

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Simpson, Fyfe, Downe, Alford, Shatford, Knight, Hudson, Keates, Carlson, Schlanker and Yakar-Wells

Also: West Berkshire Council (WBC) District Cllrs James Cole (JC), Dennis Benneyworth (DB) and Claire Rowles (CR)

Representatives from Penny Post, Newbury News, Hungerford Surgery, Andrew Burbidge and several members of public.

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk)

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

Report from Hungerford Surgery: Practise Manager Mike Hall talked through a power point presentation (**see attached**) explaining the problems faced and the measures being taking to remain sustainable. Staff shortages are a national problem. Hungerford Surgery are recruiting for two GPs and GP trainees. Dr Walters, a salary GP, has left the practice and in June Dr Rowe will be relocating to Scotland. They also face problems due to: Covid, sickness of staff, a huge number of daily calls and unstainable numbers of appointments a day. This is not helped by patients not attending their appointments (DNAs) which happens around 95 times a month. Wherever possible pressure is being taken off the GPs by the nursing team and by additional roles in primary care, i.e., physio and pharmacy. Locum cover comes at a significant cost. If the practise list is closed to new patients, then this will be for a minimum period of around 9 months. The surrounding surgeries are aware, and nothing has been agreed by the CCG at this stage.

Dr Sodhi highlighted the huge gap between demand and resource and how they are trying to firefight every day. Safety is of upmost priority, and they are trying everything they can. She pleaded for some understanding from patients and the community. There is such uncertainty, but they hope and want to be sustainable.

In answer to questions, Dr Sodhi confirmed that 95 DNAs is on par, and these are almost unnoticeable for GPs as they are so busy, but it impacts on nursing time and admin. It is a challenge to recruit and retain newly qualified GPs for Hungerford due to the high cost of living. Yes, they do home visits on a priority basis, although Covid reduced this. This is worked around each GP's session which is supposed to be 4.5 hours (16 appointments) but it is always longer. Patients requiring emergency appointments will be seen. The wait for routine appointments has increased from 2 to 4 weeks. Continuity for patients is being eroded and it is very sad.

The Mayor thanked Dr Sodhi and Mike Hall and appreciates the concerns the surgery is facing which is not unique to Hungerford. It is important to get the right message out to the public. District Councillor Claire Rowles offered to help spread the word.

- FC20220043** **Note apologies for absence** - Councillors Chicken, Mills, Winsor, Lewis
The Mayor advised Cllr Rupert Mills has resigned due to heavy workload. He was thanked for his contribution to the Council. There is some interest in the vacancy, but this will need to be advertised first.
- FC20220044** **Declarations of interest** - None
- FC20220045** **Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting of 7th February 2022 and Extra Part 2 Full Council minutes of 22nd February 2022, and outcome of actions**

Proposed: Cllr Shatford

Seconded: Cllr Downe

Resolution: To approve minutes of 7th February 2022 as a true record. 1 abstention

Outcome of actions: There is one outstanding action; to arrange a meeting between the schools and West Berks Council.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Keates

Resolution: To approve minutes of 22nd February 2022 as a true record. 1 abstention

FC20220046

Receive Mayor's Report – See attached

FC20220047

Mayors thank you! – The Mayor expressed her thanks to Andrew Burbidge who worked tirelessly at the Covid vaccination centre. Overall, 8000 jabs were given at the Cricket Club venue. She described Andrew as an absolute superstar and awarded him with a Community coin and certificate. A round of applause took place and photos were taken.

FC20220048

Receive District Councillor's Reports – DB paid tribute to Bill Acworth, David Clayton and Ron Tarry. He said their passing is a huge loss to the community. All were Freedom of the Town awardees.

DB advised Hungerford has done well in the recent West Berks Council budget. £200,000 has been allocated for highway improvements. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Fyfe for his survey which has helped achieve this funding. Also allocated is £140k for the Hungerford Leisure Centre Modular Exercise studio and £90,380 for Hungerford Primary kitchen expansion to enable continued delivery of universal infant free school fees £90,380.

JC advised in response to the complaints about flooding on the A4, a broken gully connection will be fixed and 600m of the road will be resurfaced.

There have been other complaints, one about the road surface breaking away in Coldharbour Road, another about the state of the footway in The Croft and Church St, and also a complaint from Clarke's Gardens. These will be discussed at HTC's next H&T meeting. The Mayor thanked Penny Post for bringing CEO Nigel Lynn's attention to the work required at the marketplace and around Hungerford.

