

Highworth



Town Council

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www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

G56.

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL (GENERAL PURPOSE AND FINANCE) 21 January 2020

PRESENT

Councillor: K Smith (In the Chair)

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

IN ATTENDANCE

11 Members of the Public, 2 Representatives from Wrde Up (Jim Webster and Garry Laken) and one Member of the Press

APOLOGIES

Councillors: G Olley, S Weisinger



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)

- 70.
- a. Residents from Sevenhampton shared their concerns about the diverted traffic that has been coming through the village. The traffic is speeding through and is dangerous to other road users, pedestrians, residents and children. This is happening at rush hour in the morning and again in the evening. Swindon Borough Councillor (Mrs) M Penny has reported this to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and will continue to follow it up.
 - b. There are drainage issues at the bottom of Sevenhampton which is causing persistent flooding. The resident was advised to email the details to mpenny@swindon.gov.uk, Councillor (Mrs) M Penny is to take this up with SBC on their behalf.
 - c. The deadline for comments on the SBC Local Plan review is 31 January 2020. Residents are urged to take part and give their views. Once the consultation has been collated the draft document will then be passed to a Government Inspector.
 - d. All comments are to be in writing if they are to be effective, only written comments will be considered. The Town Clerk confirmed a letter has already been sent to SBC regarding how the consultation was carried out.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

71. Councillor R Williams declared an interest in the Highworth Market.

MOBILE PHONES

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

HIGHWORTH MARKET

73. a. Correspondence. None.
- b. Market Manager's Report. The Market Manager reported that a successful Market was held before Christmas. The Market took a break before the New Year and was back the first Saturday in January 2020. The Market Manager has again looked at the layout of the Market to accommodate new stalls as two new enquiries have been received. The Bag Stall is no longer coming for reasons unknown.

It was agreed that the Market Reports should be changed from monthly to quarterly (the next Report is to be at the General Purpose and Finance Meeting on Tuesday 17 March 2020) unless there is an urgent requirement for a Report.

- c. The accounts as listed on pages G60 to G62 were accepted.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

74. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL (GENERAL PURPOSE AND FINANCE) MEETINGS HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2019 AND 7 JANUARY 2020 BE ADOPTED** (The minutes were duly signed).

MATTERS ARISING

75. None.

CORRESPONDENCE

76. a. An email was received from Jim Webster asking to present Wrde Up Accounts to Councillors. These accounts were duly presented, and the master copy is now held in the Council Offices. The Wrde Up Music Festival for 2020 is to be held on Saturday 11 July 2020.

Resolved by Councillor R Williams and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop that the £1000.00 Highworth Town Council Loan shown in the Wrde Up Accounts be converted to a Grant and cease to be recoverable. Carried unanimously

b. Quote from Tree Surgeon for tree work in St Michael's Closed Cemetery. Highworth Town Council (HTC) does not accept responsibility for maintaining the trees, with the exception of carrying out general tidying up to head height. However, it was generally agreed by Councillors that there is an aspiration to encourage tourism to the Town and that St Michael's Church is the main tourist attraction in the Town. Councillors agreed that as such it would not be unreasonable to consider a contribution towards the cost of this particular tree work. However, HTC, in doing so, would make it plain that this should not be taken as setting a precedence and does not indicate any change in HTC's Policy not accepting any responsibility for the tree maintenance. Any contribution to this work would be a gesture of goodwill.

- Resolved by Councillor R Williams and seconded by Councillor G Evans that HTC make a contribution of 50% of the quote for tree work at St Michael's Churchyard, but that this contribution would not signify any change in its policy not to accept responsibility for maintenance of the trees in the Churchyard. Voting was 5 For, 6 Against and 1 Abstention. The resolution was not carried.
- Resolved by Councillor A Bishop and seconded by Councillor K Smith that HTC make a one off payment to the tree surgeon for the whole of the quote for tree work at St Michael's Churchyard, but that this contribution would not signify any change in its policy not to accept responsibility for maintenance of the trees in the Churchyard. Voting was 7 For, 3 Against and 2 Abstention. The Resolution was duly carried. Payment is to be made up to the quoted amount directly to the contractor when the work has been completed.

DECLARATION ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

77. Resolved by Councillor K Saunders and seconded by Councillor P Newton Smith that HTC declares a Climate and Environmental Emergency and will immediately set up a Working Party to include and consult with residents to investigate measures to mitigate this emergency. Voting was 11 For, 1 Against and 1 Abstention. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny abstained due to her position in Swindon Borough Council.

DRAFT ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

78. Councillors K Saunders, R Williams, N Gardiner, P Newton Smith supported by the Assistant Town Clerk were appointed to the Climate and Environmental Emergency Working Party. They are to consult with residents and co-opt, where necessary, to identify actions that Highworth and HTC can adopt to assist in mitigating the effects of the declared Climate and Environmental Emergency. A meeting is to be arranged.

COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES

79. Only one Councillor is still required to either take up the offer of a Councillor email address or to instruct the office that they do not wish to avail themselves of the offer.

TO ADOPT POLICIES (MEDIA, REDUNDANCY, GRANT FUNDING)

80. Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt the Media, Redundancy and Grant Funding Policies with minor amendments to the Redundancy and Grant Funding documents.

ACCOUNTS

81. The accounts as listed on pages G63 to G67 were accepted and payment of bills authorised.

MEMBERS BUSINESS

82. Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy: Councillors unanimously agreed the date for the Annual Firework Display will be Friday 6 November 2020.

Councillor (Mrs) M Penny: She thanked HTC for their support in clearing Cricklade Road which looks amazing.

Councillor (Miss) J Murphy: She is to discuss the possibility of a Christmas Market with Councillor R Williams. This has been done successfully in previous years as a one off and held within St Michaels Church.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Action Points: -

- Councillor (Mrs) M Penny to follow up the issues within Sevehampton
- Letter to be sent to Rev. Geoff Sowden regarding payment of quote for tree Maintenance at St Michael's Churchyard, making it quite clear that this does not alter the Council's stated position on tree work there.
- A meeting is to be arranged for the Climate and Environmental Emergency Working Party
- Minor amendments to be made to Polices