

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Simpson, Fyfe, Alford, Carlson, Keates, Greenwell, Schlanker, Yakar-Wells, Downe and Hudson.
Also: West Berks District Cllrs James Cole (JC), Dennis Benneyworth (DB)
Representatives from Penny Post, Newbury News and the Adviser
In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), Jon Winstanley (JW) from West Berks Council (WBC) and a few members of public.

Police Report: The police were not in attendance however a **Police Report is attached**. The Mayor added that she is disappointed to learn that the officers will be returning to Newbury to report in the mornings before coming to Hungerford. JC will try and do something about this as it is in the interest of all parties to be located in Hungerford. It has been discussed that an extension to the Hungerford tri-service station may enable this.

A member of public addressed Town Council presenting footage of a vehicle accident in the high street which caused damage to three buildings and resulted in the high street being closed for a period of time. **The power point presentation is attached**. She stressed WBC Highways has a duty of care for the safety of pedestrians, the preservation of the AONB and conservation area, and that there is an absolute need to resolve the highway issues. It was suggested the two most effective methods in this instance would be pinch points and speed bumps, and at a minimum there should be no overtaking in the high street. Speeding is the main issue but a 20mph limit may not be enough.

Councillors added that there have been instances of vehicles driving straight over the pedestrian crossings and the Atherton mini roundabout. There have been many near misses. Cllrs Hudson and Schlanker are looking for locations in the high street to site speed indicator devices (SIDs) where there is a clear view not obscured by trees. In addition to the speeding problem, buildings are being hit by lorries and traffic has increased from the new development. A balance needs to be achieved between traffic safety and accessibility as the A road is essential for the community and business.

JW advised WBC Highways has a duty of care to all, including the safety of pedestrians, and traffic management. He recommended that all the comments should be fed back through the Town Strategy Consultation which is live until midnight on 9th January. JW is happy to work with us and send a representative to our H&T committee meeting but first needs a balanced response from Hungerford through the consultation. He can assist with obtaining locations for SIDs but at present the traffic lights in place will give a false reading.

ACTION: Clerk to add this to the H&T agenda

A member of public introduced himself as representing six residents that live a mile out of Hungerford to the south. They have concerns with the traffic and safety of a footpath along Salisbury Road to Doves Farm which they feel is very dangerous.

Cllr Schlanker advised there is no footpath provision after Standen Manor, but the path is going to be made safer. The Mayor mentioned that there are vacancies on the council and a representative from that area of Hungerford may be interested to join.

FC2023001 Note apologies for absence – Cllr Knight, Winsor and Lewis
FC2023002 Declarations of interest – None

- FC2023003 Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting of 5th December 2022, and outcome of actions**
Proposed: Cllr Downe
Seconded: Cllr Schlanker
Resolution: To approve minutes of 5th December 2022 as a true record.
Outcome of actions:
The Mayor has received a response to her letter to the Leader of the WBC and is considering whether to respond. All other actions are complete apart from the following: -
ACTION: Cllr Schlanker and JC will arrange to attend a survey with WBC and the resident about the flooding problems.
- FC2023004 Receive Mayor's Report – See attached.**
- FC2023005 Receive District Councillor's Reports –** JC commented there are some interesting letters in the Newbury News about the issue concerning the Leader of the Council. He advised Thames Water has been clearing flooding by Cottrell Close but residents will have to act to sort the rat problem. Previously on numerous occasions Cllr Downe and the Mayor have requested an urgent response from a senior member at WBC on the progress of the EV chargers as we have been waiting 18 months for these to be installed. There is still no news.
ACTION: The Mayor will write to the CEO of WBC to explain the problem ahead of his visit to Full Council in March.
ACTION: Issue a press release from HTC expressing thanks to Jon Winstanley (WBC) for acting quickly to reopen the high street safely after the vehicle accident which occurred just before Christmas.
- FC2023006 Health & Safety – Any complaints or concerns.** No further items were discussed.
- FC2023007 Receive Committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report) –See F&GP report attached.**
- FC2023008 Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated along with copies of invoices) for November**
Proposed: Cllr Simpson
Seconded: Cllr Keates
Resolution: Agree payment run for December totalling £31,838.93
- FC2023009 Propose Year to date accounts –** refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report.
Proposed: Cllr Simpson
Seconded: Cllr Schlanker
Resolution: Agree year to date accounts as accurate.
- FC20230010 Consider environmental aims and objectives for inclusion in the Action Plan**
Cllr Greenwell thanked those that sent feedback. Some useful input had been received from Cllr Hudson about the grouping of the items which will be incorporated.
ACTION: Cllrs Greenwell and Downe will update the draft with the final input and will forward to the Clerk to check ahead of Feb Full Council.
- FC20230011 Discussion on future planning for the high street and demarking of retail area –** This agenda item arose from E&P due to several properties in Bridge Street applying for residential status. The question was asked as to which parts of the high street should be protected for retail. It was agreed a clear definition should become policy in our NDP. Concern was also raised over the ability of the pharmacy to serve the town's needs. This can also be discussed at the Town's Strategy meeting on 19th January, 6pm in the Town Hall.
- FC20230012 Propose replacement of streetlights at Prospect Road and Southview with LEDs at a cost of £8,000 (these are the last 8 streetlights eligible for adoption by West Berks Council) –**
Proposed: Cllr Simpson
Seconded: Cllr Yakar-Wells
ACTION: **Resolution:** Spend £8,000 upgrading the last 8 streetlights to LED for adoption by WBC.

- FC20230013 Consider support for a Soup Kitchen in Hungerford** – This is going ahead every Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm in Church Street Car Park. Soup and snacks will be served from a van to the vulnerable. The Foodbank is open on Wednesdays.
ACTION: Councillors to attend if they can for support. Extend the opening hours of the toilets for an hour.
- FC20230014 Propose Band D Council tax figure following receipt of tax base**
Proposed: Cllr Simpson
Seconded: Cllr Downe
Resolution: Agree Band D figure of £137.55 which is a 5.2% increase (due to a slight reduction in the taxbase).
ACTION: Request precept from WBC.
- FC20230015 Skate Park Project - Update on funding.** HTC has received confirmation that the CIL BID application has been successful, and we will receive £50,000 towards the project. Greenham Trust will be match funding this which will enable us to reach our target.
- FC20230016 Croft Field Project – Progress report.** A builder has been appointed and we are awaiting a start date for the works.
- FC20230017 Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals** – None

Meeting closed 8.30pm

HTC POLICE REPORT January 2023

I shall start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

December has been a quiet month in Hungerford Town. With no reported shopliftings

1 report of Anti-social behaviour

1 Criminal damage

1 theft – which was of number plates.

On the 13th December a vehicle collided with a property on the High Street causing substantial damage. This had meant a full road closure was in place until the buildings had been surveyed in daylight by a building inspector. Subsequently one lane has been opened to traffic and temporary traffic lights have been installed until the buildings have been repaired and deemed safe by building control.

An investigation into the incident is currently ongoing by our Roads Policing colleagues.

The team have been busy elsewhere with a spike in rural theft and burglary offences. Items taken have been Stihl equipment, trailers, quad bikes and such like. Targeted premises have been visited and crime prevention surveys have been carried out to prevent them from becoming repeat victims.

From the 9th January the remaining members of the team that have been based out of the TRI Station since Covid will be moving back to Newbury Police Station where the rest of the team are based.

We also welcome a new Police Officer to the team – PC Josh Harrop.

The Team

The current set up of the Hungerford and Downlands Neighbourhood Police Team is 1 x Inspector, 1 x Sergeant, 2 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

And finally a plea to keep reporting incidents to us via 101, the TVP website (www.thamesvalley.police.uk) or 999, in an emergency.

Mayors report for December

Wishing you all a very Happy, Healthy New Year. I hope you all had a nice Christmas break.

This month's report is really a diary of attended events in December

7th Dec – Year 2 Christmas Play

This was an absolute delight and a great start to the festivities. Year 2's you were incredible and very talented.

8th Dec- JOG OAP Christmas Party

Another fantastic evening hosted by year 6 students and staff. A lovely meal was served by Donna and her team. Great bingo calling by Headteacher Mr Hawthorne. Thank you for allowing us to share in the fun.

9th Dec – Christmas Hungerford Extravaganza

This is another highlight of my civic year. I was able to wear my beautiful handmade costume by Marion from the Hub. The Scottish pipe band always give me a lump in my throat, just so moving to parade behind. Congratulations Chamber of Commerce, I know the work this takes each year to organise. Derek, you work so incredibly hard, but can you make it a little warmer next year please! It was so cold.

10th Dec – Town Band Concert

Always so much fun, and really makes me feel festive. The solo performances were outstanding, and the lovely refreshments went down a treat... Tim's jokes however definitely need some work.... Only joking.

11th Dec – Mayors Carol Service

The service was very well attended, we had a full church. Thank you to my readers and to Keith for the solo performance. Hungerford Town band for donating their time. A whopping £600 was raised from our collection which, I shared with the church and Tuesday Burchett Club.

12th Dec – Tuesday Club Lunch

Another fun lunch with a huge raffle. Thank you for inviting me again, it's always great fun.

14th Dec – Chamber of Commerce Drinks

The last of the civic Christmas gatherings. Wonderful company and delicious food from the Plume.

Sadly, I came down with Covid on the 16th and was quite poorly until Christmas Eve. Luckily, I'd recovered enough to host the family at Christmas following a negative test. Hooray!

