



Highworth Town Council

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39.

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT

Councillor R Williams (In the Chair)

Councillor: A Bishop
G Evans
N Gardiner
(Miss) J Murphy
G Olley
K Saunders
K Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy

Town Clerk: (Mrs) D Rose

IN ATTENDANCE

1 Member of the Public

APOLOGIES

95. a. Councillors: (Mrs) K Barber, (Mrs) J Bishop, P Newton-Smith, (Mrs) M Penny, S Weisinger and S Wolfensohn

b. Councillor K Smith expressed his concern regarding Councillor absence at Meetings. If a Councillor is unable to attend a Meeting and prior to this he has formally sought approval for his absence, his request will be considered. This is to be an Agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting. The Town Clerk advised that attendance records will be published on the Website in due course.



Highworth is a Fair-Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

96. None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

97. None

CORRESPONDENCE

98. a. An email has been received from Wrde Up Committee seeking Highworth Town Council's approval to stage Wrde Up on Saturday 9 July 2022 and Sunday 10 July 2022, with a Friday night 'Wrde Up Warm Up'. Highworth Town Council have no objection to this. The Town Clerk is to write to the Committee and request they contact Swindon Borough Council's Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG).
- b. Highworth in Bloom have emailed the Town Clerk to thank Highworth Town Council for their support. The Grant, together with other funds raised means that Highworth in Bloom is now fully solvent and capable of supporting its activities for some time.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

99. **RESOLVED TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021.**

The Minutes were adopted and duly signed.

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

100. a. Finance & General Purpose – Tuesday 21 September 2021
 b. Neighbourhood Plan – Tuesday 28 September 2021
 c. Environment & Leisure – Tuesday 5 October 2021
 d. Planning – Tuesday 5 October 2021
 e. Sustainable Highworth Working Group – Tuesday 12 October 2021

The Committee Meeting Minutes were noted.

ACCOUNTS

101. The Accounts listed on pages 43 to 50 were accepted.

PRECEPT

102. Resolved by Councillor G Olley and Seconded by Councillor K Saunders that the Precept Demand for the year 2022/2023 be £619,075.00 (Six hundred and nineteen thousand and seventy-five pounds) as shown at pages 51 to 59. Councillors voted unanimously in favour and the Resolution was duly carried.

Councillors congratulated the Town Clerk for the work carried out to prepare the Precept, it is open and transparent and below 5% increase.

HIGHWORTH TOWN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB GRANT FUNDING

103. Resolved by Councillor K Saunders and Seconded by Councillor G Evans to approve the Grant Application for £9,000.00 towards pitch maintenance at the Lower Rec site. Highworth Town Junior Football Club (HTJFC) is to work in conjunction with Highworth Town Councils Grounds Team to ensure a cohesive approach. The Grant Funds are to come from S106 specific for 'the improvement of the existing playing pitches in Highworth'. Voting was unanimous, the Resolution was duly carried.

FEES AND CHARGES

104. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor G Evans that the Fees and Charges listed on pages 60-65 were approved for the Financial Year 2022/2023. Voting was unanimous, the Resolution was duly carried.

The Cemetery Administration and Burial Fees is to be a Full Council Agenda item in March 2022 following a review by the Town Clerk.

SKATE PARK

105. The Town Clerk reported that the Skate Park build is well under way and currently ahead of schedule. It is estimated that the Skate Park will be completed mid to late December 2021.

MAY DAY

106. Resolved by Councillor K Smith and Seconded by Councillor G Evans to approve funding support of £3,000.00 towards the May Day taking place on Saturday 30 April 2022. Voting was unanimous, the Resolution was duly carried.

FIREWORKS

107. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor K Smith for the Town Clerk to ask Nemesis Pyrotechnics to hold the date for the 2022 display and for Fireworks to be an Agenda item on the Full Council in January 2022. Voting was unanimous and the resolution was duly carried.

The Fireworks Event held on Friday 5 November 2021 was a sell-out and the feedback has been extremely positive.

SUSTAINABLE HIGHWORTH WORKING GROUP

108. Councillor G Olley is to review the Terms of Reference and Objectives for the Sustainable Highworth Working Group and a draft document will be brought back to Council in the new year.

MEMBERS BUSINESS

109. Councillor (Miss) J Murphy: Following the closure of the Emerging Local Plan Consultation on Thursday 7 October 2021 Highworth Town Council has queried the delay

in publishing the comments on the Consultation Portal. We have been advised that Swindon Borough Council is working at capacity to process the representations received. They are aiming to complete this work as soon as possible and have advised it is their current priority.

The Consultation received approximately 1000 representations which were made by about 700 individual residents, organisations, or others with an interest in the draft Local Plan. Swindon Borough Council has advised about 325 representations have been made against the proposed housing allocation on the former Highworth Golf Course site (Policy LA 34). This was made up of around 262 representations which utilised the pre-filled representation form promoted by the Action Group for Saving Highworth's Old Golf Course, and approximately 63 further representations relating to Highworth in general, nearly all of which referenced LA34. In addition, we have received the representation from the Town Council and the representation from the Action Group. Swindon Borough Council is working towards taking a report on the submission of the Local Plan to Cabinet on 1 December 2021.

If Cabinet decide to recommend the submission of the Plan for examination, the recommendation will be taken to a Swindon Borough Council decision on 20 January 2022 (anticipated). If submission is agreed by Swindon Borough Council, Officers will submit the Plan for Examination in Public to the Secretary of State soon after, in late January or February 2022.

Councillor K Smith: The entrance to the Community Room has a slight step. The Town Clerk is to investigate what can be done to make this more accessible.

Councillor R Williams: The Christmas Light Switch on Event is being held on Saturday 27 November 2021 from 1pm. Any Councillors willing to assist are to contact the Town Clerk.

MEETING CLOSED 8.20PM

Action Points

- The Town Clerk is to advise Wrde Up of the Councils request to contact ESAG.
- Shortage of Burial spaces is to be a future Agenda item.
- Cemetery Administration and Burial Fees to be a Full Council Agenda in March 2022.
- The Town Clerk is to contact Nemisis Pyrotechnics and Fireworks is to be an Agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting.
- Councillors' attendance and absence at meetings is to be an Agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting.
- The Town Clerk to investigate accessibility to the Community Room.