



3 GILBERTS LANE
HIGHWORTH SN6 7FB
01793 762377

www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

**ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2022 @ 7.00 PM**

Present:	
Councillors:	K Saunders (Chairman), (Mrs) J Bishop, A Bishop, G Dennis G Evans, N Gardiner, (Mrs) L Vardy and R Williams
Town Clerk:	(Mrs) D Rose
Assistant Town Clerk:	(Mrs) C Haines
Representatives:	Philip Wilkinson – Police and Crime Commissioner Sergeant Penny Sprawson – Local Neighbourhood Policing Team
Members of the Public:	6
Apologies:	None

		Action
35	HOUSEKEEPING & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None	
36	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Maximum 10 Minutes) A member of the public referred to the breeding pigeons in the High Street, and they believe the flower boxes are contributing to the problem. The Town Clerk advised the flower boxes are coming to the end of their term but will review for next year.	DR
37	CORRESPONDENCE: A letter has been received from a member of the public asking if there is a focus on increasing officers in Wiltshire to work towards reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminal damage. While Highworth is a largely peaceful town there have been recent incidences of stabbing, ASB, criminal damage and attempted arson. Can the PCC guarantee that there will be no reduction in police and PCC resources allocated to Highworth? The chairman advised this would be discussed under Agenda item 4 – Police Crime Commissioner.	
38	POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC): Wiltshire Police Force have been placed under special measures and as part of the PCC role he is implementing measures to improve the force.	

E&L.9

	<p>The PCC reported Wiltshire Police Force is the fourth worst funded Police Force in the UK. A reset is taking place with many new measures being implemented, the PCC is scrutinising everything and policies are being reformed.</p> <p>Consultations have happened with Wiltshire residents; from this it was concluded that ABS, speeding and better engagement with Councils is a high priority.</p> <p>Speed Watch Teams were previously independent, this has now changed. All teams are designated and coordinated in regional groups with a Community Policing Team (CPT) Commander to liaise with the PCC. All data from Speed Indicator Devices (SID) is collated and used to identify hot spots.</p> <p>Three new enforcement cameras have been purchased, these cameras can issue speeding tickets, one camera has increased prosecution rates by 40%.</p> <p>HGV's using unsuitable roads has also been identified as an ongoing issue. Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) can only be enforced by the Police, and they must see them entering and leaving the area without doing a delivery. Reporting of these incidences is encouraged so areas can be targeted; this can be reported to the PCC office.</p> <p>ASB is a serious issue that has increased over the summer, Wiltshire Police are working hard to provide support, but it has not been effective. Funds have been aligned to recruit more police officers and a large recruitment campaign has taken place. Police officers are undertaking continuous training to be able to exercise the responsibility they are asked to do and make the police force more effective.</p> <p>New IT has been implemented to allow police officers to spend more time out on the streets, along with investment in technical improvements, drones and night vision etc. With the better technical support, it is hoped to provide a better front-line service.</p> <p>Although there are more officers in place since a year ago, recruitment and training continues to be a priority, with the rural crime team having doubled in size.</p> <p>Statistics are being looked at, there is now someone in place who is doing an analysis of call times with improvements already being seen.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the PCC for attending the meeting and giving the update.</p>	
39	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING:</p> <p>RESOLVED to confirm and sign the Minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee Meeting Tuesday 6th September 2022.</p>	
40	<p>PLAY AREA STEERING GROUP:</p> <p>RESOLVED to elect the following Councillors as members of the Play Area Steering Group, G Dennis, N Gardiner, K Smith, (Mrs) L Vardy and R Williams. Voting was unanimous and the Councillors were duly elected.</p>	
41	<p>GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:</p> <p>RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to lease a Road Sweeper vehicle. Voting was unanimous and the Resolution was duly carried.</p>	

42	ALLOTMENTS: RESOLVED by Councillors to terminate the allotment tenancy of uncultivated plots and to re-allocate to residents currently on the waiting list. Voting was unanimous and the Resolution was duly carried.	
43	COMMUNITY LITTER PICK: Deferred to the next Meeting.	DR
44	MEMBERS BUSINESS: None	
	Meeting Closed 8.27 pm	

Signed:

Date: