



### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 21 JANUARY 2020

Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop (In the Chair)

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

3 Members of the Public and one Member of the Press

#### APOLOGIES

67. Councillors G Olley, S Weisinger



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)**

68. None.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

69. None.

**MOBILE PHONES**

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

71. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2019 BE ADOPTED** (The minutes were duly signed)

**MATTERS ARISING**

72. None.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

73. a. Email from Councillor K Saunders re: Facebook comments on overflowing bin outside the Golf Course Shop. Swindon Borough Council (SBC) has refused to empty it, in spite of the fact that the Golf Course is currently still leased to Twigmarket by SBC. Highworth Town Council (HTC) is to empty it and take the bin away as a matter of pragmatism. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny, as Swindon Borough Councillor, insisted, quite correctly, that the onus fell on Twigmarket to empty this bin and that SBC should be enforcing this.  
She requested, and it was agreed, that she be permitted to take the matter up with SBC and that action be delayed until Friday. This was agreed.

**REPORTS BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

74. a. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny – she reported that she:-
- Attended Councillors Surgery on 4 January 2020 and took questions on when Aldi was going to be started, what's happening to the Golf Course, complaint about SBC not picking up dead animals, Cricklade Road and footpaths.
  - Taken a complaint about seepage of water into cellar on the Elms – SBC had responded to the resident poorly. A proper response has now been received.
  - Contacted SBC re: the non-removal of a dead fox from the Sevenfields area. They responded that this was Parish work however the fox has now been collected by SBC.

- Dealt with a complaint of a running tap in Queens Avenue, resident requested help from SBC before Christmas, but had heard nothing, the tap was fixed the same day.
- A tree obscuring light in Stonefield Drive. SBC responded that the tree was not on its land, the resident might pay for it to be trimmed.
- Parking problems on Windrush.
- Attended Swindon Plan Consultations in Highworth on Saturday and Monday.
- Speeding problems on St Michaels Avenue. Residents were advised that this was a Police matter as Swindon has no jurisdiction or enforcement powers, she suggested speed watch would mitigate the problem.
- Dealt with problems with traffic being routed through Sevenhampton. She asked Officers to look into this as well as the impact on Highworth as most of the traffic will then come into Highworth via the Shrivenham Road.
- Worked between HTC and SBC, pavements, roadways and drains in Cricklade Road have now been cleared.
- Alerted the Drains Team in SBC due to blocked ditches spilling water onto carriageway washing away grit and then freezing on the road to Blunsdon, several accidents have already occurred.
- Residents in Redlands worried about flooding as ditches had not been cleared on the side of the road and drainage channels on the Golf Course not upkept. SBC has now cleared the ditches and Twigmarket arranged for the drainage channels to be cleared – hence the diggers seen on the defunct Golf Course.
- Due to parking problems at Rivers Way, residents have asked if the parking bays could be numbered.

b. Councillor A Bishop. - he reported that he has:-

Attended the following meetings at SBC:

- Licensing
- Planning
- Police and Crime Commissioner meeting on Budgets

Dealt with the following issues:

- A property in Fairview had no hot water or gas for cooking, this was treated as an emergency and was fixed the following day.
- A property in Stapleton Close with raised earth and a 12ft high fence has been referred to the Legal Department at SBC. No attempt has been made to demolish the extension.

- Combined efforts with Councillor S Weisinger, a flat in Newburgh, scaffolding has now been erected.
  - A large house in Stanton Park which has been converted into 3 flats has been refused Planning Permission by Stanton Parish Council. The applicant has reapplied with alterations.
  - In discussions with Aldi. The ecological survey has been completed and they are set to transfer and replant trees in Pentylands Park. Aldi are now in talks with SBC to start the build work before this work is completed to prevent additional delays.
- c. Councillor S Weisinger – he sent in the following report in his absence, he has attended and dealt with the following meetings and issues:-
- Councillors Surgery December 2019.
  - Scrutiny Meeting SBC December 2019.
  - Meeting with residents in Stanton Fitzwarren regarding 2 separate Planning Applications.
  - 2 Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council Meetings.
  - Resident requiring assistance in council house transfer.
  - Work carried out on a council property affected a resident in private rental next door and had leaks coming through roof as a result, initially SBC said resident needed to get his landlord to do repair, he got SBC to do it as they created problem.
  - Meeting with Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and Backhouse Developers regarding existing plans to build in Highworth.
  - Meeting with resident in Hampton regarding potential extension to property.
  - Resources and Corporate overview Scrutiny Meeting at SBC.
  - Potholes reported for repair.
  - Enquiry from resident in Blunsdon re-drainage issue.
  - Issue regarding extension to property in Stapleton Close without Planning Permission.

## REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

75. a. Highworth Twinning Association (HTA) – Councillor R Williams reminded Councillors of the trip to Wassenberg. There is nothing new to report as the Meeting was postponed.

b. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) – Councillor N Gardiner reported the first meeting of the year is to vote on the structure of HCPG and to agree the projects to be taken forward. It was agreed to continue as before and that the following projects are to be taken forward:

- To identify an overnight space for camper vans
- To update the Memorial Garden to improve it
- To encourage feedback on the Visitors' Centre and also operate a Visitors' Book

c. Highworth Action for Fair Trade (HAFFT) – Councillor K Smith reported that although there have been no meetings, work is being undertaken writing the documents to renew the Fair Trade status of the Town for the coming five years.

## QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

76. a. Councillor R Williams: Councillors unanimously agreed for HTC to purchase and adopt the dyslexic type font for all documents, the cost being approximately £80.00.
- b. Councillor N Gardiner:
- The lease for the Lower Rec is still outstanding, it has been chased by the Town Clerk and if no response is received Councillor (Mrs) M Penny is to be informed.
  - Residents have complained that the pavements around Highworth Town Centre are in a very poor state and are very difficult to manage, especially for residents who use any kind of walking aid or scooter. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny advised that SBC does inspect periodically. If Councillor N Gardiner considers it justified, then he should report the problem to SBC. Work needs to be undertaken on the surface of the High Street which will entail the whole of the High Street being closed to traffic.
  - A litter pick is to be held on Saturday 1 February 2020 1:00pm – 3:00pm. SBC is to collect the waste bags, preferably from the Brewery Street Car Park.
- c. Councillor G Evans: A meeting is to be arranged by Councillors K Smith, to include Councillors (Mrs) L Vardy, (Mrs) J Bishop and (Miss) J Murphy to form an Action Plan for HTC. A report is to be given at the next General Purpose and Finance Meeting on Tuesday 18 February 2020.
- d. Councillor (Miss) J Murphy: Fly-tipping in Sevenhampton - Councillor (Mrs) M Penny confirmed that there is still an ongoing issue with SBC regarding fly-tipping.
- e. Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop: Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop is to take up the unsightly mess at 48 High Street with the Conservation Officer at SBC.
- f. Councillor S Wolfensohn: The repairs to McColl's Newsagents are still outstanding. Regular updates are received from the Conservation Officer at SBC. The guttering has been cleared but the building repairs are yet to be completed.

**The Meeting closed at 9:00pm**

**Action Points: -**

- Await reply from Councillor (Mrs) M Penny regarding the bin at the Golf Course.
- Purchase the dyslexic font and put into use.
- Arrange for Swindon Borough Council to collect rubbish from the litter pick.
- Arrange a Meeting for Action Plan Working Party.