

# Highworth



## Town Council

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14.

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

#### PRESENT

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

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs S Singleton (Business Development Officer, Waste & Recycling, Swindon Borough Council (SBC)),  
Mr I James (Interim Head of Streetsmart, SBC),  
Mrs A Jordan (Head of Library & Information Service, SBC),  
PCSO G Lishman (Wiltshire Police)  
and 2 Members of the Public.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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## **APOLOGIES**

34. Councillors R Acres, C Adams and (Mrs) A Durrant

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

35. None.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

36. None.

## **WASTE STRATEGY CONSULTATION (SBC)**

37. Mrs Simone Singleton and Mr Ian James:- Councillors were told of the 7-10 year SBC Waste Strategy which is currently the subject of a Consultation. The aim is to educate and manage the planned increase in demand (new houses) in safe, efficient and cost effective collection and dealing with the Borough's waste.  
The 50% National Recycling Target is not being met by Swindon and the Strategy aims to address this by a number of methods; Waste Wardens for education and enforcement, better communication of what can be recycled, and non-collection of wheelie bins if they contain too much waste that should be recycled.

Details of the presentation can be found at <https://www.sustainablewindon.co.uk/>

## **HIGHWORTH LIBRARY (SBC)**

38. Mrs Allyson Jordan, Head of Library & Information Services:- She thanked the Council for it's funding of half of the thirty hours per week that the Highworth Library is open. She provided Councillors with data showing how much the Library is used. Since April 2018, 49000 loans and discharges of books have been made, and while it seems that the Extended Access times are quieter, the people that do make use of them, do so for access to the computers.

Mrs Jordan is to attend a future Council meeting in order to ask the Council to continue to fund the additional hours.

A Cabinet Meeting of SBC gave permission for Officers to investigate the possibility of the Library Service moving to a Public Sector Mutual by 2020. There are a number of issues still being looked into and the Parish and Town Councils to be approached with the idea.

## **POLICE REPORT**

39. PCSO Gemma Lishman:- She informed Councillors that the Police are undertaking several initiatives at the moment. There is a knife amnesty running as well an operation targeting Anti-Social Behaviour. She expressed concern that although she hears about incidents in Highworth, that they are not actually reported to the Police. PCSO's are currently being recruited, but are allocated to areas where crimes are being reported.

She also confirmed to Councillors that the Police Station at Newburgh Place has been out of use since 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. The point of contact for the Police is now the Highworth Community Centre at The Dormers.

PCSO Lishman can also be emailed on [gemma.lishman@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:gemma.lishman@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

## MINUTES OF MEETING

40. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2018 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.** The Minutes were duly signed.

## MATTERS ARISING

41. a. Pg.9 Minute 25. A letter is to be sent to the Chief Executive of the Co-op to invite them to attend a future meeting.
- b. Pg.10 Minute 27a. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny requested an update on the letter to DPDS. An email is to be sent to the Councillors.

## CORRESPONDENCE

42. None.

## CHAIRING OF MEETINGS

43. The Town Council meetings now have various headings depending upon what purpose a particular meeting is for. Some Councillors have been chosen by the Council to Chair these specific meetings and may call for extra ones (other than those scheduled) should there be a reason to.
- The overall Chairman/Mayor of the Council is also entitled to call extra meetings – including meetings for one of the other, specific purposes which are Chaired by other Councillors.

## REPORTS BY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

44. a. **Councillor S Weisinger** – reported that he has attended the following meetings and dealt with the following issues:-

Castle Eaton Parish Council  
Surgery  
Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council  
Meeting resident re planning application which now has Officer approval  
Scrutiny Committee  
Dealing with issues from residents  
Planning enforcement issue which is in progress.

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

July, August & September –

Adult Health

Childrens Health

Full Council (2)

Licensing (2)

Planning (3)

Appeals

Cabinet Member

Advisory Group – Dementia

Meeting with the Cabinet member for Planning to discuss possible sites for houses in Blundson and Highworth area.

Saturday morning Surgeries.

Issues that have been encountered and dealing with:-

Cycle path between Highworth and Swindon,

A 'Pump Track' as they have in Wroughton,

Overgrown bushes in Sams Lane, Blundson,

Replacement lights for a bungalow in Fairview and one in Westrop,

Tidy the footpath from Brookfield and Rivers Way – thanks given to the Groundsman for an excellent job.

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

Scrutiny

Adult Health and Housing O&S

Standards

Licensing

Archeology Advisory Board

Full Council (2)

Planning (2)

She has now moved to be the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment, and so will no longer represent on any Committees as previously advised

She has dealt with the following jobs under social housing:

A Resident struggling to find supported living accommodation for her father - he has now been placed near enough for her to visit,

A Resident struggling with housing in Highworth whilst children at school in South Swindon,  
2 applications for dropped kerbs due to ill health,

For information, Sharps and medical waste can no longer be dropped off at surgery SBC has to come and collect - this has caused some delays which 2 residents found upsetting.

In hot weather a Complaint was received about noise during the night, possibly from TS Tech – possibly from Air Conditioning units - passed to the Office who contacted Environmental Health.

Complaint about Senior football club not removing the fencing round the pitch - again passed to

the Clerk, a meeting has been held with a representative from the Football Club, the fence was taken down at the end of last Season, but has now been re-erected. The Clerk reminded the Club that the gates should be kept open when not a Match day.

Query about footpaths in new development off Shrivenham Road still ongoing -

## QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

45. a. Councillor P Adams:- Councillor (Mrs) M Penny confirmed that the Pathway from Stranks Close to the new Shrivenham Road development is to remain. She also confirmed that there are no planned road repairs for Highworth in the recent quarterly lists from SBC and that she has received no complaints about pot-holes recently.

A request is to be made for repairs to Swindon Street, between the Traffic Lights and the Fox Roundabout.

- b. Councillor (Mrs) A Livall:- Councillor (Mrs) M Penny confirmed that there is no defined timescale between the Yellow Paint being used to highlight Highway repairs required and when the repairs are done – partly as should the hole be too shallow, the tarmac will pop out.

- c. Councillor K Smith:- He thanked Councillor N Gardiner for drawing attention earlier in the meeting to Beat the Streets and confirmed that Highworth is included in the scheme which seems to be very well used.

- d. Councillor G Edwards:- it has been requested that another letter be sent to a resident in the High Street due to the state of the property.

The Planning Application for Aldi is to be re-heard by the SBC Planning Committee as if it were a new case. The Public is allowed to attend.

- e. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny:- She told Councillors that SBC is promoting a Tourism Website, she has asked the Cabinet member to contact HCPG as the Rural Areas of the Borough appear to have been forgotten.

- f. Councillor N Gardiner:- He thanked the Beat the Street initiative and considers it much appreciated.

Residents of Rivers Way have raised a petition regarding the trees at Westrop School, this is to be discussed at a Full Governors Meeting and is the responsibility of the school.

**The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm**