



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 18 JUNE 2019

PRESENT

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Four Members of the Public and One Member of the Press,

APOLOGIES

10. Councillors G Olley, (Mrs) P Webster and S Weisinger (Chairing Audit Committee at Swindon Borough Council (SBC)).

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)

11. Mr S Martin.
- The Schedule of Meetings for the Town Council are on the Council Website as a pdf. Link.
 - The nettles overgrowing the dog bins at Pentylands Park are to be addressed. Responsibility for the weeds at the side of the path next to the Northview Community Centre is to be investigated.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

12. None.

MINUTES OF MEETING

13. **RESOLVED TO AMEND ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2019, MINUTE 1c. TO READ “VOTING WAS 7 IN FAVOUR, 7 AGAINST AND THE CHAIR EXERCISED HER CASTING VOTE”.**

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2019 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.

MATTERS ARISING

14. None.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR

15. 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

Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop announced that her chosen Charity for this Mayoral Year is to be The Prospect Hospice.

Councillors congratulated Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop on her fundraising efforts for Alzheimer’s in her last Mayoral Year.

CORRESPONDENCE

16. a. E-Mail from Pinders Circus to use the Lower Rec for a few days, to be arranged, in October 2019. Councillors agreed, subject to usual consideration over weather and ground suitability and the agreement of the Highworth Town Junior Football Club.

FOOTPATH - STRANKS CLOSE TO WRAG BARN

17. Councillor S Wolfensohn. (Re-instatement at cost of Developer when the footpath re-opens). Councillor (Mrs) M Penny confirmed that she had received an email from the Developers of the Shrevenham Road Development, that the 'Prow' footpath is to be re-opened temporarily early next week and will then close again from 15 July 2019 for lighting and resurfacing work.

TO CONSIDER A PLAN FOR NEXT FOUR YEARS

18. Councillor K Smith. Following a request to Councillors for suggestions, a Committee is to be formed of the Chairman and the Chairs of Environment & Leisure, the General Purpose & Finance and the Planning functions of the Council to consider which ones are feasible over the next four years and to arrive at a precis of suggestions. A Meeting is to be arranged.

REPORTS BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

19. a. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny
- Requests for Potholes (which have been filled) and Yellow Lines (which are deferred to September) have been passed to SBC.
 - Complaints regarding missed plastics and medical waste collections have been reported and dealt with.
 - Councillors Surgery: One person questioning the appearance of traffic restrictions on the A361, she contacted officers who have confirmed this is not Highways and could be Thames Water which has asked for restriction on the Highway whilst the work is finished in that area.
 - Food waste trial coming to Highworth, bins will be delivered to affected households by approximately 12 July. (Details will be on the SBC website from 7 July).
 - Email received from resident asking to include a 30mph restriction at Reddown when any new development starts. They have been advised that it will be considered when any plans are received, or developers come to this Town Council.
 - Complaints about damage to recycling boxes when they are emptied. The particular Crew is to be spoken to as residents are soon to be charged £7 for a replacement box.
 - Visit by Highways Officers to Highworth: High Street Potholes have been filled where possible; some have not been done due to parked vehicles.
 - The middle of the road requires repair, this will mean closing the High Street and will take approximately 3 months to organise.
 - The Pavement outside the Town Garden (off the Fox roundabout) is to be repaired, investigations are underway to establish ownership of the pavement outside the Highworth with a view to repair too.
 - Youth Centre: SBC are in contact with the MoD who is looking to take over the redundant Youth Centre for the purpose of finding a permanent home for the Air Cadets. The MoD has viewed the property and SBC are in consultation with Officers regarding terms. This would be a lease directly to the MoD and would be at no cost to the Borough. The MoD will not run this as a youth centre but is happy to consider a few groups such as the Men's Shed who possibly will help with the renovations. NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE.

b. Councillor A Bishop – He reported that he is in receipt of fortnightly reports regarding the progress of the ATC Squadron (Highworth) in finding new accommodation – notice to quit has still not been served but he will keep Councillors updated.

He has also dealt with the following issues and attended the following meetings:-

- Housing repairs
- Faulty streetlights
- Police & Crime Commissioners Panel in Trowbridge
- Appeals
- Licencing – there are new rules regarding the keeping of animals.

REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

20. a. Highworth Twinning Association (HTA) – Councillor R Williams reported that he was unable to attend the meeting.
- b. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) – Councillor N Gardiner reported that
- there is to be a Cheese & Wine evening on 19 June 2019 as an introduction to those interested in what the ‘Visit Highworth’ team has been doing.
 - Work continues to relieve loneliness in the Town.
 - He is aiming to bring a ‘Visit Wiltshire’ update to the Council.
- c. Highworth Action For Fair Trade (HAFFT) – Councillor K Smith reported that there have been no meetings so far.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

21. a. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny. She reported on behalf of Councillor R Williams, that the HTA had a very good visit to Wassenberg between 30 May and 2 June 2019, the Safari Lunch went very well, and a trip is planned to go to Pontorson from 27 – 30 September 2019, if any Councillors are interested in attending.
- b. Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy. She informed Councillors that the Coleshill Bridge is due to be closed from 4 August 2019 for 6-8 weeks, by Swindon Borough Council, for repairs. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny is to make enquiries at SBC what is happening and report back.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm