



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 17 SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE

5 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES

35. None.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)

36. a. Mrs P Webster. She informed the Council that a Certificate of Lawful Development has been issued for the construction of a Skate Park on land at Swindon Road. She directed Councillors to the SN6 SK8 Facebook page and advised that the group will now be looking for funding.
- b. Mr S Martin. He asked the Council to cut back brambles and dog roses along the fence line between the Community Centre and the Northview play area noting that the roots of the growth are on the Northview side of the fence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

37. None

MOBILE PHONES

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

39. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2019 BE ADOPTED** (The minutes were duly signed)

MATTERS ARISING

40. None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR

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

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

- **THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2019** – Malmesbury Town Council, Fund Raiser Event, A Taste of Sri Lanka, The Town Hall, Malmesbury
- **SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2019** – Calne Town Council, Garden Party, Marsden House & Garden, Calne
- **FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2019** – RAF Fairford 75th Anniversary Heritage Day, Fairford, Glos
- **FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2019** – The Mayor's Charity Prospect Hospice Community Film Night "The Greatest Showman", Highworth
- **SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2019** – Highworth Produce and Craft Show, Warneford School, Highworth

- **SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2019** – Wilton Town Council, Civic Service, Parish Church of St. Mary and St. Nicholas in Wilton

CORRESPONDENCE

42. Complaints have been made that the weed-killing in Highworth has been either not done this year or to such a poor standard that it has been unnoticeable. The Borough Councillors explained that because of poor weather the spraying started late although it has now been done. Swindon Borough Council (SBC) is responsible for spraying twice a year, but only the A and B roads, not side streets. A note to this effect is to be put on the Highworth Town Council website.

REPORTS BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

43. a. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny – she reported that she has dealt with the following issues:-
- She and Cllr. Newton-Smith have been working together to help a young family who suffered a bad leak, which ruined ceilings, floors and the staircase. Hopefully now this has all been resolved.
 - Lots of calls regarding food waste which is to be expected with the new trial just started.
 - Request for the Court behind the Elms to be cleansed - this area seemed to have dropped off the map.
 - Development at Redlands. House owners in this area are concerned that the TPO'd¹ trees look as if they are going to be cut down in the new plans; taken up with planning enforcement and the tree officer.
 - Some queries on what is happening to the golf course as the area is not being upkept as it should be.
 - Queries from residents in Shrevenham Road about the amount of traffic, especially HGV's, that now seem to be using this road as a cut through to Swindon and also the speed at which the traffic travels. She told Councillors that she intends to request that a speed test is conducted on the road.
 - Resolved a lady's broken Garden wall and a neighbour who was storing waste irresponsibly.
 - Installation of insulation agreed for residents in Rivers Way.
 - Comments that at Twelve Oaks, all-weather pitches are being installed without Planning Permission.
 - Several comments about blocked ditches and gullies just off the Blackworth Roundabout (caused by Thames Water) and the golf course possibly caused by lack of upkeep by TwigMarket - awaiting Officers reports.
 - Attended Councillors Surgery which was quite busy.
- b. Councillor A Bishop – he reported that he has attended the following Meetings and dealt with those issues listed:-
- Licencing, about new rules for Taxis regarding the carrying of passengers.
 - Planning.
 - Transport Appeals.
 - Police Crime Commissioners meeting in Salisbury.

¹ Where Tree Preservation Orders have been issued.

- Two Saturday Councillors Surgeries.
 - Had foliage cut back at Broad Blunsdon.
 - Drain issues in both Blunsdon and Stanton Fitzwarren.
 - Illegal parking in the High Street.
 - The Planning Appeal made against the refusal of Retrospective Planning Permission on a property at the top of Windrush was lost by the householder, so he is awaiting news of the next steps.
 - A fallen fence in Turnpike Road.
 - Arranged for the High Street in Blunsdon to be swept.
- c. Councillor S Weisinger – he reported that he has attended and dealt with the following meetings and issues:-
- Town Centre Movement Strategy.
 - Parking Standards for New Developments.
 - Councillors Surgery.
 - Fly Tipping issue on Home Farm – he arranged for Officers to collect.
 - Council Tax query from a Resident.
 - Query regarding person living in a Caravan behind a residents property.
 - Internal Audit Update.
 - Query from Stanton Fitzwarren resident regarding Council Houses - refurbishment and painting – 2020.
 - Thank you letter from Inglesham in assisting getting speed reduction to 40mph.
 - Potential development of house without planning permission in Grove Orchard which Officers are looking in to.
 - Crane Furlong Development residents concerned about access via Pentylands.
 - Ermin Street Residents - volume of HGV's and speeding concerns.

Councillors were asked what information that they wanted in the Borough Councillors Reports. They have asked for information on issues that affect Highworth and its residents, along with anything else in the Borough which might have an effect on the town, such as large scale planning applications.

Councillors were also reminded that the Councillor Surgery held on the first Saturday of the month is open to all Councillors who would like to attend.

REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

44. a. Highworth Twinning Association (HTA) – Councillor R Williams. None.
- b. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) – Councillor N Gardiner reported that there were no meetings over the summer and that the focus has been on the new Visitor Information Centre. Councillors are all invited to the Open Day on Saturday 21 September 10.30am – 12.30pm.
- c. Highworth Action For Fair Trade (HAFFT) – Councillor K Smith reported that there has been no meeting so far. He is to contact the Chairperson of HAFFT to discuss.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

45. a. Councillor S Wolfensohn. He expressed concern about speeding on The Elms and on the Coleshill Road. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny told the Council that due to the parking in the Elms, speeding had not been raised as an issue and she will arrange for some speed testing to be done to check. Measures have been tried to limit the number of HGV's that use the road and some patching is being done to the road surface. She will make enquiries regarding the Coleshill Road.
- b. Councillor K Saunders. He asked Councillors if anyone has any works that the Community Payback Team could undertake. He will pass any responses on to the team. Councillor N Gardiner suggested that Westrop School may have some and that the School has successfully used the service before.
- c. Councillor N Gardiner. He has been contacted by a resident of Styles Court concerned about pockets of anti social behaviour predominantly at the bus stop in Brewery Street which has been badly vandalised. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny recommended that he put in a request to SBC to use its mobile CCTV cameras and to keep her informed of the outcome.

The Meeting closed at 8.21 pm