



### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 17 JULY 2018

#### PRESENT

Councillor (Mrs) J H Bishop (In the Chair)

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

5 Members of the Public and 1 Member of the Press, Mr Mark Taylor & Mr Mark Williams,  
(Head of Operations and Chief Operating Officer from Mid-Counties Co-operative Society).

#### APOLOGIES

22. Councillor P Adams



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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

23. Meeting Agendas are posted in the Town Notice Boards in advance of Council Meetings.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

24. None.

**HIGHWORTH CO-OP**

25. Mr Mark Taylor and Mr Mark Williams from Mid-Counties Co-operative.  
They heard from Councillors of a number of issues that residents have raised regarding aspects of the Co-op. The problems included:-
- Low or no stock,
  - Items that are out of date,
  - Pricing concerns,
  - While most of the members of staff are friendly and efficient, some would benefit from Customer Service training,
  - Lack of staff at busy periods,
  - Problems with the freezers for months, now resolved,
  - Chiller units now broken (Councillors were advised by Mr Taylor that they have been condemned and will be replaced as soon as possible).
  - The customer feedback system needs some attention.

Positives from the Councillors were:-

- The patience and help of many of the Floor Staff; any criticism was aimed at Management higher than the Store Management.
- Support from the Co-op for Local Societies and Community Events.
- Support for Fair Trade,

Councillors were told that many of these issues have been identified already by the Store visit today and can be rectified. Stock control is an area that needs to be addressed – it's currently managed centrally at Head Office with weather etc factored in, but it could be better.

The Customer feedback book is to be made more prominent so that those without internet access can leave comments too.

A commitment has been made to cut back the shrubbery outside the store to improve the parking areas, and to check the paving raised by tree roots around the building.

Councillors were keen to ensure that the message is not 'anti-Co-op', but is intended to help the Store identify where it can improve and better serve the residents.

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

26. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2018 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.**

## MATTERS ARISING

27. a. Minute 11. A letter is to be sent to DPDS to request confirmation of what has been offered to the Football Clubs of Highworth with regard to the planned Twelve Oaks facilities.
- b. Minute 18. The Clerk is to visit the Manager of The Highworth again regarding individuals parking outside the front of the Hotel.
- c. Minute 21. The PCSO and Beat Manager are still to be invited to a meeting to discuss the increase in traffic through Highworth.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR

28. The Mayor reported that she has recently attended the following events:

CLLR MRS JULIA BISHOP 2018 - 2019  
MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH  
ATTENDED FUNCTIONS

- TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018 – Highworth Scout Group, AGM, Scout hall, Eastrop, Highworth.
- WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2018 – Chippenham Town Council, Mayors Investiture, Town Hall, High Street, Chippenham.
- TUESDAY 29 MAY 2018 – Malmesbury Robing Ceremony, Malmesbury Town Hall, Malmesbury.
- SATURDAY 2 JUNE 2018 – The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Charity Concert for Swindon Cares, Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon.
- SUNDAY 3 JUNE 2018 – Hazrat Shahjalal Mosque, Manchester Road, Mayor of Swindon Cllr Junab Ali, Celebrate “End of the Fasting Day for Ramadan”
- THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018 – Defence Academy Cocktail Party, Celebrate the Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen, Beckett House, Defence Academy, Shrivenham.
- FRIDAY 8 JUNE 2018 – RAF Fairford Assumption of Command Ceremony, Concorde Room, Community Activity Centre, RAF, Fairford
- SUNDAY 10 JUNE 2018 – Devizes Town Council, Mayor’s Inaugural Church Service, St John’s Church & Cheese Hall, Devizes
- SUNDAY 17 JUNE 2018 – Malmesbury Town Choral Evensong, Malmesbury Abbey, Malmesbury
- SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2018 – Highworth Pre-School 50 Years Celebrations, Rivers Way, Highworth
- SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018 – Marlborough Town Council, Civic Service, St Marys Church, Marlborough
- SUNDAY 24 JUNE 2018 – Highworth & District Lions Club, 44<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary Celebration Lunch, Wrag Barn Golf Club, Highworth
- TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2018 – Brownie Equalities, Eagle Owl, HTC Chamber, Highworth
- SUNDAY 1 JULY 2018 – Melksham Town Council, Civic Celebrations/Civic Service, St Michael and All Angels Church, Canon Square, Melksham
- MONDAY 2 JULY 2018 – Prospect Hospice, AGM, Moormead Road, Wroughton, Swindon, Wiltshire
- Privately, attended the ‘School of Rock’ show at Warneford School.
- SATURDAY 14 JULY 2018 – RAF Fairford Enclosure, Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford

CLLR RYAN ACRES 2018 – 2019  
DEPUTY MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH  
ATTENDED FUNCTIONS

- THURSDAY 10 MAY 2018 – Grove Hill Care Nursing Home, Grove Hill, Highworth, Raising Funds for Gloucester House, Highworth, (The Salvation Army, Drugs & Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre), Dr John Bestwick cycling to Gibraltar.
- THURSDAY 10 MAY 2018 – Royal Wootton Bassett, Mayor Making Ceremony, St Bartholomew & All Saints Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon.

**100 YEARS FROM END OF FIRST WORLD WAR – YARN BOMBING**

29. The Clerk is to respond to the organisers informing them that Highworth Town Council supports them in their projects with the following provisos:-
- It must be taken down within two weeks,
  - Councillors prefer that the full focus should be on the route that the Royal British Legion Parade takes, and
  - The Podium might need to be avoided as it is not certain that the planned Podium refurbishment will be completed, so Yarn Bombing there may not be possible.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

30. None.

**REPORTS BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

31. a. **Councillor S Weisinger** – reported that he has attended:-

- Councillor Surgery,
- Two Borough Council Scrutiny Meetings,
- SBC Planning Committee,
- Visited a resident regarding an unauthorised development.

- b. **Councillor A Bishop** – reported that he has attended the following meetings:-

- Childrens Health,
- SBC Planning Committee,
- SBC Full Council,
- Licensing x 2 and
- Saturday Surgery.

He also reported that he has been trying to assist:-

- A resident experiencing problems regarding their Green Waste sacks,
- Two different residents in Rivers Way, one with a boiler repair and the other with insulation,
- After three attempts for a resolution, a resident of Queens Avenue has finally had blocked piping replaced.

A major issue is one of Communication, contacting the Borough by phone is nearly impossible. A letter is to be sent to the new Chief Executive when she takes up her post to invite her to a future meeting to discuss the issues our residents are facing.

He has also been acting on behalf of a householder in Coffin Close interested in buying some land from Swindon Borough Council.

The new Chief Executive of SBC is intending to arrange 'Ward Walks' with the Ward Councillors.

c. **Councillor (Mrs) M Penny** – SBC Committees attended:-

- Adults Health,
- Adults Care and Housing,
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee,
- Archaeology Advisory Committee,
- Averages Task Group,
- Dial-a-Ride,
- CMAG,
- Great Western Ambulance,
- Joint O&S Committee,
- Planning Committee,
- Scrutiny,
- Standards,
- Licensing Committee,
- Appeals Committee.

Work done in Highworth:-

- Try to obtain new hand rails for steps in Home Farm,
- Helping Residents in Windrush who do not want to change from blue bags to black bins,
- Looking at areas of unadopted land in Sevenfields, which Councillors may wish to add to a future meeting,
- Helping out with Slow Internet connectivity for 8 Swindon Schools including Eastrop,
- Parking of vehicles on Brewery Street,
- Cars for sale at Blackworth.

## REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

32. a. **Swindon Transportation** – Councillor (Mrs) M Penny reported that she is investigating whether the early last bus back to Swindon on a Sunday evening is a problem for residents. She is also to attend the Dial-a-ride AGM in the near future.
- b. **Town Twinning** – Councillor G Edwards reported that there are no new events arranged, that a Concert is to be held this weekend. The visit in September to Pontorson is to be with the Floral Society.
- c. **Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG)** – Councillor R Acres reported on the progress of:-

- Tourism Strategy - Now live on 'Visit Wiltshire'. HCPG is meeting with Visit Wiltshire this week and then holding a public consultation regarding this in the community room on Saturday 21st July between 9.00am -12 noon.
- Town Centre Rejuvenation - HCPG continues work on a rejuvenation plan and has now had the high street mapped out.
- Loneliness - HCPG is working closely with the Health and Wellbeing section at SBC on a number of initiatives.
- Credit Union – the first Credit Union was held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June which was well received.
- The Fox Roundabout - Councillor K Smith is dealing with invoicing and in contact with SBC.

d. Highworth Fair Trade – Councillor (Mrs) A M Durrant reported that Highworth continues to be a Fair Trade Town. She informed Councillors that there has been a lot of news coverage recently regarding Fair Trade deals and the minimum price guarantee and directed them towards the Fair Trade Website for further information.

## QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

33. a. Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant.

- Swindon Borough Council is to be contacted again regarding a house in Sevenfields where the occupiers are now blocking half the width of pavement, although they have moved the pallets of bricks as previously requested.
- Councillor S Weisinger has undertaken to discover why the Minutes of the SBC Health and Wellbeing Board have not been published on the Website since July 2017.

b. Councillor (Mrs) A Livall. Councillor (Mrs) Durrant is to investigate if Fair Trade has a quota system in place for its Minimum Price Guarantee.

c. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny. The Clerk is to review how the Minutes report certain items. She was concerned that the Minute on the DPDS presentation on Twelve Oaks omitted the mention of the proposal for the erection of 18 houses on the site.

d. Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy.

- Councillor N Gardiner confirmed that Nexus have two paid Youth Engagement Mentors.
- Highways is to be contacted to request that the pavement in Shrivenham Road is repaired so that it meets the new fence that has been erected alongside Southfield School.

e. Councillor S Weisinger. Councillors agreed to change the Meeting schedule to:-

First Tuesday in the month to be Planning followed by Environment & Leisure.

Third Tuesday in the month to be General Purpose & Finance followed by Full Council.

**The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm**