



### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 21 NOVEMBER 2017

#### PRESENT

Councillor N Gardiner (In the Chair)

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

2 Members of the Public, PCSO's M Kelly and L Wheeldon and one member of the Press.

#### APOLOGIES

65. Councillors C Adams, R Acres and (Mrs) P M Webster

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

66. None.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

67. None.

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

68. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.**

**MATTERS ARISING**

69. None.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR**

70. The Mayor reported that he has recently attended the following events:

**CLLR NICK GARDINER 2017 - 2018**

**MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH**

**ATTENDED FUNCTIONS**

- **SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2017** – Chippenham Civic Service, St. Andrew's Church, Market Place, Chippenham
- **SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2017** – Highworth Produce and Craft Show, Warneford School, Highworth
- **SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017** – Highworth Civic Service, St Michaels Church, Highworth
- **SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017** – Royal Wootton Bassett Civic Service, St Bartholomew & All Saints Church, Royal Wootton Bassett
- **SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2017** – Opening of Art Exhibition, URC (United Reform Churches)
- **FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 2017** – Highworth Artists' Society, Autumn Preview Night, Community Room, Council Offices, Highworth
- **SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2017** – Highworth Library, Fun Palaces 2017, Highworth
- **SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2017** – Highworth Remembrance Sunday, St Michaels Church, Highworth

He also invited the Councillors to attend the following Event:-

- **FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2017** – Highworth Christmas Lighting Ceremony, Podium/Market Square, Highworth

**CLLR MRS JULIA BISHOP 2017 – 2018**

**DEPUTY MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH**

**ATTENDED FUNCTIONS**

- **SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017** – Highworth Civic Service, St Michaels Church, Highworth
- **THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER 2017** – Elitonia, The Art of Floristry, Corinium Museum, Cirencester
- **FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2017** – Opening service of The Field of Remembrance, Lydiard Park, Swindon
- **SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2017** – Highworth Remembrance Sunday, St Michaels Church, Highworth

## MINUTES OF MEETINGS

### 71. RESOLVED TO ACCEPT AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:-

- a. **Planning Committee 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017**
- b. **General Purpose and Finance Committee 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017**
- c. **Leisure Committee 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## MATTERS ARISING

72. a. Planning Committee:- Minute 63a. Councillor A Bishop informed the Council that he has 'called in' the application for 5 Bydemill Gardens to the Swindon Borough Council Planning Committee, he has requested that Councillors (Mrs) M Penny and (Mrs) P Webster attend and speak on behalf of the Town Council.
- b. General Purpose & Finance Committee:- Minute 49. The question of Local Councils paying for Private Security Firm Patrols is to be put forward to Angus McPherson on his future visit to the Council.
- c. Leisure Committee:- Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy thanked Jacqui for her help in organising the Firework Display, she told Councillors that the new Company engaged had been well received.

## CORRESPONDENCE

73. a. E Mail Request from RBL Highworth Branch to Place a Notice Board on the Wall of the Council Offices. Councillors unanimously agreed to this request.
- b. E Mail from Southfield School to inform HTC that the School has been told by SBC that there are no objections to the wall alongside Shrevenham Road being replaced by a fence. Councillors requested that a letter be sent to Southfield asking for more details and the reasons behind the decision.
- c. E Mail from Clerk to Councillors to inform them of the Extra-Ordinary Planning Meeting called for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017. This is to consider the Kingsdown housing application and an application from Aldi.

## REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

74. a. Police Report. PCSO Lee Wheeldon introduced PCSO Morgan Kelly who, along with PCSO Gemma Lishman will be taking on Highworth when Lee moves to his new role as a PC. He provided crime statistics to the Councillors for September which included two domestic burglaries where arrests have been made for both.

There was an incident reported where approximately 40 youths had congregated but after an appeal to parents on Facebook the numbers rapidly reduced. Many, but not all of the young people were from Highworth. The Highworth Junior Football Club is also assisting with dissuading poor behaviour.

Councillors congratulated PCSO Wheeldon on his promotion and thanked him for his service to the town. He in turn thanked the Members and the Office staff for the assistance he has received over the past three years.

b. Borough Councillors.i. Councillor A Bishop – Councillor A Bishop reported

- Meetings Attended: Planning Instruction  
SBC Full Council  
Planning Meetings x 2 (One was for 54 houses at Holdcroft, Blunsdon – granted and also for 1680 houses at Kingsdown)  
Archaeological Advisory Board  
Licensing – case adjourned  
Saturday Surgery
- Matters attended to: two properties in Rivers Way – Double glazed door and wall insulation (should be completed after Christmas)  
Trees/footpath rear of bungalows, Cricklade Road (Councillor G Edwards to monitor)  
Gritting of Highworth roads – to be the same as previous years  
Abandoned car at Windrush to be scrapped

ii. Councillor S Weisinger. Councillor S Weisinger reported that he has attended and attended to:-

SBC Scrutiny Committee  
Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council  
Standards Committee  
SBC Full Council  
Case work for residents  
And is awaiting sign off for new Parking in Swindon Street

iii. Councillor (Mrs) M R Penny. Councillor (Mrs) M R Penny reported that:-

- The Fire Service - is putting stickers on cars to inform those who block the Highway they could be removed.
- A lady in sheltered accommodation that was promised a new kitchen in May should have it fitted by the end of October
- Councillors Surgery (1 person came)
- She toured Sheltered housing in Swindon and asked why rural areas had not been included in the tour,
- Spoke to the Adver re advertising Councillors Surgery like other Parishes do.
- Met with HTC Clerk and a team from SBC regarding delegated services
- Met with Cllr K Smith and Christine Cox regarding the Library Service Level Agreement, there is a meeting with Library team scheduled for tomorrow.
- Led Full Council at SBC where amongst other items discussed was trialling polling cards with bar codes. This is being done in several areas and Swindon has been asked by Central Government to take part in the trial.

c. Swindon Transportation. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny reported that the bus service from Highworth to the Hospital via the District Center is not very well used apart from by people from the villages. From Highworth it is quicker to take the bus to Town and then back out to the GWH. Dial-a-Ride is still being well used, but mainly in Swindon.d. Town Twinning. Councillor G Edwards reported that the recent visit to Wassenberg was very successful. There is a Twinning Association Dinner on the 24<sup>th</sup> November.

A group is to visit from Pontorson for Christmas Shopping.

There is to be a meeting in May of all three towns to be held in Wassenberg.

A calander has been produced to celebrate 50 years of Twinning, it contains a painting by Ian Miller.

- e. Executive Committee WALC. None.
- f. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG). Councillor K Smith reported that there had been a meeting in September and the AGM in October. In the coming months the Group will be considering the following:-  
Loneliness,  
The Town Centre,  
Tourism and  
The viability of a Credit Union in Highworth
- g. Highworth Association For Fair Trade. Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant reported that the theme for Fair Trade Fortnight is 'look out for the Logo', there is to be a Coffee Morning, possibly on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018. She reminded the Mayor that he is the President of HAFFT and reported that the new Cafes in town will be receiving a visit in the near future.
- h. Working Party Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor (Mrs) P Webster sent the following:- on the Neighbourhood Plan (I think) there is no report after our disappointment over the Persimmon Homes planning application being passed by SBC. Looking at the minutes of the last SBC planning committee meeting it looks like everything any builder puts in will be passed willy nilly. I hope the HNP working party can have a meeting in the New Year to discuss where we go from here.
- The Clerk is to invite the MP Justin Tomlinson to an evening meeting during the Parliamentary Break which will be open to the Public.
- i. The Fox Roundabout. Councillor K Smith reported that the figure of £180 has been given by SBC as the cost of reducing the height of the signs on the roundabout so that any Artwork commissioned would be visible. SBC is to be asked for a proper quotation to include costings for lighting options.

#### **PRECEPT DEMAND 2017/2018**

75. It was agreed to hold over the Precept Demand until after the January Full Council meeting.

#### **PARKING ATTENDANT FOR HIGHWORTH**

76. Councillors agreed that the cost of paying SBC for the use of two Parking Wardens outweighs any potential benefits and so this idea is to be abandoned.

#### **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

77. a. Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop. Councillor K Smith advised the Council that the Customer Service desk at McColls informed him that work has not yet started on the building repairs due to bad weather.
- b. Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy. An email is to be sent to the 'Yarn Bombers' requesting that the installations are removed as they are now becoming weather worn.
- c. Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant. The new houses announced for South Marston should make a difference to the 5 year supply in Swindon. There is due to be an announcement in the Budget on the subject of housing supply.

d. Councillor K Smith. He advised the Council that at the Local Plan Review meeting that he attended it was mentioned that SBC has set up its own building company to try to alleviate the 5 year land supply issue.

He commended the works undertaken regarding the White lining of the old Library Car Park.

e. Councillor G Edwards. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny will report a non-working street light at the junction of Oak Drive and Cricklade Road to SBC.

f. Councillor P Adams. Councillor A Bishop is to follow up a promise of a street light on the alleyway between Brookfield and Pound Road at the rear of Westrop School.

The Skatepark Group is awaiting an item of information from the skate park designers to provide to the SBC Planning Officer before the project can progress further.

g. Councillor N Gardiner. He advised Councillors that there is to be a Scouts and Guides Parade at the Christmas Lights 'Switch-On', the Mayor of Swindon will be in attendance. He expressed his gratitude to TS Tech for the generous sponsoring of the tree and Lights.

**The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm**