



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 16 JULY 2019

PRESENT

Councillor (Mrs) J H Bishop (In the Chair)

Councillors: A Bishop
G Evans
N Gardiner
(Miss) J Murphy
P Newton-Smith
(Mrs) M Penny
K Saunders
K Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy
(Mrs) P Webster
S Weisinger
R Williams
S Wolfensohn

IN ATTENDANCE

Eight Members of the Public and One Member of the Press, Simon Glover (Property Director, Aldi Stores Ltd), Taylor Cherrett (Associate Director, Turleys (Planner)), Councillor G Sumner and David Dewart (Swindon Borough Council).

APOLOGIES

22. Councillor G Olley

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)

23. A resident is unhappy with the possibility of a Skatepark on the Lower Recreation Ground. The Skatepark is an agenda Item on the Planning Meeting and is to be discussed then.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

24. None

MOBILE PHONES

25. Reminder to Councillors and Public that mobile phones should be silenced.

SWINDON HOUSING ALLOCATION

26. Swindon Borough Council currently does not have a 5 year housing land supply. The Local Plan is under review and Swindon Borough Council Officers are confident that the new plan will meet the Government requirements and fulfil the 5 year housing land supply. This will allow Swindon Borough Council to support Neighbourhood Plans in relation to housing developments and gain back control of Planning. Swindon is required to build 1090 homes per year over the next 5 years and will be seeking views of residents across the Borough on site allocation.

The Swindon Local Plan is being reviewed, as part of this process, the Regulation 18 Consultation is to take place between 29 July 2019 – 23 September 2019 and will be available on Swindon Borough Council website. Anyone who has previously replied to consultations will be notified via email or post. There will also be an article in the local paper. The Parish is advised to promote this to the residents and can assist residents with reporting their comments. Comments will then be assessed and a further consultation will take place in December 2019 and finally an enquiry to ensure a sound Local Plan has been delivered.

Site S0467 (shown on the SHELAA map for Highworth) has increased tremendously in size. It was considered and rejected when originally put forward under the Neighbourhood Plan. Highworth Town Council was advised this site has 3 options:

1. To develop the site building 300 houses
2. To develop the site building 117 houses
3. Not to develop

Highworth Town Council previously refused for the following reasons which are still the views of the Council:

- Highworth boundary creeping towards Lechlade and Coleshill
- Does not comply with the Hill-Top Town ethos
- The site is outside the settlement boundary for Highworth
- The proposed site is a 10th of the size of Highworth in its entirety and the original site was a quarter of the size when originally put forward
- Highworth does not have the infrastructure to support a development of this size

Councillor G Sumner and Swindon Borough Council Officer David Dewart were asked if Policy RA1 will be included with the new Local Plan. Councillors were advised Highworth Town Council would need to make representation to include policies. It is disappointing that this would not be carried over from the existing Local Plan.

ALDI

27. Attendance by ALDI Management to seek advice on a new Habitat for species being displaced by Development and give an update on progress:

A bio-diversity calculator is used when assessing sites and the outcome was a net loss of -2.4 biodiversity units. If the existing site is rich in species, it then becomes harder to replicate. Councillors requested the ecological report be sent to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk will also forward the ideas to Aldi.

The following ideas were put forward by Councillors:

- To put trees along Swindon Street to improve the air quality
- To enhance the Town Garden with bird/bat boxes, wild flower areas and logs
- Enhance the area at the back of Brewery Street car park
- Pentylands Country Park
- Wildflower grass verges
- A local farmer advised she could provide an area of land on Pentylands Farm

It is hoped that Aldi will begin building in the first quarter of 2020.

