



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 19 MARCH 2018

PRESENT

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

Councillors: P Adams
A Bishop
(Mrs) J Clark
(Mrs) A Durrant
G Edwards
N Gardiner
(Mrs) A H Livall
(Mrs) M Penny
K Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy
(Mrs) P Webster

IN ATTENDANCE

16 Members of the Public, Mr Jerry Herbert (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)), Gareth Cheale, and Danielle Maudrell (Early Years SBC)

APOLOGIES

85. Councillor R Acres and S Weisinger



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)

86. Mr Lovell. He brought to the attention of the Council that the Police are intending to sell the closed Police Station at Newburgh Place, at which the Highworth Squadron Air Training Corps is currently housed. The sale will result in the closure of the Squadron unless other suitable accommodation can be sourced. Councillors sympathised but informed Mr Lovell that it is a subject that needs to be taken up with the Police directly. Listing the property as an Asset of Community Value is to be investigated.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

87. Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy declared an interest in the Early Years item on the Agenda.

MOBILE PHONES

88. Reminder to Councillors and Public that Mobile Phones should be silenced

DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (DPCC)

89. Mr Jerry Herbert. He apologised that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Angus McPherson was unable to attend as intended:
- He informed Councillors that the Policing part of the Precept accounts for 40% of Police funding, the remainder coming from Central Government.
 - In the past five years, Officer numbers have dropped from 1250 to 934 and that renewed effort is to go into Community Policing, Cybercrime and Fraud, and Child Sexual Exploitation.
 - The Highworth Station is to be sold under the Police Estates Strategy and the receipts are to go back into Policing. He expressed regret that the parents of the ATC Squadron had only just been informed of this as the Ministry of Defence had been informed at the end of 2017. Planning is being sought for the site.
 - When asked about reports of drug dealing in the area, he told Councillors that Local Operational Issues lie with the local Inspector. Highworth is in the Swindon North sector of Wiltshire Police which has 150 Officers and 15 PCSO's working shifts to cover the area.
 - He told Councillors that Wiltshire has very low levels of crime and the lowest number of Police Officers per head in the country. He confirmed Angus McPherson's statement that there is no correlation between officers on the beat and crime.
 - He also explained that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) commissions services, for example, contacts for victims of crime are paid for through the office.
 - Around 20% of police time is dealing with vulnerable individuals.
 - The OPCC is becoming an 'end to end' justice service, from Crime Prevention through to potentially taking on some probation work in the future.

EARLY YEARS SBC

90. Danielle Maundrell and Gareth Cheale (SBC). At the invitation of the Town Council, they attended to explain to Councillors how the number of Early Years educational/nursery places are calculated. Answers to a number of questions put by Councillors were provided and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting by email.

They reported that there are 90 private and voluntary 'settings' and 200 registered Childminders across the Borough. They explained to Councillors the funding available for child places and the free entitlement for some children from the age of two. They then went on to describe the methods by which they arrive at the number of children that they need to cater for including birth records and the Department of Work and Pensions. A new assessment is about to be commissioned as the number of homes in the Borough increases.

MINUTES OF MEETING

91. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2019 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.**

MATTERS ARISING

92. a. Full council Minute 82. The sentence "Stage Coach has suggested putting a stop within the Aldi car park rather than on the road" is to be changed to "Councillor (Mrs) M Penny has suggested to Stagecoach that the bus stop is moved into the Aldi car park - negotiations are still ongoing".
- b. Minute 80 a. Councillor P Adams advised Councillors that the Skatepark group has received quotations from two Companies and is awaiting a third.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR

93. Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop has attended the following events to date:

CLLR MRS JULIA BISHOP 2018 - 2019 MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH ATTENDED FUNCTIONS

- **TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018** – Highworth Scout Group, AGM, Scout Hall, Eastrop, Highworth.
- **WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2018** – Chippenham Town Council, Mayors Investiture, Town Hall, High Street, Chippenham.
- **TUESDAY 29 MAY 2018** – Malmesbury Robing Ceremony, Malmesbury Town Hall, Malmesbury.
- **SATURDAY 2 JUNE 2018** – The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Charity Concert for Swindon Cares, Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon.
- **SUNDAY 3 JUNE 2018** – Hazrat Shahjalal Mosque, Manchester Road, Mayor of Swindon Cllr Junab Ali, Celebrate "End of the Fasting Day for Ramadan"
- **THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018** – Defence Academy Cocktail Party, Celebrate the Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, Beckett House, Defence Academy, Shrivenham.

