

# Highworth



## Town Council

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[www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

G1.

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL (GENERAL PURPOSE AND FINANCE) 18 AUGUST 2020

#### PRESENT

Councillor: K Smith (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  
R Williams  
S Wolfensohn

#### IN ATTENDANCE

8 Members of the Public and 1 Member of the Press



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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**TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN**

1. a. Resolved by Councillor P Newton-Smith and Seconded by Councillor K Saunders to elect Councillor K Smith to be Chairman of the Full Council General Purpose & Finance.
- b. Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and Seconded by Councillor A Bishop to elect Councillor S Weisinger to be Chairman of the Full Council General Purpose & Finance.

9 Councillors voted in favour of Councillor K Smith and 5 voted against. Councillor K Smith was duly elected and took the Chair.

**APOLOGIES**

2. Councillor G Olley

**TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN**

3. a. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor A Bishop to elect Councillor S Weisinger to be Vice Chairman of the Full Council General Purpose & Finance. Voting 3 in favour, 11 against, not carried.
- b. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and Seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to elect Councillor A Bishop to be Vice Chairman of the Full Council General Purpose & Finance. Voting 5 in favour, 9 against, not carried.
- c. Resolved by Councillor S Wolfensohn and Seconded by Councillor K Smith to elect Councillor P Newton-Smith to be Vice Chairman of the Full Council General Purpose & Finance. Voting 9 in favour, 5 against. Councillor P Newton-Smith was duly elected.

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

4. E Mail received from Mr Tremblin: Highworth Town Council (HTC) has been in negotiations with Swindon Borough Council (SBC) to take over the lease for the Golf Course Club Land when Twigmarket finally surrenders its lease. Negotiations had progressed as far as HTC submitting a statement of aspirations for its use of this land when all normal day to day business came to a halt due to COVID-19. SBC has confirmed the surrender of the lease was completed last week and Highworth Town Council's interests have been noted for when SBC meets to make a decision on the future of the land.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

5. Councillor R Williams, as the Chairman of Highworth Recreation Centre Trustees, together with Councillor N Gardiner as a Trustee of Highworth Recreation Centre Trust, declared a financial interest in the agenda item "To Re-Appraise the HALO Agreement" Their pecuniary interests are limited to £10.00 each. Councillors R Williams and Councillor N Gardiner were excluded from the debate on this item.

## **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

6. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL (GENERAL PURPOSE AND FINANCE) MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2020 BE ADOPTED.** The Minutes were duly adopted.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

7. Actions from previous Meetings:
- a. Market photos are now out of date, the item can now be removed.
  - b. Northview Play area is currently on hold due to the closure of the schools.
  - c. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny has spoken with residents of Sevenhampton regarding the traffic and speeding issues and they have confirmed they do not want to assess the traffic at this time as it will not give a true reflection due to COVID-19. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny has advised that they are to contact her again once they are ready to take it further.
  - d. Barriers for the Market Place is still being discussed.
  - e. The Financial Standing Orders are scheduled to be reviewed in September 2020 by the Policies Committee.

## **TO ELECT 2 COUNCILLORS TO THE STAFFING COMMITTEE**

8. Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor P Newton-Smith that Councillor K Smith be elected to the Staffing Committee. Voting 9 in favour, 5 against. Councillor K Smith was duly appointed to the Staffing Committee.

Resolved by Councillor R Williams and Seconded by Councillor K Saunders that Councillor S Wolfensohn be elected to the Staffing Committee. Voting 9 in favour, 5 against. Councillor S Wolfensohn was duly appointed to the Staffing Committee.

Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and Seconded by Councillor S Weisinger that Councillor (Mrs) M Penny be elected to the Staffing Committee. Voting 6 in favour, 8 against, the appointment was not made.

Resolved by Councillor A Bishop and Seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy that Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop be elected to the Staffing Committee. Voting 6 in favour, 8 against, the appointment was not made.

Every candidate should be voted for to ensure clarity.

## **POLICIES COMMITTEE**

9. Resolved by Councillor K Smith and Seconded by Councillor K Saunders that Councillor (Mrs) K Barber be appointed to the Policies Committee. Carried unanimously, Councillor (Mrs) K Barber was duly appointed to the Policies Committee.

## HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

10. Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt the 4-year Strategic Plan.

### TO RE-APPRAISE THE HALO AGREEMENT

11. Councillor K Smith stated to the Meeting that it was his view that the Resolution made at the Environment and Leisure (E&L) Meeting on 4 August 2020, to fund the HALO deficit over the next two years up to £181,000.00, was unsound and not properly considered at the Meeting. Due diligence was not carried out and the matter should have been put onto the current GP&F Meeting for consideration and Resolution. He informed the Meeting that he intended to invoke Standing Order 11, whereby a Resolution to rescind a decision made by the Council may be put forward by a letter, requesting such signed by five or more Councillors being sent to the Town Clerk. He invited four Councillors to join with him in signing a letter requesting the Town Clerk to arrange a Meeting to re-visit the HALO decision. He informed Councillors:
- This request did not imply that he was opposed to HTC providing financial support to HALO with its deficit. He fully supported the proposition that HTC should do so. His objections were that the proper procedures and attention to due diligence were not applied.
  - Whilst the Council cannot arrange Meetings to suit the schedule of ALL Councillors, such a Meeting, if arranged, should be flexible enough to be convened with sufficient notice for a date when most Councillors would be able to attend.

### CORRESPONDENCE

12. None.

### ACCOUNTS

13. The Accounts listed on pages G5 to G11 were accepted and payment of bills authorised.

### MEMBER'S BUSINESS

14. a. Councillor (Mrs) K Barber: A resident has approached Councillor (Mrs) K Barber regarding speeding along Eastrop. Councillor (Miss) J Murphy is to pass the details for Speed Watch to Councillor (Mrs) K Barber.
- b. Councillor N Gardiner: Council Meetings held on Zoom are recorded. Publishing these recordings is to be an Agenda item on a future Meeting.

**The Meeting closed at 8:10pm.**

### Action Points: -

- Council Meeting recordings is to be an Agenda item on the GP&F Meeting on 22 September 2020