



Highworth Town Council

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31.

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT

Councillor R Williams (In the Chair)

Councillor: A Bishop
G Evans
N Gardiner
P Newton-Smith
K Saunders
K Smith
S Wolfensohn

Town Clerk: (Mrs) D Rose

IN ATTENDANCE

8 Members of the Public



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

APOLOGIES

77. Councillors: (Mrs) J Bishop, (Miss) J Murphy, G Olley, (Mrs) M Penny, (Mrs) L Vardy and S Weisinger (Chairing Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Audit Committee)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

78. a. Councillor K Smith declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 - Grant Application from Highworth Community Partnership Group, there is no pecuniary interest.
- b. Councillor A Bishop declared a personal interest in Agenda item 12 Council - 6 Month Rule on Meeting Attendance.
- c. Councillor S Wolfensohn declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 13a - Planning Application S/21/0015 SASM as the owner of a parcel of land on Shrivenham Road and he left the room while the item was discussed.
- d. Councillors P Newton-Smith and K Saunders declared an interest in Agenda item 13b - Planning Application S/21/1470 SASM as member of 'Friends of Pentylands Country Park' there is no pecuniary interest.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

79. None

CORRESPONDENCE

80. An email has been received from Councillor S Weisinger in relation to Agenda Item 13a - Planning Application S/21/1470 SASM expressing his support for this Application.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

81. **RESOLVED TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2021.**

The Minutes were adopted and duly signed.

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

82. Agenda item 5 - Committee Meeting Minutes was deferred until the next Full Council Meeting to allow for each Committee to approve the Minutes before they are noted by Full Council.

HIGHWORTH COMMUNITY SHED

83. Adrian Young the Chairman of the Highworth Community Shed delivered a Presentation to Councillors.

The Highworth Community Shed aim is to promote social inclusion for public benefit through the provision of a facility particularly for, but not exclusive for, anyone at risk

of being socially excluded. To prevent social exclusion by promoting the opportunity for friendships, social engagement and skill sharing in a safe and enjoyable environment, in which members can meet and carry out creative projects acceptable to the Shed, individually, jointly and for the benefit of the wider community. To promote good health and wellbeing to its members through active participation and, from time to time, providing opportunities for relevant health organisations to raise awareness of good health strategies for the benefit of the shed. To promote social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge. Activities in the Shed are to include woodwork, metal work and other manual arts for making and mending things. The initial focus is on upcycling and saleable goods. Highworth Community Shed need to find an existing building or room in a building that can be a low start-up cost but permanent, or alternatively find a sponsor who would accommodate something on their land. A landlord behind the High Street has kindly offered space that can be used for approximately 2-3 years.

Mr Young requested support with locating a permanent place for Highworth Community Shed and to ensure Highworth Town Council (HTC) addresses loneliness in our Town within the Neighbourhood Plan review, and if any financial support could be considered.

REPORTS BY SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

84. a. Councillor A Bishop:

Attended the following Meetings:

- SBC Meeting
- Licensing Meeting regarding Haydon Wick Club extension of hours
- SBC Planning Meeting

b. Councillor S Weisinger:

Attended the following Meetings:

- Scrutiny Meetings
- Growing the Economy Meeting
- Standards Committee
- Meeting with Councillor V Manro and residents in Sevenhampton regarding traffic volumes
- Attended SBC Planning Meeting on behalf of resident

He also assisted with the following:

- Several issues on behalf of local residents with some still ongoing
- Discussions with Highways Officers on issues within the Ward
- School Safety Environment Zones (SSEZ) outside Westrop & Eastrop is making progress. There has been public support from local residents in the area and it is now in the consultation process
- Discussion with Planning Enforcement Officers on a property that has been extended in the Ward without permission
- Visited two residents on Planning Applications they will be submitting
- Attended both Housing Consultation Events at Highworth Warneford School
- Tree cutting arranged for residents

c. Councillor V Manro:

Did not attend the meeting or submit a report.

REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

85. a. Councillor R Williams - Highworth Twinning Association (HTA) – A Christmas Dinner has been arranged.
- b. Councillor N Gardiner- Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG) – After a long period of not meeting due to COVID a Meeting took place on Wednesday 1 September 2021 and Wednesday 6 October 2021. Key items discussed were the Memorial Garden, Credit Union, Dovecote, May Day and the Queens Platinum Jubilee Event.
- c. Councillor K Smith - Highworth Action For Fair Trade (HAFFT) – Nothing to Report

HIGHWORTH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GROUP GRANT APPLICATION

86. Resolved by Councillor N Gardiner and Seconded by Councillor R Williams to refuse the Grant Application for £2955.00 towards replacement costs of the Dovecote in Sevenfields. Voting was unanimous, the Resolution was duly carried.

Councillor K Smith abstained from voting due to his declaration of interest.

HIGHWORTH TOWN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB GRANT APPLICATION

87. The Grant Application to approve funds to assist with Pitch Maintenance was discussed. Councillors requested that further information be supplied in the form of Accounts and a Maintenance Schedule before this Application can be considered any further. This is to be a future Agenda item.

SKATE PARK WORKING GROUP

88. a. Resolved by Councillor K Smith and Seconded by Councillor K Saunders that Councillor R Williams and Councillor N Gardiner be appointed to the Skatepark Working Group to assist the Town Clerk with overseeing the construction. Voting was unanimous, and the Resolution was duly carried.
- b. Resolved by Councillor K Smith and Seconded by Councillor P Newton-Smith to accept that HTC does not have a paper trail for £2,400.00 of the fundraising donations transferred from the SN6-Wheeled Skate Group. This is because the fundraising took place over the last 40 years and is made up of individual donations. Voting was unanimous, the Resolution was duly carried.

COUNCIL 6 MONTH RULE ON MEETING ATTENDANCE

89. Resolved by Councillor N Gardiner and Seconded by Councillor P Newton-Smith to approve (Mrs) J Bishop 'statutory excuse' of ill health as per LGA 1972 s 85(1)(2) Voting was unanimous, the Resolution was duly carried.

Councillor A Bishop abstained from voting due to declaring an interest.

PLANNING APPLICATION

90. a. **S/21/0015 SASM** - Erection of 33 no. dwellings (use class c3) including access and internal roads, public open space & landscaping, suds & other associated infrastructure. Wrag Barn Golf Course, Shrivenham Road, Highworth, SN6 7QQ.

Councillor S Wolfenshon left the room whilst discussion took place and was excluded from voting due to declaring an interest.

Councillors Recommended Refusal on the following grounds:

The Application is outside of the Settlement Boundary and is not in keeping with Highworth being a Hill-Top Town. The Application Site is in an isolated position and cannot be classed as an urban fringe of Highworth and is therefore development in the countryside.

The site is not in the Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan, or the Local Plan Review.

The Neighbourhood Plan excluded Shrivenham Road as being suitable for development during site selection and this was supported by the Inspector when passing the Plan.

Swindon Borough Council (SBC) has undertaken an Infrastructure Review in order to support future development in Highworth and has assessed Highways, Drainage, Water Supply and Distribution, Gas Upgrades, Electricity, Enhancements to Health and Social Care and Education. The initial findings of this review identify essential upgrades are required in all areas. It is imperative that this document is considered when assessing the infrastructure for this Application.

Thames Water has identified an inability to accommodate the needs of the proposed development and confirmed they can supply water to all 33 dwellings but sewage to only 20. Further to this Thames Water has not taken into account the additional developments coming forward and the additional requirements.

Although the Applicant is providing a footpath in the frontage of the Application Site, unless the other developments are built then pedestrians will come to an end and will be required to walk on the road for some distance. The secondary footpath suggested is not a proper footpath but in fact the edge of a field until it eventually links up with an existing footpath from Wrag View. It is neither of tarmac surface nor lit.

The Application is noted as being a Full Planning Application and is reliant on two additional sites coming forward. The two additional sites are currently being determined in the Outline Stage. This Application is reliant on the provision of a footpath and pedestrian crossing from these two Applications in order to achieve connectivity to the local Schools and Town.

