

Highworth



Town Council

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G66.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE 3 JANUARY 2017

PRESENT

Councillor S Weisinger (In the Chair)

Councillor: R Akers
A Bishop
(Mrs) J H Bishop
(Mrs) J Clark
(Mrs) A Durrant
G Edwards
N Gardiner
(Mrs) M R Penny
K Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy
(Mrs) P M Webster

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A Reeves and Mrs A Jordan (Swindon Borough Council), Mr J Webster (Highworth Festival Committee) and 4 Members of the Public.

APOLOGIES

56. Councillors C A Adams, P L Adams (Family Medical Reason), Richard Williams (Market Manager)



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

57. None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

58. Councillor N Gardiner is part of the Festival Committee.

LIBRARIES - REPRESENTATION FROM SBC

59. It was agreed Councillor Keith Smith would co-ordinate a small group to discuss the options and present a suggested solution at the next Full Council Meeting on Tuesday 17th January 2017. The group is to consist of the following Councillors, Cllr (Mrs) A Durrant, Cllr A Bishop, Cllr (Mrs) J Clark, Cllr (Mrs) L Vardy, with additional SBC support.

HIGHWORTH MARKET

60. a. Correspondence. None.

b. Market Manager's Report. Things are still ticking over nicely. He only had 3 stalls on Saturday (New Year's Eve. As it was likely to be quiet he agreed that if stall holders did not wish to turn out for this particular Saturday that they would not be charged. It was just as well that only these few stall holders turned up as there were 4 cars left on the Market Square Car Park and he would have had to turn traders away.

d. Market Accounts. The accounts listed on pages G70 and G71 were agreed.

FEES AND CHARGES 2017/2018

61. a. The fees and charges for the year 2017/2018 were agreed. New charges which will commence 1 February 2017 are shown at page G72.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2017/2018

62. The Schedule of Meetings for the year 2017/2018 was agreed and is shown at page G73.

INTERNAL AUDIT

63. Councillors agreed to accept the Interim Internal Audit Report for the current year (available in the office).

PLANNING COMMITTEE - PROCEDURAL

64. Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and seconded by Councillor Mrs) J Clark that the Planning Sub-Committee be re-named "Planning Committee", that the Minutes of all Planning Meetings be adopted and ratified at Full Council Meetings and that it be fully accepted that this Committee is permitted to make Executive decisions on behalf of planning matters brought before it. Carried unanimously. These arrangements were duly accepted and adopted with immediate effect.

HIGHWORTH FESTIVAL 2016 - ACCOUNTS

65. Jim Webster, Chairman of the Festival Committee, submitted the accounts for Highworth Festival. The Council thanked him for another successful Festival.

PODIUM WORKING PARTY REPORT

66. Councillor (Mrs) P Webster summarised the options that have been suggested:
- Removal of tree and erection of a band stand - the structure is too large and would prevent some forms of use.
 - Replace the tree with additional seating - 2 designs
 - Re-locate the war memorial currently situated in St Michaels Grave yard - the memorial is listed and is a large structure which would take up too much room on the podium.
 - Railings around the outside - would restrict access and usability.
 - Preserve the tree and repair the surface - temporary repairs have been carried out to the surface. Advice has been received, there are voids under the surface and the podium would need to be brought down to ground level and built back up again.
 - Gazebo structure - the structure is too large and not in keeping with the conservation area.
 - Previous designs incorporated the HTC logo, which are being obtained.
 - A letter has been submitted to Liz Smith Gibbons and George Reid advising The Council would like to remove the tree. If the tree were to be replaced, suitability would be looked into and also a concrete ring around the roots to ensure good growth.

ACCOUNTS

67. The accounts as listed on page G74 to G78 were passed and payment of bills authorised.

CORRESPONDENCE

68. a. Email from a resident requesting a reward system for residents who work to keep the community tidy. Councillors agreed they are unable to reward individuals with public money, the Town Clerk will respond to the email.
- b. Dave Stone, Director at TS Tech is looking at assisting Community Projects with a green theme, any ideas to be submitted to the office.

MEMBERS' BUSINESS

69. a. Councillor A Bishop.
- Mr Burgess the Local Director of Lloyds Bank has set up a mobile bank in the form of a bus that would be parked in the Market Square. It was agreed that Councillor A Bishop ask Mr Burgess to arrange a trial visit. Suggested times are:- Monday 9.30 - 11.45am, Wednesday 12.30 - 2.15 pm and Friday 12.30 - 2.15pm.
 - The Christmas tree was damaged over the Christmas holiday and has been reported to the police.
- b. Councillor K Smith. McColl's Newsagents are looking into the possibility of having a cash machine on site.
- c. Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy. The proposed new bus routes to Blundson and Orbital Shopping Centre could be publicised in the Link Magazine.
- d. Councillor (Mrs) P Webster. The building occupied by Lloyds bank is on the market.
- e. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny. Cricklade Road is being swept by Swindon Borough Council this week and cones are being put out to prevent people parking.
- f. Councillor G Edwards. Enquires are being made regarding a homeless person as a sleeping bag and associated kit has been left drying on railings in the Town Centre area.
- g. Councillor N Gardiner. He suggested that the Old Library car park should be considered for a site for the mobile bank.
He also thanked the Mayor for an excellent Christmas Lights Ceremony.

Meeting Closed at 9.23 pm