- **FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2018** – RAF Fairford Assumption of Command Ceremony, Concorde Room, Community Activity Centre, RAF, Fairford
- **SUNDAY 10 JUNE 2018** – Devizes Town Council, Mayor's Inaugural Church Service, St John's Church & Cheese Hall, Devizes
- **SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2018** – Malmesbury Town Choral Evensong, Malmesbury Abbey, Malmesbury
- **SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2018** – Highworth Pre-School 50 Years Celebrations, Rivers Way, Highworth
- **SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018** – Marlborough Town Council, Civic Service, St Marys Church, Marlborough
- **SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018** – Highworth & District Lions Club, 44th Charter Anniversary Celebration Lunch, Wrag Barn Golf Club, Highworth
- **TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2018** – Brownie Equalities, Eagle Owl, HTC Chamber, Highworth
- **SUNDAY 1 JULY 2018** – Melksham Town Council, Civic Celebrations/Civic Service, St Michael and All Angels Church, Canon Square, Melksham
- **MONDAY 2 JULY 2018** – Prospect Hospice, AGM, Moormead Road, Wroughton, Swindon, Wiltshire
- **SATURDAY 14 JULY 2018** – RAF Fairford Enclosure, Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford
- **SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2018** – Chippenham Town Council, Annual Civic Celebrations, St. Andrew's Church, Chippenham
- **SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2018** – Highworth Produce Show, Warneford School, Highworth
- **MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2018** – RAF Fairford, Civic Open Day, Fairford
- **SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2018** – Wilton Town Council, Civic Service, St. Mary & St. Nicholas, West Street, Wilton
- **WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2018** – Women's Health Evening, BMI The Ridgeway Hospital, Wroughton
- **SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER 2018** – Highworth Choral Society, Autumn Concert, Methodist Church, Highworth
- **SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 2018** – Cream Tea & Raffle, Mayor of Highworth, Flower Demonstrations by H.A.D.F.A.S, (Charity Alzheimer's Society) Community Room, Council Office, Highworth
- **SATURDAY 20 OCTOBER 2018** – Warminster Town Council, Civic Reception, Warminster
- **SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER 2018** – Highworth Twinning Association, Dinner, Italian Restaurant
- **FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2018** – The Field of Remembrance, Lydiard Park, Swindon
- **FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2018** – Calne Civic Ball, Calne, Wiltshire
- **SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2018** – "A Fantastic Musical Evening", Mayors Charity Alzheimer's Society, Highworth Methodist Church
- **SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2018** – Highworth Remembrance Parade, Podium, Highworth
- **SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2018** – Faringdon Town Council, Battle's Over – A Nations Tribute Commemorations Dinner, the Corn Exchange, Faringdon
- **THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2018** – Diocese of Bristol, Civic Launch & Commission, Pattern Church, Penzance Drive, Swindon
- **FRIDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2018** – Highworth Annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony, Market Square/Podium, Highworth
- **SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER 2018** – Scouts Swindon Gang Show, Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, Wiltshire
- **TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2018** – County of Wiltshire Carole Service, St Bartholomew's Church, Corsham
- **TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2018** – Highworth Evening Women's Institute, Christmas Carol Service, United Reformed Church, Highworth
- **SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER 2018** – Highworth Choral Society, Christmas Concert, Methodist Church, Highworth
- **THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2018** – Alzheimer's Memory Cafe, Moredon Garden Centre, Moredon, Swindon
- **SATURDAY 22 DECEMBER 2018** – St John the Baptist Church, Christmas Celebrations and Tea, Inglesham

- **SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 2019** - "New Year Party", Justin Tomlinson Office, Swindon
- **MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2019** – Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Swindon, Cubs/Scouts meet Mayor of Swindon
- **SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2018** – Concert by Sheila Harrod & the Kentwood Show Choir, Highworth Methodist Church, Highworth
- **FRIDAY 1 MARCH 2019** – "Girls Night In", Priory Green, Highworth
- **FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2019** – Mayor of Malmesbury, Mayoral Ball, Malmesbury
- **SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2019** – Faringdon Town Council, Civic Service, All Saints' Church, Faringdon
- **SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2019** – High Sheriff Rule of Law Service, Malmesbury Abbey, Malmesbury
- **SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2019** – Warminster Civic Service, Warminster St Denys (Minster Church) Church Street

CLLR RYAN ACRES 2018 – 2019
DEPUTY MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH
ATTENDED FUNCTIONS

- **THURSDAY 10 MAY 2018** – Grove Hill Care Nursing Home, Grove Hill, Highworth, Raising Funds for Gloucester House, Highworth, (The Salvation Army, Drugs & Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre), Dr John Bestwick cycling to Gibraltar.
- **THURSDAY 10 MAY 2018** – Royal Wootton Bassett, Mayor Making Ceremony, St Bartholomew & All Saints Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon.
- **SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2018** – Highworth Remembrance Parade, Podium, Highworth

CORRESPONDENCE

94. E Mail from a Councillor:

- stating that their Councillor's report does not say that they carried out case work for residents and demanding that it be amended.
- They proposed at a meeting that Councillors be provided with a written monthly report on outstanding/pending items at each Full Council.
- That their proposal had not been minuted under Members' Business and again demanding that it be updated.
- An order to send out an outstanding casework report to all Councillors.