Cllr Helen Simpson, Mayor

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 3RD JANUARY 2023

MONTH 9, DECEMBER 2022 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT

101 FINANCE:

The Annual Precept of £328,357 been received.

102 ADMINISTRATION:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £101 positive variance.

103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £1,563 negative variance.

104 POOL HOUSE:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £68 negative variance.

105 CONTINGENCY:

No Expenditure this month.

106 TOURISM SUPPORT BUDGET:

No Expenditure this month.

109 HUNGERFORD 2036 PROJECT:

No Expenditure this month.

201 RECREATION & AMENITIES:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £1,053 positive variance.

202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £3 negative variance.

203 ST SAVIOURS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £480 positive variance. Burial Fee income was down by £691.

204 CROFT FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £555 positive variance. No income posted this month.

205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:

No Expenditure this month.

206 TRIANGLE FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £122 positive variance.

301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £16,451 positive variance due to a phasing issue.

302 HIGHWAYS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £505 positive variance.

303 CCTV:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £46 positive variance.

This month's Net Income over Expenditure is a £19,273 positive variance due to the Christmas light's expenditure out of phasing.

Year to date Net Income over Expenditure is a £59,432 positive variance.

Claire Winsor, Chair of F&GP, 30th December 2022

Hungerford High Street

Traffic Calming Measures

Problem Statement

Inappropriate traffic behaviours has caused over £100k of pounds worth of damage within the last few years alone, as well as human injury

- Speed too fast
- Atherton road roundabout
- Congestion & severe lack of visibility and through put due to lorry deliveries

Not conducive to walking or cycling – therefore increases inappropriate levels of traffic

Not safe for walking or cycling

Not safe for school children crossing the high street

Need to combine the usage of an A road with the appropriate usage of a bustling Market Town whilst allowing growth to the local economy

Growth is stifled with current road restrictions

Whilst there has been no loss of life YET we should not wait for that to happen.

Traffic Calming Guidance as published by the Department of Transport

- 2.2.1 Traffic calming schemes are an important element in local road safety strategies, which set out how authorities plan to tackle road traffic casualties in their area and why they believe their approach will be effective (see Appendix B). The safety strategies should include speed management to achieve safe vehicle speeds on all roads, and ensure that the speed limits set are appropriate, consistent and enforceable. Traffic calming measures should be employed to encourage both speed reduction and compliance with the limits. Particular attention will need to be given to locations where child casualties occur, including roads around schools, the routes children use to get to and from school and residential areas where they are more likely to play, walk or cycle unsupervised. The Travelling to School initiative is encouraging schools and local authorities to put in place travel plans, which may contain traffic calming measures. It may also be relevant to consider the use of traffic calming measures where there are likely to be large numbers of disabled people, such as day centres.
- 2.7.1 Walking has a major role in transport and the government wants walking to be easier, more pleasant and safer than it is now. Advice to local authorities is given in TAL 02/00 (Framework for a local walking strategy). The Department has also published an action plan which sets out a series of measures to promote, and improve provision for, walking and cycling (DfT, 2004b). The Department has carried out a public consultation on a draft LTN on walking and cycling and expects to publish it in 2007. The most important problem is inappropriate vehicle speed. Reducing speed, particularly in residential areas and along busy pedestrian routes, can reduce accidents significantly and make injuries much less severe. Speed can be tackled in a number of ways. Traffic calming, education and publicity all play their part. Ultimately, however, it is the responsibility of the driver to be aware of pedestrians and drive at a speed that is within the speed limit and appropriate to the conditions.
- 3.7.1 In England and Wales there are almost 8,500 designated conservation areas. Local authorities have a statutory duty to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of these areas. There are also many thousands of listed buildings: local authorities must have special regard for the desirability of preserving the listed building or its setting.

Issues to be addressed

Speed too fast as soon as vehicles pass the middle of the high street Atherton road roundabout:

- people do not recognize it's there or lorries using it to turn all the way round

Delivery vehicles block the road and parking at inappropriate times in the day

Current Zebra crossings do not allow for pedestrian visibility for drivers

No appropriate crossing point at the natural crossing point for pedestrians (in particular children) at the bottom of the school path

Suggestions

Make Hungerford a place for people to come for the day, increase the pedestrian experience, allow for outdoor market town experience with eateries and outdoor trading, make it safer for cyclists. The following suggestions are ideas that need consideration and tweaking and execution on a two-year phased timeline.

- Sleeping Policeman all the way up the high street
- Zebra crossing with lights to enable school children crossing just before the white railings at the top end of the high street
- Removal of the mini roundabout at Atherton crescent and put a pinch point in
- Move the Zebra crossing on the lower end of the high street to ensure the view of pedestrians is not restricted on either end
- Remove the parking bays at the lower end of the high street, and expand the pedestrian area, make way for outside eating
- Deliveries outside of business hours only
- Heavy goods vehicle bypass