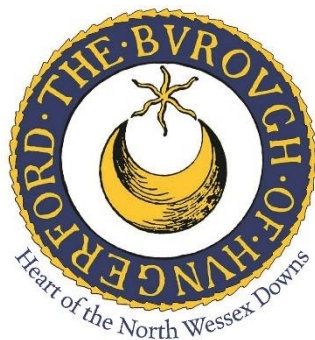


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 4th September 2023 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Winser, Fyfe, Alford, Hudson, Greenwell, Schlanker, Armstrong, Cole and Coulthurst
Also: West Berks District Cllr Denise Gaines (DG)
Representatives from Newbury News, the Adviser and Penny Post.
In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), representatives from the Surgery and the Hub.

Police Report: A report has been circulated (**see attached**). Cllr Coulthurst added that she had circulated the information about the 'Have your say event' through Whatsapp to residents of Lancaster Park and some will be attending. It was noted we can apply to The Community Fund for a share of the £200,000 grant round available. It is offered by the PCC and the aim is reduction of crime in our communities. Suggestions for applications included improvement of lighting in poorly lit areas, additional CCTV and Speed Indicator Devices. **ACTION:** The Clerk will apply for a SID as we have already have a quote and the deadline is short.

There have recently been concerns about the level of service at, and the possible viability of, the Boots pharmacy in the High Street. Added to this is the concern over a planning application received to renovate the first floor of the building. This would result in no facilities for the staff members and hence HTC have objected to the application.

The Surgery: Two representatives of the Hungerford Surgery, Practice Manager Mike Hall and Pharmacy Technician Lauren Burbidge, addressed the meeting. They explained that any changes that Boots chose to make were entirely down to them and the Surgery had no control over these. One such change is that that Boots has now withdrawn a long-established repeat-prescription service it had offered for many years. In the past, Boots arranged for repeat medication on the patient's behalf: now, the patient needs to do this themselves. If you have any questions about any prescription issues, please contact the Surgery.
Although the Surgery has no direct influence over how Boots or any other pharmacy operates, the spokespeople at the meeting stressed that they are concerned at the possibility that it might close. They have recently made repeated attempts to arrange meetings with the new Hungerford manager and area representatives to discuss the situation, so far without success.

FC202300154 Note apologies for absence – Cllrs Knight, Simpson, Carlson, Keates, Cusack

Also, apologies from District Cllrs Tony Vickers (TV) and Dennis Benneyworth (DB)

FC202300155 Declarations of interest and signing of dispensations – There were no declaration of interest. All those present signed a dispensation ahead of any future budget and precept discussions.

FC202300156 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 7th August 2023, and outcome of actions

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe

Seconded: Cllr Cole

Resolution: To approve minutes of 7th August 2023 as a true record. 5 abstentions. Rest in favour.

Outcome of actions: West Berks Council (WBC) couldn't take on any more dog bins so the 4 bins that HTC has inherited from Canal & River Trust are now being emptied by a new contractor. Town & Manor are paying for the emptying of 2 of these. Cllr Schlanker advised the cost of emptying bins is expensive and is not sustainable in the long term. Dual/mixed bins are the way

forward and WBC will look to phase out the old dog bins in due course. WBC have advised that the poor state of the footways due to the relaying after Gigaclear's work, will be addressed. DG will chase this if we don't see any progress.

ACTION: DG has a meeting next Thursday when she can chase up some outstanding items such as cleaning of signs and the state of the building cracks in the High Street. Also on the list is vegetation growing on footways, including the newly resurfaced paths.

FC202300157 Receive Mayor's Report for past month. Report attached. Cllr Hudson expressed his sadness over the loss of a former councillor colleague.

FC202300158 Receive District Councillor's Reports. Consider holding councillor surgeries. A written report from DB has been circulated.

DG gave her report verbally. She informed the meeting that Oaklands School has received planning permission. She was approached by a BBC reporter about the Royal Mail postal delays. There is a letter in a national paper about the postal delays in Hungerford.

DG advised that no schools in West Berkshire have been identified as using RAAC so although other buildings are still to be looked at.

She also confirmed: There is one Afghan family left in West Berks who has until the end of September to be moved. The refurbished Lido in Newbury is open but it is best to book. More slots are available at the West Berks Recycle Centre. The bus consultation is finishing at the end of Sept. A parking survey will go out to consultation which is looking at short and long term parking needs, EV chargers etc. Community Forums are back. These will take place once a quarter and suggestions for topics are welcome. The scrutiny committee will be meeting with Thames Water so if we have any questions for them please let DG know. The 9 storey newbury car park planning application has been withdrawn. JOG school has some transport issues as their providers pulled out at the beginning of August. Transport from Kintbury has yet to be sorted and children may need to use the train.

