

# Highworth



## Town Council

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[www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

32.

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 16 JANUARY 2018

#### PRESENT

Councillor N Gardiner (in the Chair)

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Angus McPherson (Wiltshire PCC), Inspector A Bridge, 3 Members of the Public, 1 Swindon Advertiser Reporter,

#### APOLOGIES

78. Councillors (Mrs) A H Livall and (Mrs) L Vardy (Unwell)

#### ANGUS MCPHERSON (WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER PCC)

79. There is a document available on the Wiltshire Police website [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk) which compares value for money in the South West region. Wiltshire Police receive the least money from Central Government however consistently receive 'good' for inspections.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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The number of police stations is being reduced due to advances in technologies allowing officers to be contactable, have access to information etc at the press of a button, thus allowing them to be out and about working and serving the community.

Since the move from three operational units to two, the year on year crime rates haven't increased. The increase that is shown in the last 5 years is due to an increase to 95% of crimes being recorded.

Staff sickness also hasn't increased since the move from three units to two and there is a more fair and robust management and resource management board.

Wiltshire Police has a fairly evenly split force of 50% men and women.

Conversations are already happening with the Town Council as to what the Highworth Police Station premises might be used for in the future.

Evidence shows that having more police on the streets does not reduce crime in rural areas, it has been seen to have an impact in high crime areas, which Highworth is not.

A consultation is currently underway and can be found on the Wiltshire Police website requesting views on an additional £1.00 per household monthly being added into to the Police Precept to cover the 2% pay rise. Currently 82% of the Policing budget is spent on salaries and Central Government requires a certain amount be spent on officers being trained in armed response. Therefore, the only option, if the additional money cannot be found, is to reduce the number of officers employed.

The proceeds of crime fund does still exist and money can come back into the Police Force through court orders, however there is a lengthy process to this and very strict guidelines on spending the money.

The Chief Constable is held accountable to the Police Crime Commissioner and has regular meetings every 3 weeks and the minutes can be found on the Wiltshire Police website.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)**

80. None

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

81. None

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

82. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2017 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

83. **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

- a. **Planning Committee 5 December 2017 and 2 January 2018**
- b. **General Purpose and Finance Committee 2 January 2018**
- c. **Leisure Committee 2 January 2018**

**MATTERS ARISING**

84. a. Full Council Meeting 21 November 2017 Pg30 74i The Fox Roundabout quotation is still Outstanding and this is to be pursued with SBC.
- b. Full Council Meeting 21 November 2017 Pg31 f Councillor A Bishop is to follow up the problems with street lights in alleyway between Brookfield and Pound Road at the rear of Westrop School.
- c. Planning Meeting 5 December 2017 72a The Clerk met with The General Manager of The Highworth Hotel to discuss the parking issue. The meeting was very positive. She confirmed that she actively encourages her residents to park in the car park and not out the front. If they do have to park out the front she requires them to leave enough room for the Public to walk past. Not all cars parked there belong to customers of The Highworth, some belong to residents of Swindon Street, over whose vehicles she has no control.

**BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

85. a. Councillor A Bishop. He has attended and dealt with the following as Borough Councillor:-
- Licensing meetings on 6 December 2017, 9 December 2017 and 20 December 2017
  - Appeals Committee School Transport meeting on 9 January 2018
  - Planning meeting on 9 January 2018
  - Saturday Morning Councillors Surgery
- b. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny. Attended the following as Borough Councillor:-
- Visited Midi Haines Court residents, dealt with several problems about kitchens, electrical appliances and a leaking fish pond and since chased the responsible officers at SBC
  - Saturday Morning Councillors Surgery
  - Assisted a disabled lady move to more suitable accommodation
  - Approx 30 Mayoral visits over Christmas period and January
  - Lamp post reported and fixed
- c. Councillor s Weisinger. Attended the following as Borough Councillor:-
- Chaired Committee meeting
  - Planning committee
  - Assisted residents on other issues

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY (NHPWP) - REPORT

86. Councillor (Mrs) P Webster reported the following:

- S/HOU/17/1641 FELY Bydemill Gardens planning application was discussed and the decision made at planning committee was reported to the meeting.
- The Shrivenham Road development was due to begin after Christmas however it was reported to have been delayed until the spring 2018.
- Persimmon Homes have been spoken to and requested that lorries avoid this road around school peak times.
- The SHELAA document has been delayed for approx 2 months.
- It was advised by Forward Planning at SBC that the issue of directed development will continue to rely on the Borough's land availability commitment. However, the Plan does give authority to pursuing other areas within the plan. The best way forward is to work on one or two policies from the NHP at any one time. It was unanimously agreed that the NHPWP committee continue and focus on two policies, the development of the High Street and Tourism.

## PRECEPT DEMAND FOR YEAR 2018/2019

87. The Precept Demand form, demanding the sum of £414,000.00 for the Financial Year 2018/19, was duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk and witnessed.

## CORRESPONDENCE

88. a. Planning Application for 5 Bydemill Gardens. Letter from residents of the adjoining property to the one in the application. The alterations to 5 Bydemill Gardens will have a seriously adverse affect on their property which Councillors recognised and tried very hard to get refusal of the application. Although there was little chance of being successful, Councillors did their best at the SBC Committee hearing, but failed. The residents thanked Highworth Town Councillors for their efforts. The Clerk is to write to SBC to request that we receive in writing the reasons they have gone against the recommendations of Highworth Town Council.
- b. Criminal Damage to Chamber Door. E Mail from Swindon Police. The offender has agreed to Community Resolution in this case, having sought and accepted legal advice.
- c. Light in Gilbert's Lane. A resident of the flats across from the Council Offices complains about the brightness of the light in the alley shining into his property at night, since the bulb has been changed for a LED light which gives out a greater wattage. The electrician is to be asked to change the bulb back to its original wattage.

## QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

89. a. Councillor G Edwards: The Clerk is to contact the Police with regards to the Crime Statistics provided and request the success rate be included in the statistics.
- b. Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop: CCTV has been reviewed by the Police in relation to the break in at TT Linnets in the High Street.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40 pm**