

# Highworth



## Town Council

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[www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

E&L5.

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL (ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE MEETING) 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

#### PRESENT

Councillor: K Saunders (In the Chair)

Councillors:

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Five Members of the Public, one Member of the Press, Andy Steele (Highworth Warneford School) and Mark Collett (Highworth Town Junior Football Club)



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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## APOLOGIES

12. Councillors S Weisinger and G Olley

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

13. None.

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

14. None.

## MINUTES OF MEETING

15. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE MEETING (E&L) HELD ON 4 AUGUST 2020 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.** The Minutes are to be duly signed.

## MATTERS ARISING

16. Minute 4. Declarations of interest should read 'Councillor R Williams, as the Chairman of Highworth Recreation Centre Trustees, together with Councillor N Gardiner, also a Trustee, declared a financial interest in the agenda item "To Re-Appraise the HALO Agreement" Their pecuniary interests are limited to £10.00 each. Councillors R Williams and Councillor N Gardiner were not excluded from the debate on this item, but were excluded from further participation at the decision and voting stage.'

## ALL WEATHER PITCH – WARNEFORD SCHOOL

17. A presentation was given to the Councillors outlining the current situation and progress of obtaining an all-weather football pitch at Warneford School. Warneford School has been working closely with the Junior Football Club and Football Foundation to secure an all-weather pitch within the school site which would benefit the whole community.

The total build cost is estimated to be in the region of £350,000.00. The Football Foundation has identified Highworth as an area lacking in playing pitches and states that the community would benefit from having an all-weather pitch located within the Town, it is prepared to fund some of the cost. The School and Football Club are looking to raise funds to the value of £100,000.00 the shortfall to be covered by the Football Foundation. £41,000.00 has already been secured, through the Freke Norton Trust (£40,000.00) and Highworth Lions (£1,000.00). Early talks are in progress with the Football Association regarding funding and any money pledged by Highworth Town Council will not need to be released until May 2022. The Town Clerk confirmed there are earmarked reserves in the accounts for a project such as this.

The site would be managed by the school and used by Highworth Warneford pupils during the day and hired to the Junior and Senior Football clubs together with private community bookings in the evenings and weekends. Any rental costs would cover staffing and maintenance.

The School has limited capital funds and has received significant amounts of funding for site security, roofing and new toilets in the recent months. Staffing redundancies and tight budgets have made it impossible for the school to pledge any money to the project. However, it is keen to

see it sited at the school. The addition of an all-weather pitch to the school would allow the school to compete with other secondary schools in the area for pupil enrolment, Warneford School does have a good reputation for sporting ability. Unfortunately, it is currently lacking in adequate sports facilities. The school relies heavily on recruiting pupils from outside the area.

Councillors resolved to support Warneford School and Highworth Junior Football Club in their bid to site an all-Weather Football pitch at Warneford School.

If Funding should be requested at some time in the future, it would be necessary to complete the HTC Grant Fund Application Form (which can be found at [www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)) and supported by a business plan.

### **USE OF PODIUM/MARKET SQUARE**

18. The Policies Committee is to consider writing a Policy for Use of the Podium and Market Square. A 'Zoom' Meeting is to be scheduled next week.

A letter is to be sent to TT Linnets regarding the tables that have been placed on the pavement.

### **OBSTRUCTION BY TREES/BUSHES ON PRIVATE PROPERTIES**

19. Any reports of this nature should be reported to SBC either through the SBC JADU system, the Call Centre or via HTC Office.

Councillor (Mrs) M Penny confirmed there is a legal process that SBC must follow which involves visiting the offending household, followed up with a request letter. A period of 28 days must follow before a second letter can be sent advising of the consequences should the letter be ignored, then a further 28 days must follow before a letter can be sent advising them action will be taken and the household will be charged. Enough time must be given to allow the household to carry out the action required.

Councillor (Mrs) M Penny confirmed she has been dealing with four cases of this nature and three of the cases have now been resolved. SBC Officers are due to come out to Highworth on Thursday to look at other cases. She stressed the importance of reporting it to SBC to ensure the correct procedure to be followed.

A guide directing people on who to report issues to is included within the new website.

### **REPORT ON WILDFLOWER GROUP MEETING**

20. The ownership of the sites selected in the proposal are to be identified and permission requested to allow wildflower areas. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny brought to the Council's attention that where SBC has ownership of any land on which sites are contemplated, prior approval must be sought.

## **FIREWORKS**

21. Due to COVID-19 and government guidelines the Annual Fireworks Event is cancelled.

## **CRICKET CLUB**

22. Councillors resolved to give permission for the Town Clerk to negotiate a license to play Cricket on the Rec Field with a newly formed Cricket Club.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

23. Permission was granted to Highworth Town Senior Football Club to hold its Annual Football Tournament over the weekend of 5 and 6 June 2021, ensuring government guidelines are adhered to at all times.

## **MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

24. Councillor N Gardiner: The COVID-19 Risk Assessment for the Fun Fair has not been received but is expected by the end of September 2020.

Councillor (Mrs) M Penny: The issue of how and when voting is required is to be discussed by the Chairman and Town Clerk. How the Chair conducts a meeting is his prerogative, but the main requirement with any decision is that the Town Clerk is confident that it is a majority decision.

**Meeting closed at 9:00pm**

## Action Points

- A Policy Meeting is to be scheduled
- The Town Clerk is to write to TT Linnets requesting the tables are removed
- Site ownership and permissions is to be sought for the wildflower areas
- The Town Clerk is to negotiate a License to play cricket with the newly formed Cricket Club