

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Helen Simpson
57 Fairview Road
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0BP
Tel: 07920110380
Cllr.helen.simpson@hungerford-tc.gov.uk



The Town Clerk
Mrs Claire Barnes
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire RG17 0JG
Tel: 01488 686195
townclerk@hungerford-tc.gov.uk
www.hungerford-tc.gov.uk

DRAFT MINUTES of the **Annual Town Meeting** held on Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 7.00pm in Corn Exchange, High Street, Hungerford, RG17 0NF

Present: Approx. 120 people (including those exhibiting). Members of press were also present.

1. **Intro** - The Mayor introduced all the different organisations present and thanked them individually for their contribution to the town. She gave a brief overview of the services they provide and introduced some of the representatives.

Those exhibiting included:

H2036 Neighbourhood Plan, Hungerford Hub, Foodbank, Adviser, Youth and Community Centre, West Berks Council (WBC) representatives from Highways, Elections and Public Protection Partnership, including District Cllrs, HEAT (Hungerford Environmental Action Team), Community Markets, HAHA (Hungerford Allotment Holders Association), Chamber of Commerce, Town & Manor, Arts for Hungerford, Hungerford & Downlands Neighbourhood Policing Team, First responders/Defibrillators, Smarten Up Hungerford.

2. **Agreement of minutes of meeting held on 30th March 2022:** *Cllr Simpson proposed the minutes, seconded by Simon Hobden, no objections.*
3. **Opportunity to meet our exhibitors, ask any questions and view new project plans** - The Mayor encouraged everyone to look around at the exhibits and advised the meeting would reconvene at 8pm for any questions.
4. **Question and answer session –**
It was queried why the Salisbury Road is being closed from 11th to 16th April.
Jon Winstanley (WBC) advised the road is being resurfaced.

CHAIN put out a plea for volunteers. They are having to close on Wednesdays as they don't have anyone to man the office. A volunteer is needed to fill the 3-hour slot. They are also short of drivers and bus drivers. If anyone can help, please get in touch.

Chris Scorey addressed the meeting on behalf of the Town & Manor of Hungerford of which he is a trustee. He advised they are currently consulting with residents regarding an exciting new project involving the creation of a wetland nature reserve at Undy's Meadow between the River Kennet and Charnham Park road. This is a 40-acre site which has laid dormant for many years. The aim is to create new ponds and footpaths and build a small education centre for schools and visitors to learn about biodiversity. Planning consent will be needed and full details of the project will be on The Good Exchange fundraising platform soon. The Town & Manor has so far spent £170K from reserves towards the project and is now looking to raise funding for the extensive surveys needed for the planning application. So far all are in support and the feedback has been very positive.

Cllr Jerry Keates spoke on behalf of the Coronation working party who are planning a celebration for all to enjoy on the Croft Green from 2pm to 7pm on Sunday 7th May. There will be live entertainment, refreshments and a marquee. Not to forget the special guest. Wear red, white and blue if you like and bring a brolly!

Meeting closed 8.15pm