MINUTES OF MEETING

28. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 JUNE 2019 BE ADOPTED** (The minutes were duly signed)

MATTERS ARISING

29. None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR

30. The Mayor reported that she has recently attended the following events:

CLLR MRS JULIA BISHOP 2019 - 2020 **MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH** **ATTENDED FUNCTIONS**

- **TUESDAY 28 MAY 2019** – Malmesbury Town Council, Robing Ceremony, Malmesbury Town Hall
- **SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2019** – Highworth Emporium, "Our Small Victory", 46 High Street, Highworth
- **SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2019** – The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, The High Sheriff's Charity Concert, Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon
- **WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2019** – The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Summer Reception, Nursteed House, Nursteed, Devizes
- **SUNDAY 23 JUNE 2019** – Highworth & District Lions 45th Charter Anniversary Lunch, Wrag Barn Golf & Country Club, Highworth
- **FRIDAY 28 JUNE 2019** – Armed Forces Day National Event, SSAFA VIP Arena, Hudson's Field, Salisbury

- **SATURDAY 13 JULY 2019** – Westrop Primary & Nursery School, 50th Birthday, Westrop, Highworth
- **MONDAY 15 JULY 2019** – Prospect Hospice AGM, Moormead Road, Wroughton, Swindon
- **SATURDAY 20 JULY 2019** – RAF Fairford Enclosure at RIAT, Fairford, Glos
- **SUNDAY 21 JULY 2019** – Chippenham Town Council, Civic Sunday, The Neeld Community & Arts Centre, Chippenham

CORRESPONDENCE

31. None

REPORTS BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

32. a. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny –

Pothole Campaign – Swindon Borough Council is running a pothole campaign and has made it a lot easier to report potholes in the roads with a map to be able to pinpoint where the pothole is. She encourage everyone to call in as many potholes as they can, using this method.

Councillors' Surgery – They had four members of the public attending talking about Planning, Bus Passes, BT Broadband and Overgrown bushes.

She took the question on the Planning issue, where a neighbour felt that work had started before Planning Permission had been granted, and planning are reviewing. She has also called it in and the lady in question now has her Bus Pass.

She has dealt with one Council Tax complaint and managed to get the court case put back to enable time for the case to be reviewed.

Called in for Brewery Street etc to be checked for possible speeding.

Answered questions regarding Coleshill Bridge being repaired.

Took one complaint about the proposed Skatepark which she referred to the Town Clerk.

b. Councillor A Bishop –

Attended the following Committees : Licensing, Children's Health, Planning and Full Council.

Attended councillors Surgery and followed up the completion of work on the footpath between from Station Road to the Retreat

Building work on the corner of Grove Hill and Henley Drive. Complaints about the rubble obstructing the pavement. The builders have promised to clear up as they progress with the works.

8 Kings Avenue rendering cracked, Swindon Borough Council are in contact with contractors.

Manhole cover at the bottom of Pound Road leaking water, neither Swindon Borough Council nor Thames Water will take responsibility.

Highworth Air Cadets (ATC Squadron) proposed new building (old youth club in car park). A meeting was held with Richard Bell (Chief Planning Officer) and David Dewart his second in command and pointed out if the building was demolished the only gain would be additional parking spaces, as parking charges are not in place, there would be no revenue from this. If the Air Cadets take over the building, there will be rent payable. The Air Cadets believe they can raise the funds to completely refurbish the building. Swindon Borough Council will leave the door open for further discussion.

Met with Lisa Hall the new Swindon Borough Council solicitor and monitoring officer but no news on the elections.

c. Councillor S Weisinger -

Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council
Surgery
Audit Committee
Resources and corporate Overview Scrutiny
Planning Committee on behalf of a resident
Planning Committee on behalf of Blunsdon Parish Council
Swindon Housing Company
SBC Full Council
Dealt with numerous issues for residents

REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

33. a. Highworth Twinning Association (HTA) – Councillor R Williams reported that there have been no meetings so far.
- b. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) – Councillor K Smith reported the regularity of meetings have been reduced while the museum project is under progress.
- c. Highworth Action For Fair Trade (HAFFT) – Councillor K Smith reported that there have been no meetings so far.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

34. a. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny:
- Crane Furlong developers have contacted her to request to come and discuss the plans with the Council, she referred them to the Town Clerk.
 - A Public Meeting should be held to publicise the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) consultation.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 pm