



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
22 NOVEMBER 2016**

**PRESENT**

Councillor A Bishop (In the Chair)

Councillor:  
R Acres  
C A Adams  
P L Adams  
(Mrs) J H Bishop  
(Mrs) J Clark  
G Edwards  
N Gardiner  
(Mrs) A H Livall  
K Smith

**IN ATTENDANCE**

1 Member of the Public

**APOLOGIES**

73. Councillors (Mrs) A M Durrant (Work Commitment), (Mrs) L Vardy (In Hospital), (Mrs) M R Penny (Holiday), S Weisinger (Holiday), (Mrs) P M Webster (Holiday)

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

74. Ian James asked the Council what actions they were taking to persuade Lloyds bank to remain open. It was reported that MP Justin Tomlinson has called a meeting for Friday with Councillors, local businesses and Lloyd's representatives, there has been a radio interview and newspaper article with the Mayor of Highworth, the Council are in full support of fighting to keep the bank open.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

75. None.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

## MINUTES OF MEETING

76. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2016 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.**

## MATTERS ARISING

77. Minute 67 (54b) Planters on Fox roundabout:

- The timeframe for claiming Section 106 monies earmarked for Artwork is to be checked.
- Resolved by Councillor N Gardiner to provide a further donation of £200 to Highworth in Bloom to finish the planters, Seconded by Councillor C Adams. Councillors unanimously agreed.

Minute 69c Figures pertaining to the Library have still not been forthcoming. Councillor Bishop is to obtain them from Patrick Weir, Head of Libraries.

Minute 72a The removal of re-cycling bins is awaiting the results of a consultation.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR

78. The Mayor reported that he has attended the following functions:-

CLLR ALAN BISHOP 2016 - 2017  
MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH  
ATTENDED FUNCTIONS

- FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2016 - Salisbury City Council, Civic Day
- FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2016 - Thamesdown Ladies Choir, Concert, St Michaels Church, Highworth
- SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 2016 - Highworth Emporium, Official Opening, Ribbon Cutting, Highworth
- SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER 2016 - Civic Service, St Bartholomew & All Saints Church, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett
- THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2016 - Highworth Lions, "World Sight Day", Puddleducks, Highworth
- THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2016 - Lydiard Park, The Field of Remembrance at The Walled Garden
- SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2016 - Highworth Remembrance Sunday, St Michaels Church, Highworth
- FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2016 - Highworth Christmas Lighting Ceremony, Market Square, Highworth
- TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2016 - County of Wiltshire Carol Service, St Andrew's Church, Market Place, Chippenham
- FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 2016 - Christmas Concert featuring Highworth Silver Band, The Wrag Barn Singers, and special guests Esme Humphries and Charlie Ann Bradfield, St Michaels Church, Highworth

CLLR NICK GARDINER 2016 - 2017  
DEPUTY MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH  
ATTENDED FUNCTIONS

- SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2016 - Highworth Remembrance Sunday, St Michaels Church, Highworth
- FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2016 - Commemoration of the Centenary of the end of the Battle of the Somme, Evensong Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury

## MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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

a. **General Purpose and Finance Committee 8 November 2016**

b. **Leisure Committee 8 November 2016**

## MATTERS ARISING

80. Leisure Minute 34e The Rec Trustees have not met since Halo took over the management of the Rec, so there has yet to be a decision on dual cards.

GP&F Minute 50 It was proposed by Councillor C Adams and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop that Councillor (Mrs) M Penny be requested to write a letter of apology to the Town Clerk regarding the manner of her questioning him at the GP&F meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This was agreed by a unanimous vote. The Town Clerk does not want to discourage Councillors from questioning but did advise that simply coming into the office to pose those questions would be more productive. He also stated that he was not aggrieved but did believe that this incident did not show the Councillors in a good light to the members of the public attending the meeting.

## CORRESPONDENCE

81. a. Alleged Unlawful Signage at 28 High Street. A letter has been received from a Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Planning Enforcement Officer informing this Council that the case will be fully inspected, although there may be some delay due to the high level of current cases.

b. Closure of Lloyd's Bank Branch in Highworth. An e-mail has been received from a resident suggesting that the Nationwide Building Society might be persuaded to open a facility in Highworth similar to that offered to Glastonbury in similar circumstances. This suggestion is to be taken up at the meeting with the Local MP on Friday, 25 November 2016 regarding the closure.

c. Town Cryer. A letter has been received from Town Cryer informing Councillors that his role has been questioned on more than one occasion at Town Council meetings. He wished it to be known that the Council was asked to recognise him as the Official Town Cryer to assist with his representation of the Town at various competitions. His regalia was provided by "The Year of Culture" Committee. No duties or responsibilities were laid down in the acceptance of his position, which is voluntary. These were left at his discretion. Councillors are aware that he has been seriously unwell for some considerable time and he still continues to be so. This has been explained to Councillors on every occasion it has been discussed. He hopes that the letter clarifies his situation and that further discussion at meetings will be unnecessary. The Councillors unanimously recognised that he does this job voluntarily and that he provides an excellent service to the Town and this is very much appreciated. Councillors fully agreed that a line has to be drawn under this and that the matter should now be closed.

## REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

82. a. Borough Councillors.

(1) Councillor A Bishop - Councillor A Bishop reported that he had attended and undertaken the following:-

- Radio interview on the closure of Lloyds bank
- Library task force

- Councillor Surgery
- Article in local paper on the closure of Lloyds bank
- Meeting with residents regarding the walls in Sevenfields that have been knocked down
- A resident in Queens Ave with no hot water or heating, told by SBC would be dealt with within 10 days, was resolved the same day.

(2) Councillor (Mrs) M Penny. Councillor (Mrs) M R Penny was on holiday and was unable to present a report.

(3) Councillor S Weisinger. Councillor S Weisinger was on holiday and was unable to present a report.

b. Swindon Transportation. None.

c. Local Consultative Group (Police). No report.

d. Highworth Youth Centre. Councillor (Mrs) A H Livall reported :

- The Youth Engagement Officers' jobs are up for consultation which ends on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2016. This is currently 2 hours per week on a Tuesday evening and involves engaging with vulnerable young adults.
- The Town Clerk is to write to SBC and express how the Councillors are appalled that they are considering cutting a well attended service, which only amounts to 2 hours of service a week.

e. Town Twinning. Councillor G Edwards reported that the concert last week with fish and chip supper was a success. The AGM is on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm in Highworth Town Council Community room, and is to be looking for new committee members as only 2 remain. A visit to Ponterson is arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and also a visit to Wassenberg 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

f. Executive Committee WALC None.

g. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG). Councillor K Smith reported that they have had another successful year. Councillor K Smith has been elected as Chair, Paul Newton-Smith as the Vice Chair, Ken Saunders as Treasurer and Sandra Rendall as Secretary. Projects to take forward include: a re-visit to The Vision for Highworth and to re-visit supporting vulnerable people in the town.

h. Fair Trade. None.

i. Working Party Neighbourhood Plan. October 13<sup>th</sup> 2016 the Draft Plan went to SBC for consultation, which is scheduled to end December 1<sup>st</sup> and the results will then be sent to an Examiner. The Town Clerk is to phone Phil Smith at SBC to confirm who the examiner will be and whether we have any part in the selection of that Examiner.

j. Highworth Rec. Councillor N Gardiner reported that the Rec hasn't had a formal meeting since Halo took over management of the Rec. He has visited the Centre and spoken with the staff and the morale is good.

k. Nexus Project. Councillor N Gardiner reported that the twice weekly sessions are well attended and they are now mentoring in Warneford School. They are now a registered Charity and are looking at different funding streams. He extended thanks to Councillor K Smith and the HCPG team for undertaking the 'back office' work while the Charity was being formally set up.

## PRECEPT DEMAND 2017/2018

83. Resolved by Councillor C Adams and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop that the figures shown at page 34. were agreed and a Precept demand of £367,500 is to be submitted to Swindon Borough Council for the Financial Year 2017/2018. Carried unanimously, the demand is to be duly presented.

## LIBRARIES UPDATE

84. Patrick Weir (Head of Libraries) is to attend the January Full Council meeting.

## PARKING SWINDON STREET

85. Nothing to report

## BREWERY STREET PUBLIC CONVENIENCES/PODIUM

86. a. The toilets are scheduled to be demolished commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and work to re-build them is due to start on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The Town Clerk has written an article for the Link magazine. The car park will remain open while work commences.
- b. The Podium - the Consultation ends on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and the Podium committee group is to meet on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

87. a. Councillor K Smith: Councillor K Smith is going to look into the possibility of the Lloyds bank building being declared a community asset.
- b. Councillor C Adams: At the Remembrance parade on Sunday a Councillor was asked to turn off his phone while in the parade as he was taking a call. He did comply and then was seen texting on his phone during the church service. It was agreed that this was appalling behaviour, very disrespectful and did not portray the Council in a good light.
- c. Councillor (Mrs) A Livali: The promised Planning training will now be re-arranged for the New Year.
- d. Councillor N Gardiner:
- The Councillors thanked Richard Williams for stepping in and carrying the flag on Remembrance Sunday due to Councillor Gardiner being indisposed.
  - An application for Sport Aid is to be sent to HTC offices.
- e. Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop: The Remembrance Day Service on Sunday was well received by the people of the town and there was a very good collection for British Legion.
- f. The Town Clerk: The Clerk is to invite Stephen Taylor to come and give Code of Conduct training and an invitation would be extended to other Councils if they wish to attend.
- g. Councillor A Bishop:
- The default position at Swindon Borough Council is to respond to requests for traffic signage etc with agreement subject to the Town Council being expected to pay for the requested improvement.

- Councillor Bishop together with other Councillors and representatives of the Traffic Department have carried out more than one survey of the traffic lights at the junction of Swindon Street/High Street and Cricklade Road. Neither of these surveys were successful in producing the evidence required. One large factor in this was the Traffic Department representatives' insistence that they were required to wear high viz clothing under Swindon Borough Council regulations.

**The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm**