



MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT

Councillor: R Williams (In the Chair)

Councillor: (Mrs) K Barber
A Bishop
(Mrs) J Bishop
G Evans
N Gardiner
(Miss) J Murphy
P Newton-Smith
(Mrs) M Penny
K Saunders
(Mrs) L Vardy
S Weisinger
S Wolfensohn

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms T Hawker (Health & Social Liaison Officer, Swindon Carers Centre), four Members of the Public and one Member of the Press.

APOLOGIES

12. Councillors: G Olley and K Smith



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)

13. An email from a member of the public was read to the Council.

'I received an email from The Clerk on behalf of the Council regarding the tables and chairs that we have put outside TT Linnet asking for them to be removed due to complaints from residents. We have had the tables and chairs outside for more than a year and a half and have not had any problems, so it is really confusing why all suddenly we are being asked this. When I called Highways dept at Swindon Borough Council, I was told that as long as there is a 5ft clearance on the pavement, then it is alright to have something for a customer to sit on. In actual fact when my husband and I purchased the building we were told that we owned part of the pavement as there were box windows there when it used to be a green-grocer many years ago. Our customers enjoy sitting outside the coffee shop and I would like to keep them there.

I would like to ask if I could place a bench on the Podium and with a TT Linnet logo on the back of the seat. We would like to leave it on the Podium, perhaps chained to a pole? Please can you consider this as some of our customers would also like to have an option to sit there?'

Councillors unanimously agreed for this to be discussed at a future Meeting once the Policy Committee has finalised a Policy on the 'Use of the Podium and the Market Square'.

The Chairman is to discuss the content of the letter sent to TT Linnets with the Town Clerk on his return from annual leave.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

14. None.

SWINDON CARERS CENTRE

15. Ms T Hawker. She gave a presentation introducing Swindon Carers Centre and the work that they undertake in and around Swindon. Ms Hawker is a Health & Social Liaison Officer and an Outreach Officer. Their work primarily is to support unpaid carers in Swindon. Swindon Carers Centre is a small independent charity that supports people aged from 5-105.

A carer can be anyone who has a regular caring role, this can be for a spouse, child, sibling, neighbour or friend.

A considerable amount of the work is signposting carers to external organisations, advising of entitlements and what help and support is available. 1-1 support is also offered, assistance with funding applications, Carers Relief and the Carers Support Scheme. Group activities are available along with Mental Health Workshops. A Welfare and Benefits Support Line is also available.

Councillors agreed to publish this information on the Highworth Town Council (HTC) website and HTC Facebook page.

Ms Hawker confirmed she would provide her consent for the publication of her report (Zoom recording) on Social Media should this occur.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

16. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2020 BE ADOPTED** (The Minutes were duly adopted).

MATTERS ARISING

17. None.

CONSIDERATION TO RE-INTRODUCE A COMMITTEE STRUCTURE TO THE COUNCIL

18. The Councillors debated the Committee structure of HTC. Councillors agreed to continue with the current structure.

LEASE

19. It was reported that the Lease for the Lower Rec from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) has been completed.

CAR PARKING ISSUES

20. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor N Gardiner that a Working Party be set up to re-investigate the parking issues in Highworth including revisiting the work previously carried out by the office and Councillor (Mrs) M Penny.

Previous research concluded that if people are required to pay for parking within the Town the parking issues will extend onto side streets and residential areas. HTC has no powers of enforcement. Two parking attendants would have to be employed via SBC and was deemed too costly. The Working Party consists of Councillor R Williams, Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy, Councillor N Gardiner and Councillor A Bishop and a Meeting is to be arranged.

CORRESPONDENCE

21. A letter has been received from Danter Brothers Fun Fair to inform Highworth Town Council they will not be bringing the Annual Fun Fair scheduled for October 2020 due to COVID-19. Although safety measures for the rides can be achieved, they are concerned for the Social Distancing of the spectators. The Town Clerk is to write to acknowledge receipt of the letter and to thank them for putting the public safety first and welcome them back next year hopefully under better circumstances.

MEMBERS BUSINESS

22. a. Councillor M Penny: The Chairman of a Meeting may invite a guest speaker to attend that Council Meeting, Councillors can also request that an invitation to attend a Meeting can be issued to an individual or representative that they wish to hear from.

- b. Councillor K Saunders: Blue Disability parking badges must be renewed directly with SBC. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny advised that the information provided at the Meeting was incorrect and asked that the Minutes reflect the correct procedure.
- c. Councillor S Weisinger: The Agenda item 'Correspondence' is to be moved in future to an earlier position, soon after Declaration of Interests. Voting is not required.

The Meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Action Points: -

- The Chairman is to discuss the content of the letter sent to TT Linnets with the Town Clerk on his return from annual leave.
- TT Linnet request for a bench on the Podium is to be an Agenda item following the adoption of use of the Market Square and Podium Policy.
- Swindon Carers Centre information is to be published on the HTC Website and HTC Facebook page.
- A Working Party to look at parking in the Town is to be set up and a Meeting date set.
- The Town Clerk is to write a letter to Danter Brothers Fun Fair.
- Correspondence is to be moved on future Agendas.