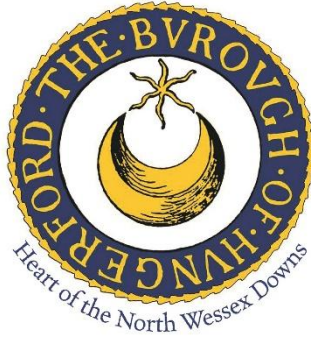


HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
Cllr Jerry Keates
The Library
Church Street
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0JG
Tel: 07368 539434
Cllr.jerry.keates@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 **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 7th September 2026 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford.

Present: Cllrs, Keates, Hall, Mulholland, Day, Fyfe, Terry, Cole, Reeves, Alford, Brunning, Edginton and Hudson. Cllrs Armstrong and Carlson entered later.

Also present: Members of the press, and representatives from Hungerford Men's Shed, Hungerford Day Centre and PC Mike Greaves-Hurd.

In attendance: Town Clerk (TC)

The minutes of the meeting are recorded in the order they were discussed.

Hungerford Day Centre (HDC - previously known as the Resource Centre).

A power point presentation took place **Please see attached slides**. Nicola from HDC reminded us that last time we met they were facing the threat of closure. Since then, they have gained approval for a name change so more people will know what they do. Penny Post were thanked for their help with advertising. She explained HDC cater for up to 20 people a day and have vacancies. Transport is provided but can be an issue with covering a rural area. They are a purpose-built facility open Mon to Fri providing tailor made care to individuals covering a range of support. Staff interaction is important and they have lots of fun events including cream tea with ponies! Thanks to Ali and Nia from the Hungerford in Bloom team for improving their garden.

They have received fantastic feedback from those using their services and next will be focussing on publicising what the centre does and working with comms at West Berks Council. If you wish to attend it is best to contact the centre directly. Please call, email or visit as there is no need to be referred. You don't need to be in the system or means tested to attend and can attend up to five days a week. Please help spread the word. They are no longer having conversations about closure as they have been given a period of grace to improve.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Day Centre for attending and for all that they do.

Cllr Armstrong entered.

Police report – It was reported that it has been a pretty good month with fewer reports of ASB and youths congregating. Last week they got a drug dealer on an e-bike off the streets and seized a car from a 17-year-old girl who was driving her friends without a licence. Another 17-year-old was stopped with cannabis at One Stop and has been put into youth referral to try and get them off drugs.

The Mayor encouraged all to report crime and this can also be done anonymously. He thanked the Police for attending the recent Emergency event at the Town Hall. There will be another event held at Cobbs with all three services attending.

Cllr Hall is being asked by residents about the issues at Park Way involving bikes and ASB. The Police confirmed nothing has been reported for 2 or 3 weeks at the skate park but if anyone has any videos or reg plates please pass them on.

The Police were thanked for their time and left the meeting. Cllr Carlson entered.

FC202600135 Note apologies for absence – Cllr Reed. Also, all three district councillors.

FC202600136 Declarations of interest – None

FC202600137 Approval of Minutes of the Full Council meeting of 3rd August 2026, and update on any actions.

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Day

Resolution: Minutes of the meeting of 3rd August were agreed, one abstention.

ACTION: The Clerk has applied for planning to move the phone box but is required to submit more detailed location plans.

FC202600138 Consider request from Hungerford Men's Shed for increased usage of the building – Geoff (Men's Shed) explained a lot of working age people had shown interest in joining Hungerford Men's Shed at the Artisan Markets. They would like to offer an evening session to fit in with when the hall is not being used. They might like to also open on an ad hoc basis as a workshop on a Saturday.

Proposed: Cllr Keates

Seconded: Cllr Day

Resolution: Agree Hungerford Men's Shed open on a Wednesday evening on a trial basis for 2 or 3 months, providing they are not conflicting with other bookings.

Proposed: Cllr Edginton

Seconded: Cllr Day

ACTION: **Resolution:** Agree to Hungerford Men's Shed erecting signage on their double doors, subject to HTC approving the design and approval being put in writing.

FC202600139 Receive Mayor's report. Refer to circulated report. (*Please see attached*) The Mayor added the Chestnut Walk public consultation would not have happened without us pushing for it. We are waiting for the West Berks Council minutes from the public meeting which took place on 3rd September and should receive these tomorrow.

FC202600140 Receive District Councillor's reports – There were no district councillors present.

FC202600141 Hungerford Emergency Event – Feedback from the event. This took place on Monday 10th August, at Hungerford Town Hall and was attended by RBFRS, SCAS and Thames Valley Police. It was a successful event, providing vital info to members of public and offering the opportunity to try out defibrillators and practise CPR. It was good to be able to have it outside on the steps of the town hall.

FC202600142 Health & Safety – Receive any complaints or concerns – An accident occurred in the high street today resulting in a car on its side. The Mayor has reported the lamppost damage. The salt bin at the top of school alley is full of rubbish.

ACTION: Get rubbish removed and bin topped up with salt.

FC202600143 Propose authorisation of payment run (circulated along with copies of invoices) for August.

Proposed: Cllr Mulholland

Seconded: Cllr Carlson

Resolution: Agree payment run of £36,249.17 for August.

FC202600144 Propose accounts to date – Refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report.

Proposed: Cllr Mulholland

Seconded: Cllr Reeves

Resolution: Propose the income over expenditure report for August of £92,235, with a positive variance and Cllr Mulholland's report (*please see attached*).

FC202600145 Consider request for extra parking spaces at Triangle Field – The Mayor explained that the Rugby Club are particularly challenged for parking spaces at weekends.

One option is to utilise the area of grass to the left of the entrance gate as far down as the northern wall of the club house to park 30/40 cars. Cllr Hudson mentioned that there was a track laid there for lorries during the building of Redwood House so there may be a subbase underneath. We have scraped back to the end of the tarmac parallel to the club house. The Rugby Club would like to scrape back further towards the trees and put in scalplings or planings, being a permeable surface, so they can park herringbone style.

The Rugby Club would be using self-help with no cost to the council. They have tried to put lines down the centre of the existing car park to maximise use but are still short on parking space.

Proposed: Cllr Fyfe

Seconded: Cllr Cole

Resolution: Happy to support providing all pre-planning documents come to us along with a guarantee on the works being proposed.

FC202600146 Receive any reports (no more than 3 minutes per report and not to include any proposals).

We have seen the statement from WBC following the pause on LGR which includes Ridgeway. We wait to hear further.

The Mayor advised Network Rail (NR) has been in contact. We have previously had joint litter picks and discussions with them. CCTV has proven that land to the north of the station platform is not being accessed and the litter there is coming through from the platform. They will be erecting some fine mesh to prevent this from happening. They are also interested in installing some artwork around anti-littering at the station.

ACTION:

The Mayor will suggest they speak to the schools directly.

It was queried if the land north of the platform could be used for parking. NR are aware of our interest in this.

Two ladies from Trans Wilts met with Cllr Fyfe, the Mayor and the Clerk. They have approached West Berks and Newbury and towns along the railway line for £2k to support the provision of a tourism officer. They look after the Swindon to Westbury track and are aiming to make improvements to Westbury and develop a station at Devizes. They are unpaid volunteers campaigning to improve the service and obtain more frequent trains west. They are already in touch with the Bedwyn Train Group. *Public and press left at 8.03pm.*

Confidential PART 2

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.

FC202600147 Consider plot request at St Saviour's Cemetery –

Proposed: Cllr Reeves

Seconded: Cllr Day

Resolution: Agree location of two ashes interments for an applicant, along the top row, plots 14 and 15 of St Saviours near a bench and the family's friends' memorial stone.

ACTION:

It was queried if there is a photographic record kept of all graves. Currently there is not but it will be added to a list of considerations for the future.

FC202600148 Ratify decision of panel to award Freedom of the Town Recipients – The process was discussed.

Proposed: Cllr Mulholland

Seconded: Cllr Cole

Resolution: Review the decision process from next year.

ACTION:

A proposal is to be put to a Part 2 Extra Full Council meeting next week ahead of E&P.

FC202600149 Ratify recommendation from F&GP to renew cleaning contract

Proposed: Cllr Mulholland

Seconded: Cllr Keates

Resolution: Ratify the recommendation from F&GP to appoint AAFD for 3 years at a cost of £12,400 for year 1, increasing with CPI annually, subject to a one month's break clause as detailed.

ACTION:

Clerk to issue formal letter.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Hungerford Mayors report August 2026

Tri Service Emergency event

The HTC organised event was held on Monday 10th of August at the Townhall in order for the public to engage with our emergency responders or as like to call them hero's. It was an opportunity to talk to personnel from all three services and also view the Climate emergency film shown by HEAT. Be it getting to grips with defibrillators, learning CPR, understanding fire safety or crime prevention measures it was a relaxed and informative event that was very well attended. All of the vehicles were inspected and explored by the children with many enthralled at the equipment on display.

There will be a similar event to be held at Cobbs Farm on Saturday 12th September if you missed it.

Hungerford Men's community Shed grand opening

Held on Wednesday the 12th at the facility at the Croft Field Activity Centre and which included a solar eclipse, I had the absolute pleasure in opening the new Hungerford Men's Community Shed. This is a space (not just for men!) that is equipped with woodworking and DIY tools for anyone to try and use with guidance (if required) for personal and community projects. It is a place to come together in a relaxed and safe environment whilst making things and friends at the same time. Details are available on Facebook and HTC website.

HAHA Hungerford Produce, Flower and Handicraft show

Despite the enormous challenges around the extreme weather we have all faced it was amazing to see the dedication and innovation on display at the show on Saturday 15th August in the Corn Exchange. The extreme hot weather had not dampened the enthusiasm of the participants but did make it, I confess rather sweaty in a suit for the presentations. Nonetheless it was wonderful to present the awards and play a small part in the great community event. Make sure you get planting, cooking, sewing and photo taking for next year!

Bearwater Estate coffee and Pimm's afternoon

The residents and staff welcomed myself and deputy Mayor Chris Hall to the gathering on the lawn. I was given a guided tour of the fabulous grounds by the estate Manager Cathrine that included a stroll along the Dunn and then met with the residents and shared a very welcome Pimm's. We had a lovely afternoon chatting to the residents and it was fascinating to hear their life stories and describing how they all loved living there.

Kennet Wetland Reserve groundbreaking ceremony

The Town and Manor celebrated a significant milestone with the wetland project led by the Constable Phillip Porter. He recognised that it takes a great team to deliver projects and invited Chris Scorey to talk about the journey to the position of cutting the sod. He explained that there is still a long way to go but if you build it they (the wildlife) will come. For those who have volunteered to help it will soon be time to dust off those working clothes and get dirty! On a finer point if anyone has previous hands-on project / people organisation skills and would like to help lead a working party please get in touch with T&M.

WBC Chestnut Walk public consultation for proposed Homeless extended stay hostel

WBC held a public meeting at the Hungerford Youth and Community centre that was attended by circa 60 members of the public to have their say prior to determination on the planning application that Western Area Planning Committee is holding on 16th September. Myself and councillor Sue Terry were permitted to present a short slide show and video commentary as a comparison of the up and running Thatcham Walnut Close facility in relation to what is proposed at Chestnut Walk. There were a significant amount of concerns expressed at the meeting and it is hoped that these will be taken in account going forward.

Cllr Jerry Keates

Hungerford Town Council

Mayor

Income and Expenditure Report for August 2026 (Month 5)

101	Finance	Bank interest of £635 received.
102	Administration	Actual Income over Expenditure £3,493 positive variance against budget, due in part to timing of salary payments.
103	Grants and Donations	Nothing to report.
104	Pool House	Actual Income over Expenditure £607 positive variance against budget.
105	Contingency	Nothing to report.
107	Environmental & Planning	Actual Income over Expenditure £162 positive variance against budget, due to donation for a blue plaque.
201	Recreation and Amenities	Actual Income over Expenditure £1,872 positive variance against budget, due to timing of costs.
202	War Memorial Ground	Actual Expenditure over Budget £317 positive variance.
203	St. Saviours	Actual Income over Expenditure £353 positive variance against budget.
204	Croft Field	Actual Income over Expenditure £341 positive variance against budget.
205	Library Maintenance Costs	Nothing to report.
206	Triangle Field	Actual Income over Expenditure £336 positive variance against budget.
207	Flowers – H&B Hanging Baskets	Actual Income over Expenditure £8,317 negative variance against budget. Budget line is now above budget. This <u>higher than expected</u> expenditure is due to additional watering requirements.
301	Christmas Lights	Nothing to report.
302	Highways	Actual Income over Expenditure £12,440 positive variance against budget, due to a cost adjustment of hanging baskets.
303	CCTV	Actual Income over Expenditure £27 positive variance against budget, due to timing of maintenance.
901	Reserves	Expenditure of £6,718 against reserves due to tree pits, CCTV and plants.