Cllr Cole queried why nothing had been done by Thames Water since the last scrutiny meeting. E.g. Flooding still occurs in Blandy's Hill in Kintbury. He also asked if money was very tight at WBC and DG confirmed that it is, with adult social care being the main expense.

Cllr Winser advised there is an interest in bringing back Councillor Surgeries involving a combination of representatives, perhaps a councillor, a district councillor and a member from another key town organisation. This could be a 2 hour session at the weekend. DG and Cllrs Cole, Armstrong, Coulthurst and Alford expressed their interest.

FC202300159 Health & Safety – Any complaints or concerns. Roof leak reported in Curve. A representative from the Hub was present and explained that HTC's maintenance man has tried fixing the leak in the Curve roof over the last couple of years but recently it had got worse, and some stock had now been damaged.

Proposed: Cllr Winser

Seconded: Cllr Hudson

ACTION **Resolution:** Office to organise for a roofer to inspect and provide a quote.

FC202300160 Receive any committee reports (no more than 3 minutes per report) – An F&GP report has been circulated. **See attached.** Cllr Schlanker reported that he had a meeting concerning the footways and paths and overgrowth of vegetation. There is also a meeting at the end of this month. About two thirds of the problem areas identified in the spreadsheet have been addressed.

ACTION It was reported that School Alley is overgrown. Report to WBC.

Cllr Cole reported that he had been through the TORS for the Hungerford Town Centre Steering Group with the Clerk. The Mayor is happy with them. He will be seeing Town & Manor on Friday.

FC202300161 Receive report from Hungerford 2036 Project Team (Cllr Hudson) – Report attached.

FC202300162 Propose authorisation of payment run. (circulated along with copies of invoices for August)

Proposed: Cllr Winser

Seconded: Cllr Schlanker

Resolution: Agree payment run of £153,626.40

FC202300163 Propose year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report

Proposed: Cllr Winser

Seconded: Cllr Alford

Resolution: Agree income and expenditure report with £3,011 negative variance.

FC202300164 Review updated action plan.

ACTION: Clerk to add column to include planned review dates. Discussion on the plan was deferred until next Full Council meeting.

FC202300165 Croft Field Project – Receive update. The Hungerford in Bloom and Grant Awards took place on Saturday. Cllr Winser advised the Croft Field renovation looks really good. There are a few snagging bits to be done and we are waiting on the Building Regulations Certificate.

ACTION: Add to R&A agenda to discuss the organisation of an opening event.

ACTION: The purchase of folding chairs will be considered at F&GP.

DG advised the cut off for Member's Bids is 31st October and this may only be annually not 6 monthly. There is no news on when the next CIL bid round will be.

FC202300166 Skate Park Project – Receive update. A handover will take place at 10.30am on Thursday.

ACTION: Discuss an opening event at R&A.

FC202300167 Any other Reports (3 minutes each) not to include any proposals.

Cllr Coulthurst has identified four areas of change to the WBC Consultation document on Validation Checklists and National/Local Submission Requirements for Planning Applications.

ACTION: Take to E&P for a proposal to agree the suggested changes.

Cllr Winser announced that Cllr Daniel Lewis has stepped down and thanked him for his contribution. He will remain on the Youth Council.

Meeting closed 8.30pm

HTC UPDATE September 2023

On the 14th August we held a Scam and Fraud Awareness event outside the Town Hall. This event was well attended by local residents so we will be doing another one with Trading Standards on the 18th September 1100-1300hrs again outside the Town Hall. Pop along and come and see us - If you have questions, require advice or just wish to know more.

Members of the team, RBFRS and hopefully SCAS will be at Cobbs Farm on the 9th September for the annual Emergency Services Day. 1000-1600hrs.

We are also holding a Have Your Say event at Lancaster Park on the 10th September from 1300- 1500hrs. We will be parked up in one of the laybys if you wish to come and speak with us.

On the 11th September we will be in the High Street between 1000-1200hrs raising awareness on violence against women and girls (VAWG)

For the month of August: (1st-25th)

0 reports of Anti-social behaviour

4 report of Criminal damage

0 reports of Shoplifting

3 Theft.

0 Burglary

We are aware that there is potentially some unreported anti-social behaviour occurring in the Town. It is vital that this and anything else is reported to us so that the team can deal with the issues. If we don't know about it we can't deal with it. The easiest and quickest way is our online reporting tool on our website.

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 – Sept 2023

Welcome back, I hope you've all enjoyed the summer break. I can't quite believe we are already at the end of our summer. Did I miss it?

Most of you will already know, but I wanted to share my sadness and give thanks to three Hungerford stalwarts who passed away over the summer.

Elizabeth Cardwell

Elizabeth was a former Mayor and served her term in 2009-2010. Elizabeth was also a friend, always on hand to advise or share her experience as Mayor. Our children went to school together and I'd like to send my sympathy and condolences to her boys.

Dennis Cryer

Dennis served as Constable on the Town and Manor and was hugely involved in all things Hungerford. I enjoyed a game of bingo with Dennis on occasion, always enjoying the many tales and adventures he'd share.

Lesley Blackwell

Lesley was chair of Hungerford Blind Club, she was one of life's special people, working tirelessly to help others whenever she could. I have attended many of the club's events as Mayor and was always given a warm welcome. Lesley will be hugely missed by us all. I was last with the Blind Club in May; we made crowns and celebrated the Kings Coronation. Christmas won't feel the same without Lesley's amazing homemade Christmas cake!

Enterprise Centre

I held a meeting with the town clerk and a member of the community, who has a background and interest in this area. We wanted to explore an enterprise centre in Hungerford, there are already some units in existence, we are keen to engage with West Berkshire Council to better understand how this could be further developed in the town. Hopefully a meeting will be set up soon to further explore.

Friendship Bench

Chair of Hungerford's Chamber of Commerce Karen Salmon and I were thrilled to unveil Hungerford's first friendship Bench. Located on the wharf, we hope it will offer a safe place for people to sit and offer support or friendship to anyone needing to talk. The bench has a QR code which links to various organisations offering help and advice. Karen and I hope this won't be the only friendship bench in Hungerford. Do check out the press coverage on this and read Karen's wonderful story from Winnie the Pooh.

Croft Field Activity Centre

We are very nearly there with our build. The centre is looking amazing! HTC. is really looking forward to hiring out this wonderful community asset. I would like to thank our town clerk for the heavy workload on this project. Molly has also been busy organising signage, and furniture for the centre. HTC will be holding our first event this weekend. It's certainly been a real labour of love and one of the biggest projects HTC has undertaken. We will now review the terms of hire and look forward to welcoming more guests to the centre. The centre is now fully accessible to all users and now has baby changing facilities. The project has come in over budget, but this was mainly due to bringing a lot of phase 2 works into the phase 1 of the build. Long-term this will prove more cost effective. We would have been disturbing work already carried out in phase one. Obviously, old buildings also bring unforeseen challenges and we've addressed a few of these on the build. I believe the council has learned a lot from this build and will be more knowledgeable on future builds.

Howdens

I would like to thank our local Howdens branch for their generous donation of a kitchen for phase 2 works in the North Room of the Croft Activity Centre. The kitchen has been delivered and will be fitted shortly. HTC will publish some photos once complete. My personal thanks to Liam at Howdens for making the process so easy. HTC and the wider community are extremely grateful for the new kitchen.

Norway

I have recently returned from a week staying with friends in Norway. This trip we visited Trondheim (city) I was amazed at the infrastructure and green initiatives around the city centre. EV charging points are everywhere.

In 2022 79.3% of all new car sales were for electric battery powered vehicles. Norway will reach its climate goal of 100% BEV sales in 2025.

When will we receive our two EV charging points in Hungerford? Should it really be this hard?

Cllr Helen Simpson
Town Mayor

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2023

MONTH 5 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

101 FINANCE:

No Income this month.

102 ADMINISTRATION:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £4,067 positive variance.

103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:

Net Expenditure is a £5,500 positive variance this month.

104 POOL HOUSE:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £25 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 £69,635 positive variance. Grants of £50,922 from CIL and £17,537 from the Good Exchange for the Skate Park and goal post sponsorship of £2,182 from Dick Lovett were received this month.

202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:

No Expenditure this month.

203 ST SAVIOURS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £1,017 positive variance. Burial fee income down by £151.

204 CROFT FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £1,259 positive variance.

205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:

No Expenditure this month.

206 TRIANGLE FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £41 negative variance.

301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

No Income or Expenditure this month.

302 HIGHWAYS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £1,440 positive variance.

303 CCTV:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £406 positive variance.

August's Net Income over Expenditure is a £3,011 negative variance.

Claire Winser

Chair of F&GP

31st August 2023

