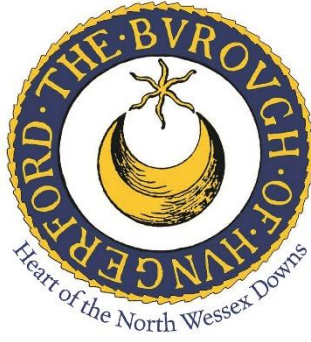


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
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The Town Clerk
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DRAFT MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 4th August 2025 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs, Simpson, Winser, Alford, Reeves, Cole, Fyfe, Keates, Brunning, Day, Mulholland, Armstrong and Carlson

Also present: Representatives from Penny Post and Newbury News, and a prospective new councillor.

In attendance: Town Clerk, (TC).

FC202500115 Note apologies for absence. Cllr Hudson.

Apologies also from, District Cllrs Dennis Benneyworth (DB), Tony Vickers (TV) and Denise Gaines (DG) from West Berks Council.

FC202500116 Declarations of interest – None.

FC202500117 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 7th July 2025 and outcome of actions

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Cole

Resolution: Minutes of the meeting of 7th July 2025 were agreed as a true record. Two abstentions.

Outcome of actions:

A meeting has been arranged with Rugby Club, Town Council and Hungerford Archers. Cllrs Simpson and Fyfe will attend.

We have not heard from WBC Highways about Aldi yet. The consultation on Ridgeway Council has now closed. Other actions are complete or underway.

FC202500118 Receive Mayor's Report – Refer to attached report.

ACTION: Forward to district councillors.

It was questioned if we had received the statistics from the Police. The Mayor confirmed she had been in contact and should have both sets of figures to work through at the next meeting. There was a lot of activity over the weekend with the Police and sirens possibly as a result of a drug related assault. The Police are working hard to crack down on anti-social behaviour and drugs. The Mayor confirmed she had requested a meeting with Sovereign, Aster, District Councillors and the Police.

FC202500119 Receive District Councillor's Reports – No district councillors were present. It is holiday season.

FC202500120 Health & Safety – Receive any complaints or concerns. None were discussed.

FC202500121 Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated along with copies of invoices) for July. (refer to HTC website to view pay runs)

Proposed: Cllr Winser

Seconded: Cllr Carlson

Resolution: Authorise payment run of £33,394.66.

FC202500122 Propose accounts to date – Refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report.

Proposed: Cllr Winsor

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: Agree accounts to date with a positive variance of £12,766.00.

FC202500123 Recieve any reports (no more than 3 minutes per report which cannot contain any proposals).

It was announced that the Hungerford Produce, Flower and Handicraft Show will take place in the Town Hall on Sat 23rd August from 2.30pm.

A service to commemorate 80 years since VJ Day will be held at Bridge St War Memorial on Fri 15th Aug at 7.45pm.

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.

FC202500124 Note salary increase as per NJC agreement – It was noted that all staff will receive a 3.2% increase backdated from April 2025.

Meeting closed 7.09pm

Mayor's Report – August Full Council Meeting 2025

Cllr Helen Simpson – Mayor of Hungerford

Good evening,

Hungerford in Bloom

A heartfelt thank you to all residents who participated in this year's **Hungerford in Bloom** competition. We were absolutely delighted to see so many of you rise to the challenge, especially in what has been a long, hot summer with some tough growing conditions. Your gardens looked beautiful and full of life, and we appreciate the care and creativity behind each one.

Special thanks go to **Cllr. Winsor**, who continues to lead on this event with great passion, and to **Deputy Town Clerk Wendy**, whose hard work and coordination with Claire make it run smoothly.

This year we introduced a new category: **"Heart and Soul"** a wonderful way to celebrate those gardeners who may not have all the experience but give it their all regardless of plot size. Thank you to our independent judges, **Stella** (who kindly drove the team around) and **Claire**, who also worked closely with Wendy throughout the process. I look forward to celebrating with all the entrants at our awards presentation later this year.

Britain in Bloom

A huge thank you to **former Cllr. Gordon Montgomery**, who stepped forward to lead our first entry into the **Britain in Bloom** competition. Despite entering late, Hungerford rallied with its usual energy and pride. While we're still waiting for the results, what has stood out most is the incredible **community spirit**.

The ever wonderful **Smarten Up Hungerford team** continues to show why our town looks so loved and well cared for every single day of the year. We're incredibly lucky to have such dedicated volunteers.

There was a small hiccup in communication with WBC regarding our ambitions for the **roundabout at the town's entrance**. However, after reaching out to local artist **Dicon**, we're exploring the idea of the red kite sculpture he's been working on. More details (and a call for support) will follow soon.

Aldi Planning Application

We recently welcomed a representative from **Aldi** at one of our planning meetings. Hungerford Town Council is supportive of the application and has asked **West Berkshire Council** to work closely with Aldi's development team to resolve some highway-related concerns within the proposal.

Network Rail Partnership

Claire and I met with representatives from **Network Rail** to address maintenance issues around the station. We've agreed that HTC will assist in keeping the area tidy, provided Network Rail ensures it's safe for volunteers to do so.

We're pleased to report that clearance work has already started, brambles and waste behind the platform are being removed, making the space more accessible. Network Rail has also tackled the overgrowth along the path leading to town. This positive collaboration is especially welcome, as maintaining consistent dialogue has been difficult in the past due to staff changes. Thank you to **Town Clerk Claire** for her persistence and Network Rail for seeing our vision.

Hungerford Police and Community Safety

I recently met with **Sgt. Jo Willoughby**, our new police sergeant, to discuss community concerns and areas where progress has been slower than hoped. Sgt. Willoughby works closely with the Newbury antisocial behaviour team and is keen to make use of the full powers and legislation available.

In the coming weeks, I've requested a joint meeting with our **PCSO, social housing partners, HTC, District Councillors**, and the **Police**, with the aim of taking a more collective approach to tackling long-standing concerns. I'll keep you updated as this progresses. In the meantime, please continue to report all crime and anti-social behaviour.

John O'Gaunt Presentation Evening

What a delight it was to attend **John O'Gaunt School's** "Night Full of Stars" presentation evening. It truly felt like a mini-Oscars, and the achievements of the pupils were nothing short of inspiring. Congratulations to all the students and staff for putting on such a memorable and joyful evening.

Hungerford Hub Solar Panel Project

I was honoured to attend the celebration marking the completion of the **Hungerford Hub's solar panel project**. With this, the Hub has now achieved **carbon net-zero status**, an impressive milestone. HTC was proud to support the initiative, and we extend our warmest congratulations to the team.

Hungerford Theatre Company – Sweeney Todd

Despite it being one of the hottest days of the year, I thoroughly enjoyed the **Hungerford Theatre Company's** production of *Sweeney Todd*, hosted at JOG. It was a fantastic performance, and huge credit goes to the cast and crew for their stamina and professionalism under very warm conditions. We wish them every success as they move into their new premises. I look forward to their next show!

West Berkshire Community Hospital – Therapy Garden

I also attended a lovely event celebrating the **NHS community therapy garden** at West Berkshire Community Hospital. The **Lord Lieutenant** gave a warm speech and thanked the volunteers who care so lovingly for the garden, a truly beautiful and healing space.

A personal highlight was meeting the **therapy dogs** (who may have stolen the spotlight for me!). Many people spoke of the remarkable contribution made by **Christine Stockwell**, whose dedication continues to make a huge impact. Congratulations, Chrissie, and heartfelt thanks to you and your team.

To Close

As ever, I'm reminded just how special Hungerford is, full of people who care deeply, give generously, and take real pride in their community. Thank you to all who help make our town the wonderful place it is.

With warm regards,
Cllr Helen Simpson
Mayor of Hungerford

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 4TH AUGUST 2025 MONTH 4 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR JULY 2025

101 FINANCE:

The first Precept instalment of £191,970 has been received.

102 ADMINISTRATION:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £2,610 positive variance.

103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:

NET Expenditure is a £6,650 positive variance this month.

104 POOL HOUSE:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £269 positive variance due to the rental increase.

105 CONTINGENCY:

No Expenditure this month.

107 ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING:

No Expenditure this month.

109 HUNGERFORD 2036 PROJECT:

No Expenditure this month.

201 RECREATION & AMENITIES:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £2,026 positive variance.

202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:

Net Expenditure is a £25 positive variance this month.

203 ST SAVIOURS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £1,467 positive variance.

204 CROFT FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £480 negative variance.

205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:

Net Expenditure is a £6 negative this month.

206 TRIANGLE FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £420 positive variance.

301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

No Expenditure this month.

302 HIGHWAYS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £4,673 positive variance. £2,541 was received from the Good Exchange for Britain in Bloom.

303 CCTV:

Net Income over Expenditure is an £117 negative variance.

901 RESERVES:

Transfer of £3,065 from EMR for the Triangle Field guttering costs.

July's Net Income over Expenditure is a £12,766 positive variance.

Year to date Net Income over Expenditure is a £76,983 positive variance.

Claire Winser

Chair of F&GP

1st August 2025

Facts and Figures for Hungerford Residents

**FY April to March – 7 day food parcels

2020	Adults 902	Children 753	Total 1655 Meals Provided 34,755
2021	Adults 438	Children 311	Total 749 Meals Provided 15,729
2022	Adults 436	Children 384	Total 820 Meals Provided 17,220
2023	Adults 352	Children 295	Total 647 Meals Provided 13,587
2024	Adults 327	Children 221	Total 548 Meals Provided 11,508

Hungry Holidays Initiative– Clear criteria to schools – Households they are gravely concerned about – not just pupil premium.

2024 - 43 Households and 104 Children

2025 – 40 Households and 99 Children – stock delivered 1.6 tonnes in total

Amelia – Benefits and Welfare Advisor – Confirmed financial gains for all West Berks Foodbank clients for FY24/25 = **£313,585.47**

FY 24/25 Food donated by Hungerford supermarkets, schools and churches = 5393.2Kg

Food distributed to Hungerford ward clients holding vouchers 8840.7Kg (excl HH)

Difference – over 3.4 tonnes