

Highworth



Town Council

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17.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT

Councillor N Gardiner (In the Chair)

Councillors: R Acres
P Adams
A Bishop
(Mrs) J H Bishop
(Mrs) J Clark
G Edwards
(Mrs) A H Livall
(Mrs) M R Penny
K Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy
(Mrs) P Webster
S Weisinger

IN ATTENDANCE

1 Member of the Public.

APOLOGIES

38. Councillors: C A Adams (Unwell) and (Mrs) A M Durrant (Holiday)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)

39. a. Richard Williams. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Working Party (WP) had held a meeting which included Wroughton Councillors and Phil Smith from Forward Planning at Swindon Borough Council (SBC). It is apparent that the Government sees the five year Land Availability as taking precedence over NPs where the five year target has not been met. This judgement relates specifically to Swindon as a whole and does not take into account that, while Swindon has failed to meet its target, the



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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communities producing the NP have, and will, easily meet the number of dwellings allocated under the Swindon Local Plan. This situation is going to be contested by both Wroughton PC and Highworth Town Council (HTC) and a joint strategy is being formulated. There is also agreement that the other Rural Parishes should be invited to participate in this as well, and a meeting with them is to be arranged shortly.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

40. None.

MINUTES OF MEETING

41. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th JULY 2017 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED**

MATTERS ARISING

42. a. Minute 36a. Police Report. In spite of the recent E Mail regarding some changes to Policing Procedures, it is still very much "Business as Usual" and PCSO Lee Wheeldon is to continue as our main point of contact. However, the Police are to be encouraged to send us the crime statistic data for Highworth as they have done in the past. This seems to have lapsed lately. It was agreed that Angus McPherson, the Police and Crime Commissioner, be invited to a future meeting.
- b. Minute 36i. Fox Roundabout. It had been agreed to put Funding for the Fox Roundabout as an agenda item for the next GP&F meeting. This was missed. It is now to be put on the agenda for the next GP&F meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

43. **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
- a. **Planning Committee 25 July and 5 September 2017**
 - b. **General Purpose and Finance Committee 5 September 2017**
 - c. **Leisure Committee 5 September 2017**

MATTERS ARISING

44. a. GP&F Minute 29b. The Clerk is to research suggested parking solutions for the Market Square in relation to Saturday Markets and report back to the GP&F Committee.
- b. Leisure Meeting Minute 19. Councillors confirmed to the Clerk that they expect him to pursue the applicant for an exemption to our Burial Rules for the Criminal Damage to the Council Chamber door which he caused on leaving the meeting.
- c. Leisure Meeting Minute 21. A generic letter is to be written to inform grant organisations that HTC fully supports the Skate Boarding Committee.
- d. Leisure Meeting Minute 23a. It was agreed that a report on Street Cleaning be put on the next Leisure agenda but that it be discontinued after that meeting, subject to any extra-ordinary

reason for doing so.

19.

e. Leisure Meeting Minute 23b. Councillors were reminded that Highworth in Bloom provides flowers around the town. Councillors acknowledged this and expressed their appreciation.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

45. a. Councillor A Bishop. He has attended and dealt with the following for the Borough:-

- 4 planning meetings most recent one held at the steam museum (a large crowd was expected and we weren't disappointed. This was with regards to the proposed gasification plant at keypoint)
- Dementia
- Licensing
- Area bank manager re residents complaints, comments and requests
- Police, crime commissioners meeting at Trowbridge
- Blunsdon Parish Council
- Lawns in front of bungalows 31/33 to be maintained by SBC (many thanks to Mary for help on this)
- No's 4 and 9 Newburgh to have maintenance carried out and the usual problem trees to be trimmed around Highworth.
- With my fellow Councillors I am in discussion on parking (Swindon Road and Station Road).

b. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny. Attended the following as Borough Councillor:-

- Request for slow down signs on Eastrop due to the evidence from Community Speedwatch Programme
- School Signs for Eastrop School
- Several trees rated level 3 priority by SBC which meant that no work needs to be done will be reduced around Christmas time
- Trees in Westrop School deemed to be dangerous to be cut down and area to be tidied
- Still working with Officers on parking problems in Swindon Street and Station Road - meeting planned next week
- Complaints regarding weeds in the kerbside. SBC has done one lot of weed killing another due to be completed soon
- Bus stops in Sams Lane (Blunsdon) to have hard standing inserted
- Attended Councillors surgery
- Attended Civic Service as Mayor of Swindon
- Attended ad hoc meeting re Town plan - the way forward due to inability of Swindon to provide 5 year land supply
- Mayoral engagements

c. Councillor s Weisinger. Attended the following as Borough Councillor

- Winter Salting for Highways
- Councillors Surgery
- Cllr Penny & I met with Leon Bolton re Library Scrutiny Committee Wiltshire Pension Fund investment Committee Audit Committee Streetsmart meeting - Leon Barrett Resources & Scrutiny meeting Numerous issues dealt with for residents in Ward

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY (NPWP) REPORT

46. As a result of the Marlborough Road, Wroughton decision in relation to the Wroughton NP, wherein the Secretary of State reversed an appeal decision that upheld the NP decision not to recommend that site for development, it was decided that a further NPWP meeting be convened. The Secretary of State's decision confirms that the land availability issue **does** take precedence over a NP where there is not sufficient land availability. This particularly affects Swindon NPs. Councillors from Wroughton and representatives from SBC Planning Department were invited. As a result of the meeting, a joint strategy is being formulated to pursue this with the Government. It was also agreed that we will invite the other Rural Parishes to a meeting to investigate whether all or some of them wish to be included in this joint strategy.

PENTYLANDS LANE ROAD SURFACE

47. Swindon Highways Maintenance Department has informed us that the road surface will be inspected as a matter of urgency and that the liability for some of the cost by Thames Water will be considered.

BUDGET LINE FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

48. The NPWP is to hold a meeting to consider those policies in the NP which may call for action by HTC and could have budget considerations sometime in the future. It was also agreed that HCPG could be invited to attend some of these meetings to investigate whether it is in a position to source external funding.

THE HCPG STRATEGY FOR TOURISM

49. This was considered part of the above issue and was left to be included alongside the other considerations by the NPWP.

ROAD CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS

50. It was agreed that HTC purchase its own signage for road closures.

CORRESPONDENCE

51. a. None.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

52. a. Councillor S Weisinger: Councillors discussed Face Book and social media. HTC has no control over what people put on these "Highworth" sites and agreed it is not a platform they wish to use to share information. The new website is now live and this is the preferred method of sharing information online. If people wish to share the links to information on social media this is of course permitted.
- b. Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop: Westrop Primary School has been given a prestigious award in recognition of the work it has done to expand its students cultural horizons. The Town Clerk is to write a letter to congratulate them on this achievement.

- c. Councillor (Mrs) P Webster: A letter is to be written to Highworth Pre-school to congratulate them on reaching their 50th anniversary.
- d. Councillor K Smith: McColls have agreed to site a cash machine inside their shop once the refurbishment has finished. The refurbishment is due to begin on 25th September 2017.
- e. Councillor N Gardiner: The Mayor and Councillors thanked Jacqui for all her hard work while organising the Civic Service and recognised the extra work involved by changing the date.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.23pm