

HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor
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MINUTES of the **Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 7th August 2023 at 7.00pm in the Library, Hungerford

Present: Cllrs Simpson, Fyfe, Carlson, Knight, Winsor, Cusack, and Cole.

Also: West Berks District Cllrs Denise Gaines (DG) and Dennis Benneyworth (DB).

In attendance: Claire Barnes (Town Clerk), Stella Coulthurst and a member of public.

Police Report: A report has been circulated (see attached). The Mayor read this out and added that the incident in Fairview Road was serious and has upset many residents. It is currently an ongoing inquiry. Cllr Fyfe advised that he had reported to Chilton Estate an incident of hare coursing which he had spotted on Sunday.

FC202300143 Note apologies for absence – Cllrs Lewis, Keates, Hudson, Schlanker, Greenwell, Alford and Armstrong.

Also, apologies from West Berks District Cllr Tony Vickers (TV).

FC202300144 Declarations of interest – None

FC202300145 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council of 3rd July 2023, and outcome of actions

Proposed: Cllr Cole

Seconded: Cllr Knight

Resolution: To approve minutes of 3rd July 2023 as a true record subject to one amendment.

Outcome of actions:

The Mayor advised there is no update on the list of Boots stores that are closing and whether this will affect Hungerford. Boots are now aware of the planning application on the site and their lease is up for renewal next year so we will need to wait and see. The Mayor is in contact with the Boots area manager so should receive any update. There was a concern over somebody being given someone else's medication which has triggered an internal inquiry. Boots now has a new store manager and new staff members are being employed; one started last week. The store is improving but has a way to go.

ACTION: The action plan is yet to be updated. It will be brought back to September Full Council.

The Clerk has approached Greenham Trust to ask about possible funding for the Changing Places project and is waiting to hear back. Other actions are complete.

FC202300146 Consider Co-option of new councillors – A paper ballot was taken to consider co-option of Stella Coulthurst as a councillor. The vote was unanimously in favour. Stella signed her acceptance of office form and was welcomed to the table.

FC202300147 Propose appointment of contractor for Church Street Toilets – refer to report.

It was noted the existing contractor submitted their tender response after the deadline.

Proposed: Cllr Simpson

Seconded: Cllr Carlson

ACTION: **Resolution:** Appoint aAFD Service for a three-year contract at a cost of £25,015, with a one-year break clause, subject to following up references.

FC202300148 Receive report from Hungerford 2036 Project Team (Cllr Hudson) – Report attached.

The Locality Grant is now open for applications and the Clerk will be applying. DG reported that the Local Plan has been paused. Inspectors raised 47 questions which are being looked at by West Berks Council (WBC). DG advised that the housing numbers allocated to Hungerford shouldn't change. DG stood down as a co-chair of H2036 when she became a West Berks District Councillor. H2036 are aiming to go out to consultation on their draft plan in Sept/Oct.

FC202300149 Propose authorisation of payment run. (circulated along with copies of invoices for July)

Proposed: Cllr Winser

Seconded: Cllr Simpson

Resolution: Agree payment run of £94,168.14.

FC202300150 Propose year to date accounts – refer to circulated Income/Expenditure Report

Proposed: Cllr Winser

Seconded: Cllr Knight

Resolution: Agree income and expenditure report with £15,010 positive variance.

FC202300151 Consider support for 80th D Day event in Hungerford. This is proposed for the weekend 28th to 30th June 2024. The main event will be a convoy of 30 vehicles arriving in Hungerford on the Saturday. Ideas include a tea dance for the Friday, dressing shop windows, fancy dress, a display on the Triangle Field, a parade and laying of a commemorative plaque. It was suggested that REME (Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers) and the Royal British Legion should be involved. Cllr Keates would take the lead for planning the event. Meetings are being arranged to determine the extent of HTC's responsibility, the budget required and any grants available. DG advised we should apply for any road closures required asap. Councillors expressed their support for the event by a unanimous show of hands.

FC202300152 Any other Reports. Cllr Cole advised the terms of reference are being agreed for the Place Making meetings of which he is happy to chair. This will have no cross over with H2036. He added it would be good to have representation from young people.

DB's District Councillor report has been circulated.

F&GP report has been circulated (**see attached**).

DG reported that there are 800 collections in West Berkshire to empty dog bins a week and 350 bins. Each bin will have a label with a unique code so if there is a problem it can be reported easily. We should see an improvement on the current poor service.

The Clerk reported that WBC are charging HTC for the emptying of 14 bins but they have yet to confirm all the locations.

ACTION: Cllr Cole will chase Paul Hendry at WBC for an urgent response on whether they can take on four more dog bins. If we don't hear soon, they will be placed with another contractor.

The Mayor thanked Town & Manor for taking on the cost of emptying two of the additional bins on a permanent basis.

ACTION: DC will speak to Paul Hendry to find out details on the availability and cost of larger ground-based dog bins.

DG announced that AI is coming to West Berkshire Council! Apps on mobile phone in vehicles will constantly monitor and record faults in the road. It can identify obscured and dirty signs and potholes (although it can't tell the depth).

ACTION: DG will report an obscured sign located down Speen hill going into Newbury.

DG advised that leaving items next to the recycling bins in station road is fly tipping. She asked if it will have been captured on CCTV. Newtown Road recycling centre is extending its opening hours until 8pm but you do need to book.

Kings Road in Newbury will be closed for 5 months as the gas board are replacing the metal pipes with plastic ones to stop leaks. The road will be resurfaced afterwards.

It is felt the new bus stop clearways in Priory Road and Bulpit Road will not affect the houses and residents are receiving letters. DG has chased WBC for the PROW signs for Cllr Fyfe.

ACTION: We wait to hear from WBC about the footway outside Co-op. Gigaclear re-laid the pavement poorly after carrying out their work. It was also noted that they did not put proper barriers in place around a hole and instead used tape and poles. The problem has been reported.

ACTION: DG will speak to Jon Winstanley to obtain a statement about the building cracks and high street partial closure, as HTC continue to receive requests for updates.

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.

FC202300153 Ratify decision of Freedom of the Town Panel for nomination of awardees

Proposed: Cllr Knight

Seconded: Cllr Winsler

Resolution: To ratify the decision of the Town Panel.

Meeting closed 8.30pm

POLICE HTC UPDATE August 2023

July is always a busy time of year for us with various school fetes across the Hungerford and Downlands area. We also joined in with Hungerford's Carnival, getting soaking wet like everyone else who took part and held a Have Your Say at Dobbies Garden Centre.

Jo joined the Mayor at the Tri Station on the morning of the 28th July to wave off the cyclists in the UK Police Unity Tour. A long distance cycle ride undertaken by Police Officers from across the UK to raise awareness of those that have died in the line of duty.

We also supported Operation Aident – This is a nationally co-ordinated campaign focusing on modern slavery and human trafficking.

For the month of July:

3 reports of Anti-social behaviour

1 report of Criminal damage

3 reports of Shoplifting

1 Theft.

Whilst there continues to be no reports of burglary in Hungerford town there have been 7 reported outbuilding burglaries in the surrounding areas, namely Kintbury, Inkpen and Eastbury.

There was an incident that occurred on Fairview Road Hungerford at around 4pm on 20th July. This is currently under investigation.

As we near the end of Harvest we tend to see an increase in rural offences, particularly hare-coursing followed by rural outbuilding burglaries. The team work with our local estates and landowners at this time of year eover the coming weeks to combat and reduce these offences

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 is 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

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES REPORT FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 7TH AUGUST 2023

MONTH 4 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR JULY 2023

101 FINANCE:

Net Income of £549, Bank interest received.

102 ADMINISTRATION:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £2,073 positive variance.

103 GRANTS & DONATIONS:

Net Expenditure is a £799 positive variance this month.

104 POOL HOUSE:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £275 negative variance. Annual service of the Air Source Heat Pump cost £250.

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 £6,309 positive variance. The £5,396 Grant for the Good Exchange was received this month and transferred to the EMR.

202 WAR MEMORIAL GROUND:

Net Expenditure is a £45 positive variance.

203 ST SAVIOURS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £3,021 positive variance. Burial fees increased by £1,650.

204 CROFT FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £333 positive variance. Refunds of £376 were made to cancelled bookings.

205 LIBRARY MAINTENANCE COSTS:

No Expenditure this month.

206 TRIANGLE FIELD:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £529 positive variance.

301 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £281 negative variance. The annual electric invoice was received this month.

302 HIGHWAYS:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £663 positive variance.

303 CCTV:

Net Income over Expenditure is a £76 negative variance.

July's Net Income over Expenditure is a £15,010 positive variance.

Claire Winser, Chair of F&GP

6 August 2023

August 2023 Update on Hungerford 2036 Neighbourhood Plan

01/08/23

Progress continues that in summary includes:

- The HELAA site assessments and site evaluation have been completed by Navigus Planning.
- The Plan text is progressing well and is almost there. Working on a final draft and to add photos.
- An updated programme is shown below. When the draft plan is done then hopefully consultation in October & November. The end date is still expected in October 2024, or at least by the end of 2024.
- Key next actions are:
 - set out site options for consultation.
 - complete draft of the Plan for consultation.
 - prepare for consultation in the autumn.

