

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Extra Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 2nd August 2021 at 6.30pm in the Library, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs Simpson, Winser, Downe, Alford, Fyfe, Schlanker, Shatford, Yakar-Wells and Knight (entered at 6.40pm).

In attendance: Sarah Hennessey (Deputy Town Clerk).

EFC2021008 Note apologies for absence – Councillors Hudson, Chicken and Mills. District Councillors Benneyworth, Coles and Rowles.

EFC2021009 Declarations of interest – Cllrs Winser and Simpson – Item 11.

EFC2021010 Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting of 5th July 2021, and outcome of actions

Proposed: Cllr Downe

Seconded: Cllr Winser

Resolution: To approve the minutes of 5th July 2021 as a true record.

The list of actions and outcomes was read out.

EFC2021011 Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated along with copies of invoices) for July

Proposed: Cllr Shatford

Seconded: Cllr Downe

Resolution: To authorise the cheque run for July totalling £22,983.87. Two abstentions.

EFC2021012 Propose Year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report

Proposed: Cllr Shatford

Seconded: Cllr Schlanker

Resolution: To authorise the accounts with a positive variance of £7,893.00.

EFC2021013 Ratify recommendation by R&A to replace 2 surfaces under equipment at Bulpit Lane

(private report circulated)

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Yakar-Wells

Resolution: To ratify the recommendation by R&A to replace 2 surfaces under equipment at Bulpit Lane in the sum of £5,832.00 + VAT.

EFC2021014 Ratify recommendation by H&T to pursue WBC for improved access to EV Chargers

(refer to report)

Proposed: Cllr Downe

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: To ratify the recommendation by H&T to write to WBC with proposals on actions for improved access to EV Chargers.

Meeting closed at 7.47pm.

REPORTS

Item 14:

HTC Requests to WBC re EV Charging

As part of the Town Council's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality in the town, Hungerford Town Council Highways and Transport Committee have been considering measures to ensure that EV ownership and usage is as unconstrained as possible for all car and van using residents of the town. The conclusion is that EV take up is likely to be most constrained where residents do not have access to off-street parking where they would be able to provide their own electricity supply to an EV Charge Point.

With EV ownership now starting to grow rapidly (8%+ of 2021 YTD new car sales, increasing model choices, tax and grant incentives and the looming 2030 petrol/diesel new sales ban) the significant proportion of Hungerford residences without off-street parking need to become EV owning enabled. Hungerford Town Council therefore asks WBC to urgently consider and implement the following actions:-

1. **Lamppost / bollard kerbside charge points** – there are currently 8 of these operational in Hungerford. Usage is thought to be very low since their installation 2 years ago and without dedicated adjacent parking bays this is likely to remain the case. If residents cannot reliably access the points to charge their car to go to work they won't get an EV, and without more EVs the bays won't be dedicated!

Requested Action. First - start progressively allocating dedicated EV Only bays next to these charge points. Start with the charge point in **Park Street** (where there is a parking permit holding resident with an all electric car, and we understand there isn't space contention). The charge point in **Canal Walk** would be an additional good place. **Second** – pro-actively plan additional kerbside charge points around the town with dedicated parking bays at least for, say, the hours 6pm-9am.

2. **“Fast” Charge Points planned to be installed in Station Road Car Park** – we understand that these 4x 7kW/22kW points will be installed soon for resident and visitor use.

Requested Action. Any Hungerford resident with a current paid WBC resident parking permit should be allowed free anytime access to the Station Road car park. The existing car park access uses an ANPR system which would just need the vehicle registration numbers for permit-holding residents to provide free parking access. Permit holders have already paid for their town parking. Then they could make use of the 4 charge points at times to suit their life styles.

3. **Further car park based “Fast” or preferably, “Rapid”(50kW+) Charge Point Plans.**

Requested Action. WBC's charge point plans need to pro-actively prepare for the likely scenario whereby by 2025 around half new car sales are likely to be EVs and by 2030 that more than a third of vehicles in use will be EVs. Rapid charge points will allow greater throughput of vehicles using an individual charge point. Additional, faster charge points will be needed so that EV usage (and the resulting environmental benefits) are not constrained by charging capacity for on-street parking residents.

4. **Develop and implement a charge point booking system for Fast and Rapid charge points.**

Requested Action. Set up a booking system for the “Fast” and “Rapid” charging points in car parks so that EV owners can be assured they will be able to get fuel as and when they need it. Oxfordshire's “Park and Charge” initiative provides a model for the availability of reliable, reservable charge points as a forward-looking enabler of EV usage.

5. **Expansion of the WBC car-sharing infrastructure.**

Requested Action. Hungerford, with its rail and bus connectivity would provide an ideal opportunity to expand the planned WBC EV car sharing scheme beyond Newbury for potential use by low-car usage and low second-car usage households as well as visitors arriving and leaving by train.

6. **Sovereign Housing owned communal parking areas.** Hungerford has a significant population of residents who are tenants of Sovereign.

Requested Action. WBC need to be asking questions of Sovereign Housing as their main housing provider about how and when they will be enabling their residents to become EV users by providing charge point infrastructure on their parking estate.

Mayors report July/August 2021

EV Show

This month started with me opening the first Electric Vehicle show in Hungerford. The day was hugely successful and extremely well attended. I was actually amazed at the choice of vehicles currently available on the market to suit a wide range of budgets. I was very drawn to the electric bikes on show, I look forward to exploring them further. There were so many suggestions from those attending, they highlighted concerns about charging points for those who don't have off street parking. As a council we will need to consider these points and plan locations and improve upon them in the future. One of the main points raised was the need to make all EV charging point parking spaces designated to EV's only. It was also suggested a bank of EV chargers in one place would make it easier to signpost to tourists visiting the town. HTC hopes to widen this discussion further, talking to local hospitality businesses. Congratulations to the HEAT team for putting this well organised event together.

HADCAF Summer Festival

I was thrilled to see the return of the town's much-loved summer festival, I was lucky enough to attend the art exhibition at Chilton Foliat, I was as impressed as ever with the incredible artwork on show. Congratulations to Caroline Lumley and team for making the 2021 festival a great success under ever changing rules and regulations.

Medical Screening

I don't normally mention this type of thing in the Mayors report but actually thought it's about time I did. Hungerford is so lucky to have the breast screening unit visiting and in easy reach of those needing to use the service. I have many friends who (without this screening) may not be as healthy as they are now. It's a great rural service and I'm extremely grateful to have it so close by. In less than a 2-week period I'd been screened and received my results. I encourage you all to attend your appointments if invited to.

H2036 Public Consultations

I attended both consultation days held in the Corn Exchange this month, the turnout was steady and consultation responses continue to come in. I can't stress the importance of these consultations enough. If you live in the town, it's so important to make your views known. The decisions on where you'd like new houses to be built in Hungerford is in your hands, don't miss your opportunity. To participate please click the link below. <https://www.hungerford2036.info//comments.php>

Hungerford Town Football Club

I was delighted to attend the new changing rooms pavilion opening at HTFC. MP Laura Farris officially opened the pavilion which was attended by invited guests. The facilities are looking really smart, the project took longer than intended thanks to COVID. The club continues to go from strength to strength, they are already planning many more club improvements in the future. I'd like to wish them every success.

Police Unity Tour 2021

I attended the start of the 2021 Unity Tour. Although we had an early 7.30am start in the rain, nothing dampened the spirits of the riders and their families, it's always a very moving event, as we remember

officers who've lost their lives in the line of duty. All money raised helps, to support the families who've been devastated by the loss of their loved ones. The names of the lost officers are read out in turn by those who are riding to represent them. The list of officers lost in the last year are also read out and this year they included the death of local officer PC Andrew Harper. Thank you for requesting my attendance again, it was lovely to catch up with you all, your courage is so inspiring.

COVID Community Awards

A fun filled afternoon was had by all at our COVID Community Awards ceremony. Guest were invited to be rewarded for their exceptional efforts throughout the pandemic as nominated by the public. I had a lovely time being able to recognise those within our community who really stepped up to support those requiring a little support whilst shielding or through illness. It is always a privilege to be in your company. I hope you all enjoyed the event as much as we did. Special thanks to businesses and individuals who supported this community event, it really is very appreciated. To all of those awarded last Saturday..... A HUGE BIG THANK YOU!

My Special thanks to Deputy Town Clerk Sarah Hennessey who organised the event so beautifully and to Town Clerk Claire Barnes and husband Barney for the deliciously cooked food. Details of all nominees and sponsors of the event can be found in local press.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer break! I Hope the weather decides to brighten up again soon and you enjoy a little more freedom than we had last year.

Cllr Helen Simpson
Mayor of Hungerford

H2036 Report to:

Full Council meeting August 2021.

Current Activities

Following the two initial public consultations about the 4 potential sites for new homes, further online consultation responses have been received. Even so only a small minority of residents (around 2%) have taken the opportunity to comment on the potential housing sites.

The H2036 website includes all of the materials exhibited at the public sessions and has an interactive consultation response facility for each of the sites. The Hungerford 2036 Project Team strongly encourage all residents to view the online materials and contribute their insights on the sites being considered.

We anticipate holding further exhibition events in August and early September before this consultation closes. The H2036 Team would also welcome suggestions for groups and locations which would be suitable and worthwhile for further physical sessions.

The H2036 Team ask that all councilors use whatever local contacts they have to encourage as many residents as possible to review the potential housing sites and provide any comments and insights through the website.

Signed: John Downe, Joint Chair H2036, 5/7/2021

Police Report

HTC UPDATE AUGUST 2021

It's a very short update from us this month because there hasn't been a lot of reported crime.

During the period of 1st July – 30th July there has been no reports of Anti-social behaviour in the town. 1 reported shoplifting and 1 reported criminal damage.

The current set up of the team is 1 x Inspector, 1 x Sergeant, 2 x Police Constables and 5 x PCSOs to cover the Hungerford and Downlands area. Our third Police Constable joined the team this week.

The team are contactable by email but this should not be used in an emergency or for reporting crime as it is not monitored 24/7. The email address is below –

HungerfordandDownlandsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

If you have any community events for which you would like representation from your local NHPT, please contact us via the above email address. While we cannot guarantee we will always be able to attend, we will make every effort to do so.

We will be at the Emergency Services Charity Day at Cobbs Farm 14th August 10am -4pm.
Please encourage local people to sign up for Thames Valley Alert. As well as local crime information, you can receive details of the latest scams.
You can follow us on Twitter @TVP_WestBerks and on Facebook at TVP West Berkshire.
And finally a plea to keep reporting incidents to us via 101, the TVP website (www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or 999, in an emergency.
We sometimes find that news travels fast round a community but if no one tells us, we don't know about it.