ACTION: Publicise how public can report problems to WBC.

Cllr Fyfe queried why WBC are not inspecting every road annually. It was answered that inspections are happening just less often which is due to lack of resources.

ACTION: Find out when the EV chargers will be in operation. Mayor and District Cllrs will chase. Kofi from WBC will be coming to the Town Meeting with detail on recycling figures. The new recycling bins have reduced litter but have been contaminated with non-recyclable litter. CR is challenging a CIL case where residents have lost out financially due to admin errors. She argued it should only be about what is chargeable on the property.

The proposed cuts to the direct trains to Paddington is a huge blow. Journey time is almost doubling and 600,000 passengers a year are potentially affected. Intercity Express Trains have gone, and the Thames Turbos are very filthy and slow. The sidings at Bedwyn were previously extended to accommodate the IETs. CR highlighted a lack of security/safety at the station.

ACTION: District Cllrs will lobby Nigel Lynn regarding three main areas of concern in Hungerford, namely the problems mentioned above with the surgery and train service and as discussed at our last Full Council, the financial issues the school and nursery are facing.

FC20220049

Health & Safety – Any complaints or concerns, including Impact of Coronavirus, and lifting of restrictions – As office staff are working partly from home, arrangements will need to be made to manage training of a new staff member.

FC20220050

Hungerford 2036 – Receive a report from the Project Team – See attached

FC20220051

Receive Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report)

F&GP (Finance & General Purposes) E&P (Environment & Planning) H&T (Highways & Transport) R&A (Recreation & Amenities) – Committees haven't met apart from E&P which is as per the minutes. F&GP report **see attached**.

- FC20220052** **Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated along with copies of invoices) for February**
Proposed: Cllr Simpson
Seconded: Cllr Shatford
Resolution: Agree payment run for February totalling £12,938.92.
- FC20220053** **Propose Year to date accounts** – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report
Proposed: Cllr Shatford
Seconded: Cllr Simpson
Resolution: Agree year to date accounts with a positive variance of £44,645.
- FC20220054** **Propose change to Financial Regulations in relation to petty cash and purchases** – Refer to report
Proposed: Cllr Shatford
Seconded: Cllr Keates
Resolution: Agree changes to financial regulations as drafted.
- FC20220055** **Croft Field improvement project – Delegate to working party to draft final design to bring back to full council**
Proposed: Cllr Simpson
Seconded: Cllr Schlanker
Resolution: Agree to delegate to working party. Cllrs Yakar-wells and Fyfe to be involved.
- FC20220056** **Receive update from Skate Park/Pump Track Working Party** – The Mayor advised there have been over 100 responses to the survey. All will be invited to attend the Town Meeting where skaters/youth groups will be available to talk about the project. The tender is being drawn up ahead of R&A based on the feedback from the survey.
- FC20220057** **Consider request from Gigaclear to carry out network installation across the Triangle Field car park**
Proposed: Cllr Simpson
Seconded: Cllr Knight
Resolution: Allow access to Gigaclear to put a cable through the existing outreach conduit and accept the £100 payment.
- FC20220058** **Platinum Jubilee arrangements – Update from working party meeting**
A couple of public meetings have taken place and the next will be a closed meeting for the committee only. This will take place on 15th March 7.30pm at the Club. The main jubilee event will take place on Sunday 5th June from 2pm to 7pm which will be a picnic on the Croft green open to everyone. There are no plans for the Queens Green Canopy but 1000 trees were planted on the Marsh recently as a lockdown wood.
ACTION: Consider having a commemorative Jubilee item such as a mug, plate or coin. It was suggested this could be sponsored for the school children.
- FC20220059** **Town Meeting preparations** – Several representatives from WBC will attend, Jon Winstanley, Gabrielle Mancini, Kofi Adu-Gyamfi. It was noted the venue for the Town Meeting needs to change as the Corn Exchange is now unavailable due to floor works.
ACTION: Book the Croft Hall for the Town Meeting which will take place on 30/3/22, 7pm with refreshments from 6.30pm.
ACTION: Extend invitation to Laura Farris MP and GWR.
- FC20220060** **Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals** – Cllr Knight advised a new trust is being set up; Hungerford Community Sports and Well-being Trust, to manage

the new 3G pitch at John O Gaunt school. The football Club, the school and Town Council will be members.

