



Highworth Town Council

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E&L.04.

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 6 JULY 2021

PRESENT

Councillor: K Saunders (In the Chair)

Councillors: R Williams (Chairman of the Council, no voting rights)
G Evans
P Newton-Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy

IN ATTENDANCE

9 Members of the Public, 1 member of the Press



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

APOLOGIES

16. Councillors: (Mrs) M Penny, A Bishop, (Mrs) J Bishop, S Weisinger and N Gardiner.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

17. Councillors K Saunders and Councillor P Newton-Smith declared an interest as trustees of Pentylands Country Park. There is no pecuniary interest and therefore were able to participate.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

18. None

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO)

19. PCSO Townsend reported Highworth is a low crime area but encouraged residents to report any incidents of crime so it can be investigated and logged accordingly. When scheduling workforce, these statistics are used. Crimes can be reported via 101 and now also online.

PCSO Townsend agreed to schedule future dated Police Surgeries on the Podium to be available to residents who may have any questions.

CORRESPONDENCE

20. An email has been received from a resident regarding the tree planting at Little Forty in Pentylands Country Park. The initiative was run by Swindon Borough Councils, Great Western Community Forest and The Friends of Pentylands County Park and any issues should be raised directly with them.

MINUTES OF MEETING

21. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE MEETING (E&L) HELD ON TUESDAY 1 JUNE 2021 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.** The Minutes were adopted and to be duly signed.

PLAY AREAS

22. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor G Evans to approve the Play Area Survey and for it to go out to the Public. Councillors unanimously agreed and the Resolution was duly carried.

Following an inspection of all Play areas within Highworth by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), upgrading & maintenance have been highlighted as a high priority. The necessary essential work is currently being undertaken by the GroundsTeam. The Town Clerk is to draw up potential schemes, analysis costings, potential grant funding etc.

It is anticipated the proposals will be brought back to Council in September 2021, this will allow time for Public participation and Public Consultations to shape the overall scheme.

GROUNDS TEAM

23. Feedback was complimentary on recent works by the Grounds Team in removing weeds in Swindon Street, Brewery Street and the High Street. Residents also noting a vast improvement in the dog waste collection, which has now been brought in-house, making a considerable saving.

GREAT WESTERN COMMUNITY FOREST

24. Councillors noted the draft briefing notes circulated by The Great Western Community Forest on the next phase of tree planting. The tree planting is due to take place in the Autumn 2021 in the Big Forty in Pentylands Country Park.

BLUE HEART SCHEME

25. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor G Evans to adopt the Blue Heart Scheme for existing Wildflower Sites within the Town and to continue to progress the Wildflower Programme with Swindon Borough Council. Councillors unanimously agreed and the Resolution was duly carried.

MEMBERS' BUSINESS

26. Councillor R Williams: A request to change the date of the Christmas Lights Event currently scheduled for Friday 26 November 2021 be changed to Saturday 27 November 2021. This is to be an Agenda item on the Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 20 July 2021.

Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy:

- a) The Town Clerk is to investigate a new litter bin be sited near the Co-Op Funeral Parlour in Brewery Street.
- b) The Town Clerk is to identify the owner of the wall in Blandford Alley as it requires repair. Window boxes are sited in Gilberts Lane and have recently been planted.

Councillor K Saunders: Work has started on securing the compound on the Golf Course site.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Action Points

- Investigate the possibility of installing a new litter bin in Brewery Street
- Investigate who owns the wall in Blandford Alley