Year to Date Income over Expenditure	£92,235
Variance from Budget	Positive: £80,080

Simon Mulholland
 Chair of F&GP
 3rd September 2026

Find us on Ramsbury Drive



Hungerford Day Centre

at Hungerford Resource Centre

Ramsbury Drive
Hungerford
West Berkshire
RG17 0EE

01488 682601

HungerfordRC@westberks.gov.uk

Open Monday to Friday

Close to Hungerford Common and within walking distance of the town centre.

Visit • call • email

AT A GLANCE

A small centre with a big local role

20

people can be supported each day

MONDAY – FRIDAY

Friendly daytime support in a calm, purpose-built setting.

Close to Hungerford Common and within walking distance of the town centre.

“Small but vibrant”



WHO WE SUPPORT

Support built around the person



Adults of all ages, with support adapted to individual abilities, choices and goals.

Physical needs

Support to participate safely and confidently

Neurological & cognitive needs

Meaningful, adapted activity and routine

Dementia & frailty

A calm, inclusive and reassuring setting

Social isolation

Company, friendship and community connection

For carers and relatives: valuable time to rest, work or manage other commitments.

Every day offers a reason to join in



Movement, games and shared laughter

Arts & crafts • music & singing • exercise • quizzes • reminiscence • seasonal events • outings

Activities are adapted for groups or one-to-one support, so everyone can take part in a way that suits them.



Create and learn



Spend time in the community



Move to music

A DISTINCTIVE ASSET

The garden brings care into the open air



A fully accessible outdoor space rich in colour, texture, fragrance and sound.

Customers can relax, reminisce, build confidence and enjoy therapeutic gardening in a peaceful setting.

Gardening • wellbeing • conversation • quiet time

CUSTOMER VOICES

Belonging, fun and friendship



"The staff and customers are lovely and I look forward to coming."

Linda

"I just love it here... if I stayed at home, I would just be looking at four walls."

Lydia

"I wake up and say, 'Oh goodie, I am going to the centre.'"

Gillian

Customers value the care and support

100%

Good or Excellent overall

9 valid answers

100%

Support quality rated Good or Excellent

8 valid answers

100%

Centre rated Extremely valuable

9 valid answers

78%

said the centre meets needs extremely or very well
9 valid answers

"The staff are so patient and caring... They have helped my father enjoy his life again and helped family cope."

Anonymous survey respondent

Directionally strong feedback from a small sample.

Source: Hungerford Resource Centre Feedback Summary | 11 centre responses; valid bases vary

West Berkshire Council Day Centres | Hungerford

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CUSTOMER MANDATE

Public awareness is the next priority

36%

mentioned awareness and promotion

4 of 11 respondents

38%

rated information extremely or very easy to find

8 valid answers

Visibility remains limited beyond people already using care services.

Use customer evidence to make the service easier to discover beyond existing care networks.

01 Brief locally

Use customer evidence at town council and community meetings.

02 Signpost consistently

Repeat the centre's location, phone and email across trusted local channels.

03 Update regularly

Keep activities, availability and visiting services visible in print and on the centre webpage.

The survey points to a clear direction: protect the quality people value—and help more families find it.

Source: Hungerford Resource Centre Feedback Summary | Small bases; results are directional

West Berkshire Council Day Centres | Hungerford

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ACCESS AND PAYING FOR CARE

Joining the centre is straightforward

01

Start with a conversation

Call or email the centre to discuss interests, support needs and available options.

02

Agree the right support

The experienced team plans personalised activities and support around the individual.

03

Understand the cost

Charges depend on circumstances and where you live. West Berkshire residents may be offered a financial assessment.

Self-funding?

Contact the centre directly to discuss attending and paying for a place.

Live outside West Berkshire?

You can still enquire — the team will discuss available options.

Latest information: westberks.gov.uk • Search "Paying for your care"

West Berkshire Council Day Centres | Hungerford

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