A Ukrainian flag will be flown on the Town hall. If anyone would like to start a collection point the Town & Manor would accommodate.

ACTION: Fly a Ukrainian flag on the flagpole outside the office.

Cllr Downe advised that HEAT (Hungerford Environmental Action Team) applied for a lottery grant to help Hungerford become more energy efficient and have been successful!

They will be looking to HTC to support. Home energy costs are increasing and fuel prices in Hungerford are much higher than elsewhere. Press were asked to note this.

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.

FC20220061 Propose acceptance of Contractor's quotations

Proposed: Cllr Downe

Seconded: Cllr Keates

Resolution: Accept annual quote from Penny Post for £3,300 to continue their services. Accept this as an exceptional service.

ACTION: Review the £3k limit at the next F&GP meeting.

FC20220062 Triangle Field Management Agreement – Receive update from Working party

ACTION: Chase our solicitor, copying in the working party, for a response and signing of the contract ahead of 1st April.

FC20220063 Consider increase of peppercorn rent for HRFC clubhouse currently set at £10 per annum. 2022 is fourteenth anniversary - Cllr Winsor

Proposed: Cllr Hudson

Seconded: Cllr Downe

Resolution: Leave this unchanged. 2 objections.

Meeting closed 9pm

HTC POLICE REPORT MARCH 2022

Anti-social behaviour in the last month there have been two reports of anti –social behaviour in the town. The team are continuing to patrol the “hotspot” areas.

Criminal Damage – 2 reports. Both of which occurred in the rural areas on the outskirts of the town.

Theft – One occurred in town and one being a theft of catalytic converter from a vehicle parked in Eddington.

Burglary - 3 reports have been made in the last month. One to a business premise in Charnham, one in town and one rural to outbuildings.

The team have arrested a male on suspicion of Burglary that occurred in the Hungerford area in early February.

Shopliftings – On the 17th Feb a male was arrested for shoplifting after being stopped by staff in The Arcade.

A further shoplifting occurred at the CO-OP on the 26th February.

Neighbourhood Police Team Activity

This past month the team have been into Hungerford Primary School to talk with the foundation year group about keeping safe. They will be back in at the end of the month to do an input to the older children on internet safety.

Our Wildlife Officer has been working with the RSPCA across West Berkshire. They have carried out address checks after receiving information that animals had been mistreated.

We continue to carry out rural operations with our counterparts in Wiltshire and South and Vale to prevent, deter and detect rural crime offences.

The Team

The current set up of the Hungerford and Downlands Neighbourhood Police Team is 1 x Inspector, 1 x Sergeant, 3 x Police Constables and 5 x Police Community Support Officers.

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.

Other Messages

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.

Kind Regards

The Hungerford and Downlands NHPT

Mayors Report March Full Council 2022 – Cllr Helen Simpson

Jubilee Community Picnic Sunday 5th June 2022 2-7pm

A committee has now been established for the organisation of the Queens Jubilee community picnic. Cllr Jerry Keates and carnival organiser Neale Marney will lead a group of enthusiastic volunteers to pull this community event together for Hungerford.

I am thrilled we will be celebrating the monumental achievement of our Monarch's 75 years on the throne. Here's hoping for a beautiful sunny day to enjoy with friends and family. If you would like to contribute in **anyway**, please contact jubileehungerford@gmail.com

HTC will be running a Beacon Lighting event on the Thursday before at the Triangle field (details to follow).

Town Meeting Wednesday 30th March 7pm The Corn Exchange

We are pleased to announce, this year's annual town meeting will be in person. This is a public meeting which provides you with an opportunity to chat with Cllr's and learn more about some of the exciting projects planned for 2022-2023. Many groups and organisations will be present on the evening, to include, Police, Schools, WBC, Town & Manor, Smarten Up Hungerford, H2036 Neighbourhood plan. Please pop along to this informal meeting. I promise no long presentations,

just lots of enthusiasm and listening ears. I'm really looking forward to seeing and chatting with you all again.

David Clayton – Hungerford Theatre Company

I was thrilled to attend the youth production of 'Jungle Book' last weekend. The cast were all fantastic, I was so impressed with the, enormous amount of lines which were remembered and performed with such confidence. The production was dedicated to the memory of David Clayton. I attended David's funeral last Monday, the service was a lovely reflection of David's life, he will be remembered for his commitment to the theatre company and also as a Freedom of the Town awardee in 2016.