To answer the issues raised in the E Mail the following was reported:

- The reason for the section of this report not being included in the Minute is that, although they were asked to forward their written notes, they did not provide them. It is not always clear what this Councillor is saying and their delivery was too fast for verbatim notes to be made. It has always been made clear to Councillors that if they wish for a report to be accurately minuted they need to give the Clerk a copy of the notes they used when making the report.

- It was suggested by the Councillor that a system of status reporting be instituted and this was taken under consideration. The Clerk stated that he and his staff would look at what might be the best way forward, but there was no commitment to institute the system there and then. Changes in procedures would not normally be actioned under Questions from Councillors, but would be put on a GP&F Meeting agenda for discussion.
- The suggestion that this item was not minuted under Members' business is incorrect. Please see Minute 84c.
- The demand for sending out of a report to Councillors was not complied with. The procedure is for instructions to be given at a meeting by majority consent.

Finally, the Clerk informed Councillors that he will not permit himself or his staff to be spoken to or written to by an individual Councillor in an imperious, rude or disrespectful way. The direct line of communication is through Council meetings, although the Clerk will respond to any approach from a Councillor that is couched in a respectful and helpful manner and that approach is civil.

REPORTS BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

95. a. Councillor A Bishop – reported that he has attended the following meetings:-

- Swindon Borough Full Council,
- Children's Health,
- Licencing Committee,
- Clerks' and Chairs' Meeting,
- Planning,

He has also attended to the following issues for residents:-

- Re-housing a couple on their discharge from hospital,
- Condensation on double glazed windows in Kings Avenue,
- He is endeavouring to arrange for SBC to clear up the refuse in the corner of the Lower Rec Field,
- He is to accompany the Police on their next visit to local schools to advise on drug awareness,
- He also read out a letter of thanks from a Brookfield resident regarding the road resurfacing work.

b. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny – Councillor Penny reported that in addition to managing to get the funding for the resurfacing work on Brookfield, she has dealt with the following issues for residents:-

Housing

- Doors being fixed,
- Plumbing renewed,

Rubbish

- Clinical waste collected – as the resident could not get through to SBC to arrange collection,
- Clearance of fly tipping from Home Farm and following up,

She has also attended the following:-

- Councillors' Surgery,
- NHP working group after which she pointed out the Highway problems in the High Street to the visiting Highways Officer,
- Met with Cabinet Member to try to stop the development of the land next to the Junior Football Club,

Honda

- On the Honda Steering coordination task group, she has signed a comprehensive Confidentiality Agreement and the first meeting is diarised for April. There is a 6 week consultation period between Honda and UK Government before the group can start.

Two new benches are being acquired by the Council for Roundhills Mead and should be in place by the end of March.

REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

96. a. Swindon Transportation Councillors agreed that this subject should no longer be reported as the consultation group no longer exists.
- b. Highworth Town Twinning Councillor G Edwards informed Councillors that there is nothing new to report.
- c. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) Councillor K Smith reported that there was a successful 'Loneliness' event held in the Council Community Room at the weekend.

The Visitor Information Centre is due to open this year and the Tourist information Centre in the Lighthouse Bookshop will continue.

- d. Highworth Fair Trade Councillor (Mrs) A M Durrant reported that the Fair Trade Renewal is overdue, but this is in hand. The Town Council continues to provide Fair Trade products when it offers refreshments. A Councillor is to be chosen to represent the Council after the Elections.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

97. a. Councillor K Smith. Councillors voted not to send a letter to the Editor of 'Blunsdon and Highworth Voice' regarding a recent publication.
- b. Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant. She announced that she will not be standing at the next Election. She thanked the Staff and fellow Councillors for their support during the time that she has been on the Town Council.

- c. Councillor N Gardiner. He told Councillors that the first Community Clean-up of the year is to be held on 30th March, meeting in the Committee Room in the Council Offices.

He also advised Councillors that the United States Air Force is relocating its people from the base at Mildenhall to Fairford in 2023 which will have a big impact on the local community.

- d. Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy. Councillors were told that Traffic Management at SBC is investigating a 20 mph speed limit in the Conservation Area.

- e. Councillor (Mrs) P Webster. She brought to the Council's attention that the HTC Crest has reappeared in the Link above the edited Minutes. Mention is to be made again to the Editor.

The Meeting closed at 9.50 pm