

Highworth



Town Council

Council Offices
3 Gilberts Lane
Highworth
SWINDON
Wiltshire
SN6 7FB

Tel: 01793 762377 or 763511
Email admin@highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Clerk Mr D C Lane

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB-SITE AT:
www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

G60.

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL GENERAL PURPOSE AND FINANCE MEETING 22 JANUARY 2019

PRESENT

Councillor A Bishop (In the Chair)

Councillors: R Acres
P Adams
(Mrs) J H Bishop
(Mrs) J Clark
G Edwards
N Gardiner
K Smith
(Mrs) M Penny
(Mrs) P Webster

IN ATTENDANCE

One Member of the Public.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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APOLOGIES

61. Councillors (Mrs) A Durrant, C Adams, (Mrs) A H Livall, (Mrs) L Vardy and S Weisinger, The Market Manager, R Williams.

A letter of condolence is to be sent to Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant on her recent bereavement.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

62. Agenda Item 8. Correspondence. Councillor R Acres declared an interest in the subject of the email reported at Minute 68c. and took no part in the debate.

HIGHWORTH MARKET

63. a. Correspondence - None
- b. Market Manager's Report – Councillors were informed of the sad death of the Footwear Stallholder.
- c. Market Accounts - The accounts listed on pages G63 and G64 were agreed.

MINUTES OF MEETING

64. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING (GP&F) HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2018 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.** The Minutes were duly signed.

FEES AND CHARGES 2019/2020

65. Councillors unanimously agreed to maintain the Council Office Room Hire fees and charges at the same prices as 2018/2019. (Page G65)

ACCOUNTS

66. The accounts listed on page G66 to G70 were approved and payment of bills authorised.

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

67. Councillors agreed to the Clerk writing an article for the Link Magazine to inform residents of the attendance record for Meetings, it is to include the fact that Councillors who are also Borough Councillors are often due at Meetings in Swindon when the Town Council meets, information on the obligations of becoming a Councillor – and to point out that all Councillors act in a Voluntary capacity and are not paid.

CORRESPONDENCE

68. a. Highworth Golf Centre. An email from Twigmarket. We have invited a representative for Twigmarket to come to a meeting. A representative has agreed to attend, but needs to know in advance why he is being asked to attend and what issues are likely to come up. A reply is to be sent advising that the Council is interested in hearing of the future plans of the Company for the Golf Course.
- b. Openreach – High Speed Broadband for Highworth. We have been attempting to get someone from Openreach to come and talk to Councillors. A very helpful lady at Openreach (Head of External Communications (South)) has been trying to get someone to respond with little success. She has now managed to find someone and we will be contacting him now we have a name.
- c. Pre-School Provision in Highworth. An email from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Early Years Planning. The Unit sent the figures in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) for Blunsdon and Highworth. The CSA identified 572 0 to 4 year olds living in the Ward and 193 Early Years places available across existing maintained, PVI and sessional provision plus 112 places being delivered through a Childminder Network, a total of 305 places (based on 15 hours equals one place). More specifically, there are 253 three and four year olds living in the Ward who would be entitled to 15 hours of early education funding plus an estimated 152 eligible for the 30 hours free childcare offer, creating a need for 406 x three and four year old places in the Ward. The message suggests that there is a shortfall of 101 places across the Ward, not taking into account additional places required for two year old funded children and places for paying families across the 0 to 4 age range.

These figures are contested as we are informed that there are currently 214 Early Years places in Highworth alone, plus those available at Westrop (50-100). It has not been possible to check the Childminder provision. If, as is planned by SBC, a further 60 places are to be provided by Eastrop on the Southfields School site, there is concern that the existing, successful (Ofsted ratings) providers will become unviable.

A representative from Early Years SBC is to be invited to a future Council Meeting.

MEMBERS' BUSINESS

69. None

Meeting closed 7.15 pm