More sad news.

Hungerford has recently lost two more stalwarts from our community the first was Former Cllr Bill Acworth. Bill was a town Cllr for 40yrs, he also served as a district Cllr. He was founder member of HEAT (Hungerford environmental action team) and worked hard to secure and develop the allotments in Marsh Lane. Bill was also given the Freedom of the Town in 2013. Bill was completely dedicated to the countryside and the environment. He will be sadly missed by so many.

Ron Tarry sadly passed away last week. Ron was a former Mayor, serving twice, and at the time of the town's tragedy. Ron was forced to manage the attention of the worlds media and also to console the families who lost loved ones in the tragedy. This was one of Hungerford's most turbulent times in history.

Ron was a member of the Hungerford Football Club for over 70yrs, serving as once manager, chair and more recently president of the club. Hungerford is a poorer place without Ron in it. Personally, I will miss his support and encouragement throughout my time as Mayor. I was lucky enough to be told by Ron that I was doing a grand job as town Mayor. I will be forever grateful to him for his kindness and commitment to our community.

HTC wish to forward our condolence to all the family and friends who knew them.

Bewley Homes

Claire Winser and I met with managing director of Bewley Homes Andrew Brooks. Claire and I were given a guided tour of the new affordable homes on the Bewley development on Salisbury Road. These new homes will be handed over to the local authority quite soon. Construction supply lead times still remain problematic at times.

Claire and I were impressed with the size and build quality of the two -bedroom homes which were all fitted with EV chargers and pepper potted around the development.

Andrew is keen to show his commitment to Hungerford's community and keen to support the town with a community project. I will be meeting with Andrew again soon to discuss the idea of a make -over for our treasured war memorial site. Claire and I informed Andrew that our newest Cllr is from the new development and discussed how successful the welcome packs were for all new residents to Hungerford. See photo attached.

News

I have recently received news from West Berks Council, Hungerford has been allocated £200k in their budget for footway improvements in Hungerford, a work schedule will be put together, priority given to the worst affected areas. I would like to thank Cllr Fyfe for his detailed report on the condition of Hungerford's footways. Work should commence later in the year.

I am also delighted that Hungerford will have some wild -flower matting on some of our green spaces in Hungerford (like that at Speen roundabout). I have been asking for some time, I'm so thrilled it will be laid in such an important Jubilee year.

Following a recent meeting Brian Quinn hosted with WBC's Chief Exec Nigel Lynn, it was pointed out that some of the footway areas around the market stalls could do with a bit of maintenance, we are now on the machine patching list of works to improve this area. Nigel Lynn has also requested WBC take a fresh look at coach parking within the town. More details will follow in due course. This is all great news for Hungerford!

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 7TH MARCH 2022

MONTH 11: JANUARY 2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT

101 FINANCE:

100% of the Annual Precept has been received. 38.4% 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 £2,731 positive variance.

103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:

No Expenditure recorded this month.

104 POOL HOUSE:

Net Income over Expenditure £330 negative variance due to property insulation costs paid this month. There is £75 outstanding from 2020-2021, this will be paid off by March 2022.

105 CONTINGENCY:

Net Expenditure £720 negative variance, Swimming Pool House insulation costs of £1,345 paid this month. There is £6,714 remaining Budget available.

106 TOURISM SUPPORT BUDGET:

No Expenditure this month. £1,358 remaining Budget available.

109 HUNGERFORD 2036 PROJECT:

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

201 RECREATION & AMENITIES:

Net Income over Expenditure £40 negative variance.

202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:

Net Income over Expenditure £62 negative variance.

203 ST SAVIOURS:

Net Income over Expenditure £1,370 positive variance. Burial Fee Income £654 above budget.

204 CROFT FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure £517 negative variance. Income down by £413.

205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:

Net Income over Expenditure £96 negative variance.

206 TRIANGLE FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure £74 negative variance.

301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

Net Income over Expenditure £518 positive variance. Christmas Lights donations from the Good Exchange, £518 positive variance.

302 HIGHWAYS:

Net Income over Expenditure £5,580 positive variance. The Bus Subsidy of £5,000 budgeted this month will be paid in month 12.

303 CCTV:

No Expenditure this month.

402 CIL FUNDS:

No receipt of funds recorded this month.