Councillors are extremely concerned about the Traffic Safety of Shrivenham Road. The additional traffic caused by this Development will increase what is already a dangerous situation, particularly as there are two Schools sited on Shrivenham Road.

SBC's Cabinet Meeting 03/03/21 the Adoption of a Road Safety Strategy and in the section titled Transport Development Planning reads 'Raise the profile of local safety issues so that they are considered early within the Planning Stages of new development'.

The Strategy looks at all aspect of Highway Safety including cycling. This is already a prerequisite of another Application Site on Shrivenham Road which is in the emerging Local Plan. Policy LA19 requires safe walking and cycling to the School and yet there is no provision of cycling within this Scheme.

The additional vehicles generated will throw a huge burden on car parking in the Town where there is already insufficient capacity for the Town's needs.

The additional vehicles joining the already long queues at peak times will increase exhaust emissions, becoming a serious environmental issue, particularly for the school children who are walking along narrow pathways in close proximity to the queuing traffic. Within the Transport Document, an accident was recorded of a pedestrian being hit by the wing mirror of a vehicle and supports how close pedestrians are in relation to vehicles.

The Travel Plan does not identify the need for monitoring of effectiveness. The Applicant has not demonstrated that enough consideration has been given to this important aspect.

Sevenhampton has not been mentioned as a destination to walk or cycle to although, yet again it has not been considered in terms of the additional traffic that will take a short cut to get to Swindon for employment as acknowledged in the Transport Report. Sevenhampton already experiences high volumes of vehicles particularly at peak times and has serious concerns over Highway Safety.

The Ecology Officer has noted that more information is required and the ECIA has been based on an Outline Planning Application not a Full Application.

Councillors would like to advise that should SBC be minded to approve this Application then Highworth Town Council would request the S106 monies for mitigation of this Application, be protected for Highworth and to be involved at an early stage. They would also request for it to be called in to Planning Committee where a representative of Highworth Town Council will attend.

- b. **S/21/1470 SASM** – Change of use from stable (sui generis) to 1 no. dwelling (C3), access and associated works: The Stable, Pentylands Lane, Highworth.
Councillors Recommend Acceptance
- c. Planning Inspectorate Ref: **APP/U3935/21/3280902** - at Farm Buildings, Eastrop Farm, Shrivenham Road, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7QQ. To approve any representation to be made from Highworth Town Council in reference to Unauthorised Development – Erection of three buildings as residential dwellings.
The Town Clerk is to write to Swindon Borough Council and request justification in their decision to reject this Application and approve the Planning Application S/21/1241 PEEG Gladman when the objections specified in the enforcement letter are the same objections Highworth Town Council raised when considering the Gladman Site and submitted to the Secretary of State.

VISIT HIGHWORTH LIMITED (VHL)

91. Resolved by Councillor N Gardiner and Seconded by Councillor K Saunders for HTC to request the remaining balance of the Grant (£3,000) to be 'not for profit' Shares in the Limited Company. Voting was unanimous, the Resolution was duly carried.

Resolved by Councillor N Gardiner and Seconded by P Newton-Smith to appoint Councillor K Smith to Visit Highworth Limited as a representative of HTC. Voting was unanimous, the Resolution was duly carried.

MEMBERS BUSINESS

92. Councillor A Bishop: He expressed his disappointment that the Civic Service was not a Church Service as previous years.

Councillor R Williams: Councillors requested the Mayor attend Brian Mattock's Memorial Service on behalf of HTC.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

93. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor G Evans to exclude members of the Public from Agenda item 17 on the grounds of avoiding disclosure of personal information. Councillors unanimously agreed and the Resolution was duly carried.

STAFFING

94. The Staffing Committee gave a verbal update regarding the GroundsTeam.

MEETING CLOSED 8.41PM**Action Points**

- Committee Meeting Minutes and Matters Arising (Agenda item 5) is to be moved to the next Full Council Meeting.
- The Town Clerk to ask Highworth Junior Football Club to supply account information.
- The Town Clerk to write to SBC requesting justification in their decision to reject Planning Application at Farm Buildings, Eastrop Farm, Shrivenham Road SN6 7QQ (Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/U3935/21/3280902).