eight electric car charging points will be installed in the High St this week, using government funding and that this will not result in a loss of car parking spaces. Information leaflets have been issued. When asked if they might have been better located elsewhere, he advised there has not been a consultation as it is unnecessary with no loss of or restrictions on parking. Most High St residents have up to two parking permits and the chargers are designed to be used overnight as they are slow charging.
It was asked if there are any plans for super-fast chargers. This is currently unknown.

JC advised climate change will be debated at tomorrow's WBC meeting. It was a motion put forward by the green party but all parties have agreed the wording so this should be passed, and WBC will be declaring a climate emergency. WBC is setting up an environment board and there will be change however WBC has no money or reserves so will need to raise money or obtain central government funding. JC advised CR will be talking about recycling and he will be focussing on plastic recycling and the financial aspects. It was mentioned that obligations could be imposed on builders to enforce higher standards and that motion proposed is very broad. JC agreed part of the process will be persuading government some policies need to change. It was questioned whether recycling bins could be placed in the High St as are in place at the railway station.

6. **Hungerford 2036 – Refer to attached report** which was summarised at the meeting. It was agreed the expenditure would be discussed at the F&GP meeting scheduled for Tuesday 9th July. H2036 team are planning to meet with the District Councillors who will keep us informed of the housing numbers as soon as they hear.

7. **Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)**

E&P (Cllr Gaines) - Refer to attached report which has been circulated. Cllr Gaines added that the Reserved Matters for Salisbury Road would appear on the next E&P agenda. JC has been asked to call in the main application to committee and he will be discussing this with WBC on Friday.

H&T (Cllr Chicken) - Refer to attached report which has been circulated.

T&E (Cllr Crane) – The welcome signs are up and 50% of the invoice will be paid by AONB. He hopes to obtain financial support from Town & Manor towards the Great West Way membership. He is attending a meeting tomorrow about the Trade Showcase. The third trial of a VIP (visitor's information point) in the High St has taken place. Around 40 people visited the stall including some travelling from Thailand. Cllr Hawkins advised she has received good feedback on the VIP. Cllr Crane is pursuing Heritage Funding and is hoping by working alongside WBC, to explore the possibility of making 16 High St (owned by the Co-op) a civic centre.

R&A (Cllr Simpson) – Refer to attached report which has been circulated. The Marsh Lane lease is still waiting a signature.

8. **Finance –**

a) **Propose authorisation of cheque run payments (circulated) for last month – Cllr Winser proposed the cheque run of £58,540.16, seconded by Cllr Crane, all in favour.**

b) **Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report – Cllr Winser highlighted any budgets that had spent more than expected at this point in the year. Mostly this was due to phasing issues. Cllr Winser proposed the accounts (subject to an explanation of expense code 4262), seconded by Cllr Downe, all in favour.**

c) **Ratify various grant donations totalling £15,379.69 as proposed at F&GP. (Note: This is in addition to the £10,000 available donation earmarked for the library). Cllr Winser proposed the grants total of £15,379.69, in addition to the £10k put aside for the library, seconded by Cllr Crane all in favour.**

9. **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals - None**

The Hungerford in Bloom judging will take place on Saturday.

Meeting closed at 7.57pm

Public Report to: Full Council meeting 1st July 2019

Agenda Item No 6: Report from Hungerford 2036

Current Activities

The H2036 Project Team is currently seeking consultation input from local organisations and individuals on the plan draft Aims and Objectives. During June H2036 had a stand at the St Lawrence's Church Fete and the event at the Youth and Community Centre. Some useful feedback and interest in further involvement was shown from

families with young children Further consultation and discussion opportunities are in plan for the coming month including with the faith communities and the nursery, primary and secondary schools.

The H2036 Project Team has started working through the draft policy suggestions derived from the H2036 Aims and Objectives by Plan-ET consulting, starting with the Housing theme. This work will continue on other themes in future meetings. We are arranging a briefing in July for the new District Councillors to explain what we are doing and hopefully enlist their support as and when we might need it.

Important News

We have been informed that in early September WBC will publish the HELAA (Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment) which will cover all housing and economic land sites which have been submitted to their Call for Sites process. The publication is expected to include WBC's initial site assessments covering Suitability, Availability, Achievability, We also expect the latest guidance emanating from central government and passing through WBC on dwellings numbers.

In order to prepare ourselves for the WBC information release, the project team are developing a set of site selection criteria which will in due course be the basis for the identification of the town's preferred and later allocated development sites in the Neighbourhood Plan. These criteria will be informed by the H2036 research as well as previous consultations and we plan to publish them in advance of the HELAA release.

After the HELAA release the H2036 project team will lead the process for examining site details, gathering public consultation input and assessing sites against the Town's criteria.

The project team is researching options and costs for some in-depth professional support during this key and potentially controversial stage of the H2036 project. We anticipate a cost in the order of £500-£1000 during the next 2 months for which agreement in principle is sought. NB H2036 budget update to follow at the Full Council meeting.