Monthly Income up by £666 and Expenditure down by £9,695 giving a Net Income over Expenditure positive variance of £10,361.

Year to date Net Income over Expenditure shows a positive variance of £44,645.

Claire Winser

Chair of F&GP

5th March 2022

Hungerford Town Council

Public Report

Report to:

Full Council meeting March 7th 2022.

Agenda Item No FC20220050

Current Activities

The Project Team met again during February to continue the evaluations of options for allocating sites to satisfy Hungerford's housing and sustainability requirements.

The project team has not yet reached a conclusion on their recommendations on the NDP development strategy and continue to work towards achieving a consensus conclusion.

Signed: John Downe, Joint Chair H2036, 7/3/2022

Hungerford Surgery Town Council Presentation March 2022

DR NITI SODHI – SENIOR PARTNER
MIKE HALL – PRACTICE MANAGER

Sustainability

Patient list size as at 1st March 2022 = 7,474 (Weighted list size = 7,946)

DOCTORS

Optimum number of GP *sessions = 32 per week

Sessions = 32 per week – x4 GP Partners +2 salaried GPs
Full time equivalent = 4.0 based on full time being x8 sessions

Since September 2021:

Sessions = 27 per week – x4 GP Partners +1 salaried GP
FTE = 3.3 (82%)

From June 2022:

Sessions = 21 per week – x3 GP Partners + 1 salaried GP
FTE = 2.5 (62%)

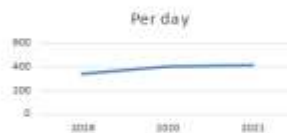
* A GP session = 15 day or 4.25 hours

Sustainability

DEMAND / WORKLOAD

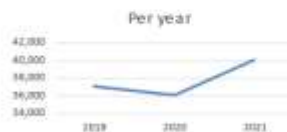
Incoming phone calls:

2019 = 339 per day / 106,000 for the year
2020 = 402 per day / 120,000 for the year
2021 = 420 per day / 126,000 for the year



Appointments:

2019 = 37,000 / 145 per day
2020 = *36,000 / 140 per day (*condensed into 10 months due to Covid)
2021 = 40,000 / 157 per day



An average of 60% of all appointments have been seen face to face throughout the pandemic

Tasks / Emails / Letters / Prescriptions / Messages

On average between 80 and 100 additional workload streams per doctor per day

Sustainability

Based on a widely accepted formula of 72 appointments per 1,000 patients each week and an average list size of 1,600 patients (per GP), the report, Safe Working in General Practice, proposes that GPs should be offering **115 appointments a week** – an average of 23 a day over five days.

For Hungerford this means that each of GPs should be offering 26 appointments per day

Appointments per GP

Feb 2021 = 32 per GP per day Feb 2022 = 38 per GP per day Jun 2022 = 50 per GP per day

Patients per GP List Size

6 session GP

Feb 2021 = 1,500 pts Feb 2022 = 2,000 pts Jun 2022 = 2,500 pts

Measures we are taking

- ▶ Recruitment of two GPs
- ▶ Locum cover – two plus sessions per week ongoing
- ▶ GP trainers course & practice accreditation visit
- ▶ GP trainees – August 2022
- ▶ Training and development of Nursing Team
- ▶ Quality Improvement Project / Care Planning
- ▶ Application to close the practice list to 'new' patients only

Measures we are taking

- ▶ Additional Roles in Primary Care:
 - First Contact Physio – January 2022
 - Mental Health Practitioner – January 2022
 - Clinical Pharmacist – April 2022
 - 2nd Pharmacy Technician – March 2022
 - HCA – March 2022
 - Phlebotomist – April 2022
 - Senior Administrator – January 2022

The Wider Picture

GP vacancies in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB) as at 4 March 2022

Berkshire = 15 inc. x5 in the Newbury & District

Oxfordshire = 21

Buckinghamshire = 10

Total in BOB = 46

"It's like being pelted by rocks" but don't just take our word for it

<https://twitter.com/ij/status/1498699091748036613>

Implications (of not being able to recruit GPs)

- ▶ Un-manageable demand / unsustainable workload
- ▶ Leading to increased prioritisation of workload
- ▶ Leading to longer waiting times for routine appointments
- ▶ A heightened risk of 'staff burn out'
- ▶ Increased concerns over the recruitment and retention of staff
- ▶ Potential loss of staff
- ▶ Low morale
- ▶ Dissatisfied patients