

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Simpson, Winsor, Fyfe, Downe, Alford, Chicken, Shatford, Lewis, Knight and Keates
Also: West Berkshire Council (WBC) District Cllrs James Cole and Dennis Benneyworth.
Representatives from Penny Post and Newbury News
Members of public: Mark Greenwell
In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk)

Police Report: The police were not in attendance but did submit a report. **See attached.**

The Deputy Mayor invited Mark Greenwell (prospective councillor) to attend some committee meetings in January and Council will consider co-option in February. Mark will attend with a personal statement.

- FC2022001** **Note apologies for absence** – Councillors Yakar-Wells and Mills
District Cllr Claire Rowles also sent her apologies
- FC2022002** **Declarations of interest** – None
- FC2022003** **Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council meeting of 6th December 2021**
Proposed: Cllr Winsor
Seconded: Cllr Alford
Resolution: To approve minutes of 6th December 2021 as a true record. 2 abstentions
Outcome of actions: Complete
- FC2022004** **Receive Mayor's Report** – Not received due to illness.
- FC2022005** **Receive District Councillor's Reports** – District Cllr James Cole (JC) advised the Western Area Planning meeting involving Chestnut Walk went ahead resulting in the housing committee at West Berks agreeing to consider our concerns. JC was asked if he could keep in touch with Susan Halliwell at WBC about the design. JC confirmed it was going through Executive and Cllr Hillary Cole is dealing.
The 30mph speeding reduction is now in place. WBC are not permitted to put up any more prominent signage but Town & Manor may be able to. Purchase of Speed Indicator Devices will be discussed at the forthcoming H&T committee meeting.
Conservation training is now scheduled for 24/1/2022. There is also some funding for professional help.
Mick Quelch of Public Protection Partnership (PPP) has been in touch with the Co-op following our complaint of the state of the Queen Ann building. Pigeons have been spotted inside the building and grass is growing out the gutter. Co-op are now acting on this. The Clerk will pass on details of the damage and costs incurred to the Town Hall by pigeons for their info.
Thames Water are upgrading Hungerford's Sewage Treatment Works.
- ACTION:** Circulate on social media the WBC general statement on Covid.

District Cllr Dennis Benneyworth (DB) advised remedial works required to the verge and footway at Kennedy Meadow have been scheduled. This is following some damage caused by heavy plant equipment. The centre of the roundabout at Lancaster Park remains unfinished.

Covid testing is taking place at John O Gaunt school tomorrow ahead of the pupils returning. Thanks were expressed to Cllr John Downe, Cllr Jon Shatford and Cllr Nick Schlanker for their help at the Cricket Club during the vaccinations.

ACTION: DB will chase up the progress with the EV chargers due to be installed at the Station. HTC are waiting for costs of upgrading and dates for installation. Clerk to remind DB. Concerns with St John's Hall application have been lodged.

- FC2022006 Health & Safety – Any complaints or concerns, including Impact of Coronavirus** – In line with National Association of Local Council's (NALC) recommendation, a letter has been sent to our local MP in support of remote meetings. Laura Farris MP has acknowledged receipt and has written to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on our behalf. The Mayor stressed the importance of obtaining flexibility for meetings with Covid cases being high and also for inclusivity generally.
- FC2022007 Hungerford 2036 – Receive a report from the Project Team** – Cllr Downe advised H2036 did not meet due to Covid.
- FC2022008 Receive Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)** – E&P met. The only concern was the St John's Hall application which will be called in.
- ACTION:** Refer to the planning permission for Station Yard to see what was previously agreed as four houses are now under construction.
Nothing has been heard about further about development on the Oakes Site.
JC advised the beech tree (bottom of Everland Road) has a fault and a decision (unreversible) has been made to take it down. X rays show dead inside the tree. JC had a private consultant check it and his view was it only had 10 years of life left which is not enough in planning terms to save the tree.
H&T did not meet. R&A did not meet. Large projects for future discussion include the Skate Park, Croft Field and all-weather pitch at John O Gaunt School.
The F&GP report has been circulated (**see attached**).
- FC2022009 Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated with copies of invoices) for November**
Proposed: Cllr Shatford
Seconded: Cllr Winser
Resolution: Agree payment run for December totalling £22,509.76.
- FC2022010 Propose year to date accounts** – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report.
Proposed: Cllr Winser
Seconded: Cllr Simpson
Resolution: Agree year to date accounts with a positive variance of £22,777 mainly due to phasing issues.
- FC2022011 Propose revised Band D Council tax figure following receipt of tax base.**
The tax base has reduced so the following amendments were agreed.
Proposed: Cllr Winser
Seconded: Cllr Downe
Resolution: Increase Ear Marked Reserves for Swimming Pool House from £3,000 to £12,000. Agree Precept request of £328,357. Band D figure of £130.75 showing a percentage increase from last year of 2.6%, equating to £3.31.
- FC2022012 Consider acceptance of alterations to floor plan to accommodate a 'changing places toilet' at Croft Field Centre** – No plans were received from the architect because of delays due to Covid.
- FC2022013 Any other reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals** – None received.

PART 2

Confidential

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest as per the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

FC20220014 Leisure Strategy update - WBC devolution met as scheduled on 7th Dec 2021. They are supportive of the application to devolve the site at JOG School to HTC for a 99year lease period subject to agreement of the necessary Heads of Terms. They expect this would take until April to agree.

ACTION: Clerk to chase. Delaying to April will cause problems with funding applications.

FC20220015 Swimming Pool House – Consider improvements to property (refer to Cllr Downe’s report)

The Part 2 report was discussed.

Proposed: Cllr Downe

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Instruct Insta Group to install cavity and loft insulation at a cost of £2824. One abstention (Cllr Shatford).

ACTION: Add to R&A agenda to discuss heating options.

Proposed: Cllr Downe

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Contact HALC for a legal contact and advice on process.

Propose acceptance of quotation for electric works

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Knight

ACTION: **Resolution:** Instruct letting agent contractor to proceed with electrical works as required following the survey at a cost of £1600 plus vat.

FC20220016 Consider request from Healthmatic for contribution towards timer works

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Winsor

ACTION: **Resolution:** Not to pay contribution. Advise Healthmatic 100% refund required.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

HTC UPDATE January 2022

Police Report

The team have had a busy month with various engagements. We laid a wreath at Remembrance and attended both the light switch on and the Hungerford Extravaganza. It was great that these events were able to go ahead this year.

During the last month there has been 2 reports of anti-social behaviour in the town and three reports of Criminal Damage, two of which are rural crime related in locations surrounding the town.

At the beginning of December a report was made of a residential burglary in the town – this is currently under investigation.

There has been one reported theft from vehicle which has occurred on Hungerford Common. These thefts are usually opportunistic – so we urge those parking at beauty spot locations, such as the Common, Combe Gibbet and such like to take all personal belongings with them.

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.

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.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 4TH JANUARY 2022

MONTH 9: DECEMBER 2021 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT

101 FINANCE:

100% of the Annual Precept has been received. 44.2% of the Year to Date Bank Interest has been received to date, awaiting Newbury Building Society's interest payment.

102 ADMINISTRATION:

Net Income over Expenditure £427 positive variance.

103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:

Expenditure £803 over Budget due to phasing issue. There is £506 of unallocated Grant Budget available.

104 POOL HOUSE:

There is £75 outstanding from 2020-2021, this will be paid off by March 2022.

105 CONTINGENCY:

No Expenditure recorded this month. There is £5,159 remaining Budget available.

106 TOURISM SUPPORT BUDGET:

No Expenditure recorded this month. £2,500 remaining Budget available.

109 HUNGERFORD 2036 PROJECT:

No Expenditure recorded this month, £3,044 remaining budget available.

201 RECREATION & AMENITIES:

Net Income over Expenditure £683 positive variance.

202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:

Net Expenditure £220 negative variance. This includes November & December's AES Contractor's invoices.

203 ST SAVIOURS:

Net Income over Expenditure £450 positive variance. Burial Fee Income £590 below budget.

204 CROFT FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure £56 negative variance. Income down by £363.

205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:

No Expenditure this month.

206 TRIANGLE FIELD:

No Expenditure recorded this month. No HRFC rent income recorded this month.

301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

Net Income over Expenditure £20,280 positive variance as invoices paid in November. Christmas Lights donations £420 negative variance.

302 HIGHWAYS:

Net Income over Expenditure £580 positive variance.

303 CCTV:

No Expenditure recorded this month.

304 TOURISM & ECONOMY:

No Expenditure recorded this month.

402 CIL FUNDS:

No receipt of funds recorded this month.

Monthly Income down by £1,835 and Expenditure down by £24,612 giving a Net Income over Expenditure positive variance of £22,777.

Year to date Net Income over Expenditure shows a positive variance of £21,591.

Claire Winser

Chair of F&GP

1st January 2022