Signed: John Downe, Joint Chair H2036

Report from Environment and Planning for full council 1st July 2019

It was an interesting and lively meeting with about 60 residents in attendance for both the presentation and the planning applications

1. 19/00886/FUL Hungerford Tennis Club – The Hungerford Club Flood lighting of two tennis courts.

There were 50 objections and around 30 supporting submissions for this application. The objectors and Hungerford Tennis club both presented their views. There was also comments from other residents. This was a tricky situation with so many objectors but on balance we agreed, not unanimously, to **No Objections, subject to a review of an ecology and wildlife assessment and a full lighting impact assessment** - It was noted that HTC are only a statutory consultee and can only request the above.

Next on the agenda was a **Presentation from Bewley Homes, Turley Planning Agents and Cala Homes regarding the Salisbury Road site.** Bewley homes spokesperson gave some background information about the company. We learnt that a Reserve matters planning application had been submitted to West Berks Council which was awaiting validation, this has now been validated. The presentation showed exactly the same details as we had previously received via email with no additional information. The plan showed just 2/3 of the site being occupied with the 100 houses, including 40 affordable, which raised comments on the use of the rest of the site. The density was then questioned and they advised they are looking at a reasonable density of 30 homes per hectare thereby protecting some of the countryside. We were then advised that the rest of the site will probably be put forward for future development but only if the housing numbers are required. It was really refreshing to see that District Cllr

James Cole stated that he was against any further housing on that site and also mention that WBC are considering a motion declaring a ‘climate emergency’ and the attitude of WBC will change dramatically.

Bewley did agreed to answer all the questions that had been submitted in writing – these are now on the Home page of HTC website.

19/01133/COMIND Triangle Field – Hungerford RFC Permanent barrier fencing - No Objection providing no advertising is placed on the barrier

19/01106/HOUSE 4 Bath Road –No Objections,

19/001112/HOUSE Hopgrass Open Barn – No Objections

19/001217/HOUSE 2 Lamb Close –No Objections

19/00975/LBC2 Parsonage Farm – No Objections

19/01297/HOUSE and 19/01298/LBC2 Bridge House – Proposed Support

19/01166/FULD 10,10a,11 and 12 High St – UK Land Ltd Change of use from shop and offices to residential, to form 2No two bed cottages and 1No one bed flat. Action: **Item was deferred until next meeting** and response date extended in order to arrange a site visit.

This was carried out on Friday 21st with the applicant agent and three councillors in attendance.

Cllr Gaines (Chair E & P)

H&T Report For Main Town Council meeting

1st July 2019

Taxi rank under the railway bridge

We have had a meeting with taxi drivers in the town who have suffered abuse from delivery drivers whilst parked in the bay. They understand that deliveries can only be carried out up until 11:30 am but some drivers are delivering outside of that time period. We are speaking to West Berkshire Road and Traffic safety to try and resolve this issue.

Pigeons - Ongoing

Green cabinet under the bridge - has been re-painted

Parking congestion in Atherton crescent

Site meeting with West Berkshire has been held, and additional yellow lines and bollards will be put in place in order to try and alleviate the problem.

Grass Cutting

Cllr Benneyworth will investigate with WBC and report back to the next meeting. A review of grass cutting areas will also be considered where biodiversity might be a more beneficial approach

Bulpit Lane Pedestrian safety

Currently investigating improvements adjacent to the playground and Football grounds

Speed limit reduction across the Common - Ongoing

Smarten Up Hungerford – No report

New noticeboards under the bridge – Ongoing

Recreation, Amenities and War Memorials – Report for Full Council June 2019

Marsh lane Allotments - lease now signed by Myself and the Town Clerk.

Freehold - Registration Bridge Street War Memorial

Following a quote for legal costs, HTC has instructed our solicitor to proceed with an application to the Land Registry.

Skate Park Metal Work

The contractor has been instructed to proceed with painting the metalwork in blue.

Triangle Field Car Park/Croft Field Garden Room Resin Floor and Patio

The original quote had been split into three sections. KK & HS met with the contractor and discussed in more detail. The cost could be reduced by completing the whole job. The contractor requoted favourably as one whole project. Committee proposed acceptance. HS negotiated a further discount of £600. Contractor will advise a start date to complete both projects asap...

The fire exit doors will also be replaced at the Croft. The drop Bollard on the Croft car park has been deferred to allow discussion with the Nursery School.

Tree Maintenance program

There's lots of work required on trees located on and around HTC assets. We are prioritising the most urgent following a meeting with our tree surgeon. Those overhanging the highway will take priority. HTC will need to budget for outstanding works when budgets are set in 2020.

Conclusion

Overall a very busy month. Lots of projects now agreed. Contractors now instructed to complete planned budgeted works. Huge thanks to the office staff, a huge amount of work required behind the scenes.

We are now looking at the results of recent H&S Walk-a-rounds. The sheds at Fairfield's allotments have been flagged as have the gardens at the War Memorial.