



Highworth Town Council

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17.

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021

PRESENT

Councillor R Williams (In the Chair)

Councillor: A Bishop
G Evans
N Gardiner
(Miss) J Murphy
(Mrs) M Penny
P Newton-Smith
G Olley
K Saunders
K Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy
S Weisinger
S Wolfensohn

Town Clerk: (Mrs) D Rose

IN ATTENDANCE

Eighty Seven Members of the Public



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

APOLOGIES

35. Councillors (Mrs) J H Bishop and (Mrs) K Barber

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

36. Councillors R Williams and N Gardiner declared an interest in Agenda item 12 Halo as Trustees of Highworth Recreation Centre, there is no pecuniary interest.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

37. **RESOLVED TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2021.**

The Minutes were adopted and were duly signed.

MATTERS ARISING

38. None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

39. a. An email has been received from a resident requesting Councillors to investigate a link road to any Shrivenham Road developments. Councillors are unable to discuss this at this time due to the 'Call In' process relating to the Gladman Planning Application.
- b. A resident posed a question to Councillor S Weisinger regarding his participation in the Swindon Borough Cabinet Meeting on the 7 July 2021. Councillor S Weisinger requested the remaining 70% of land at the Old Golf Course be transferred to Highworth Town Council if this site was brought forward.
- c. An action group has been set up with the objective to protect the Old Golf Course site against development. Councillors are advised not to participate due to predetermination.
- d. Councillors (Miss) J Murphy and (Mrs) K Barber did not attend the Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Meeting on the 7 July 2021 due to existing commitments and holidays. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and S Weisinger confirmed attendance.
- e. Highworth Town Council submitted a request to take over the Old Golf Course site as a Community Asset in 2019.
- f. The review of the Neighbourhood Plan started in September 2020 when the new Chairman of the NHP committee was appointed, prior to that the NHP focus was Swindon Street. To date a review has been undertaken on all the policies, a new structure has been agreed. Currently working on consultations with workshops starting from September and investigating appointing a consultant.
- g. Permanent move or lease of office space at Northview Community Centre is to be an Agenda item at the next Full Council Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

40. Due to the volume of public questions received the questions have been collated and will be covered in a statement, Highworth Town Council will put any outstanding questions to Swindon Borough Council and will advise residents once a response has been received.

'The current Local Plan was adopted by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) in March 2015, Local Plans should be reviewed every 5 years. The first Public Consultation was held in December 2019. SBC have since created a second draft which is due to go to Public Consultation on 29 July 2021 and will run through to the 16 September 2021.

The purpose of the Local Plan document is to identify sites for employment and housing and to create policies to shape the community, for example, Social Housing, landscape.

Following the Public Consultation SBC will consider all comments before taking it to the inspector with the view to it being adopted in the 3rd quarter of next year. All representations made will be reviewed by the inspector, all comments are taken into consideration by the inspectorate therefore it is imperative people submit their views for any of the sites within the Local Plan through the consultation process.

All sites within the Local Plan are not Planning Applications they are potential development sites and would be subject to Planning Permission if the site were brought forward.

SBC own the Golf Course land and have included the land within the emerging Local Plan. In September 2019 Highworth Town Council submitted a request to SBC to take over the golf course as a community asset however SBC have been consistent in their response that they are considering all options and that the interest is noted.

Highworth Town Council have confirmed with Swindon Borough Council a Public Event is to be arranged with possible dates to be confirmed.

All developments are subject to S106 and CIL contributions to mitigate developments. This a national policy. HTC will write to the local amenities and current services within the Town to request current capacity and growth.

Highworth Town Council will update the Facebook page and Website, hold regular Public Events, use notice boards, the Saturday market and library to direct people to current information.'

CHRISTMAS LIGHT EVENT

41. Resolved by Councillor R Williams, Seconded by Councillor P Newton-Smith to amend the date from Friday 26 November 2021 to Saturday 27 November 2021. Voting was unanimous and the Resolution was duly carried.

EMERGING LOCAL PLAN

- 42.
- a. The Town Clerk is to liaise with Swindon Borough Council with reference to holding a Public Event to allow residents an opportunity to ask questions on the Emerging Local Plan.
 - b. Resolved by Councillor K Smith, Seconded by Councillor G Olley for all Councillors to send comments relating to the Emerging Local Plan to the Town Clerk by Tuesday 31 August 2021. This is to ensure the public event is held by Swindon Borough Council with the Town before Councillors put their comments forward. Comments are to be submitted to the Chairman of the Planning Committee. A Full Council Meeting is to be scheduled for September to approve Highworth Town Councils response to the Consultation.
 - c. Resolved by Councillor (Miss) J Murphy, Seconded by Councillor K Saunders, to write to Swindon Borough Council regarding the non-publication of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to support development in Highworth included in the Local Plan. Voting was unanimous and the Resolution was duly carried.

ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

43. Resolved by Councillor K Smith, Seconded by Councillor R Williams for Councillors K Smith and K Saunders to respond to Swindon Borough Council's Road Safety Strategy on behalf of Highworth Town Council. Voting was unanimous and the Resolution was duly carried.

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL CYCLING & TRANSPORTATION CONSULTATION

44. Resolved by Councillor P Newton-Smith, Seconded by Councillor R Williams for Councillors P Newton-Smith and N Gardiner as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Sustainable Highworth Working Group to respond to Swindon Borough Council's Cycling & Transportation Consultation on behalf of Highworth Town Council. Councillor (Mrs) Penny offered her expertise. Voting was unanimous and the Resolution was duly carried.

CALL IN ON GLADMAN PLANNING APPLICATION S/OUT20/0422-SASM

45. Highworth Town Council is awaiting confirmation of the 'Call In' process. If accepted there will be a hearing.

MEMBERS BUSINESS

46. Councillor K Saunders: Requested Councillors to offer some time to attend the play parks and encourage residents to participate in the Play Area Survey. Interested Councillors are to liaise with Councillor K Saunders.

Councillor (Mrs) M Penny: Highworth Town Council send their best wishes to Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop whilst she is unwell.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE MEMEBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

47. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny to exclude the Public and Press from Agenda item 12 on the grounds that Publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature arising out of the business to be transacted in accordance with LGA 1972. Sch, para 10(2) (b) and 26 (2) (b). Councillors unanimously agreed and the Resolution was duly carried.

HALO REPORT

48. Councillors R Williams and N Gardiner were excluded from the meeting due to declaring an interest as Trustees of Highworth Recreation Centre.

Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and Seconded by Councillor K Saunders to exit from the funding agreement in place with Halo on the basis that Halo received additional funds and Highworth Town Council's obligation has been fulfilled. Halo can submit an additional funding request if required which will be taken on its own merit. Voting was unanimous and the Resolution was duly carried.

MEETING CLOSED 8:30PM

Action Points

- Town Clerk to send a list of documents that the Councillors need to be aware of for the Emerging Local Plan.
- Councillors to send comments from the Emerging Local Plan to the Town Clerk by Tuesday 31 August 2021.
- Councillor (Miss) J Murphy to collate all comments and draft a response to the Emerging Local Plan.
- Town Clerk to arrange Extra Ordinary Meeting to discuss the Emerging Local Plan to be held in September 2021.
- Councillor K Smith and Councillor K Saunders to review the Road Safety Strategy Document and respond.
- Councillor N Gardiner & P Newton-Smith to review SBC Cycling & Transportation Consultation and respond.
- The Town Clerk to advise Halo of Highworth Town Council's decision.