



3 GILBERTS LANE
HIGHWORTH SN6 7FB
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www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

**FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY 25th JULY 2023**

Present:

Councillors: K Smith, S Apps, G Dennis, I Durnin-Duffy, L Gow, F Haines, N Key, P Newton-Smith, G Olley, K Saunders, S Weisinger and R Williams

Town Clerk: D Rose
Assistant Town Clerk: C Haines

Members of the Public:

Apologies: Councillors N Gardiner (holiday), A Houghton (family illness), and J Murphy (family commitment)

		Action
32	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None	
33	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Maximum 10 Minutes): A member of the public asked the following questions: a. <i>What is the total cost to the taxpayer is for running the May Day event?</i> The Chairman explained £3,500.00 has been approved by Highworth Town Council (HTC) for a number of years to help run May Day Event. b. <i>How much staff time is spent organising and running the May Day Event?</i> The Town Clerk advised staff time is not broken down by each event. c. <i>How can a new councillor vote on a decision to allocate £17,000.00 to the all-weather pitch when he said he hadn't seen any information?</i> The Town Clerk advised the Councillor abstained from voting. When the agenda is published, if unsure on an item the expectation is for them to contact the Town Clerk. d. <i>Did HTC see the full accounts for Visit Highworth Limited (VHL)? As a grant of £12,000.00 has been approved and it feels there is an expectation for this to happen every year.</i> The Town Clerk confirmed the grant application was submitted in line with the grant policy form and the accounts were circulated, copies can be seen on Companies House. CORRESPONDENCE: e. The Town Clerk has received a thank you letter from Highworth Warneford School regarding the recent work experience placement at the Council Offices.	

34	<p>COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Finance & General Purpose – 20th June 2023 b. Environment & Leisure – 6th June 2023 c. Planning – 6th June 2023 <p>The Committee Meeting Minutes were noted.</p>	
35	<p>RESTORATION OF BELL AT CEMETERY CHAPEL:</p> <p>RESOLVED by Councillor K Saunders and Seconded by Councillor N Key to approve the bell restoration as soon as possible due to the possible Health and Safety implications. Voting was 8 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention, and the Resolution was duly carried.</p>	DR
36	<p>GILBERTS LANE PROJECT:</p> <p>RESOLVED by Councillor G Olley and Seconded by Councillor S Weisinger to withdraw the Gilberts Lane Project until the information can be clarified. Voting was 9 in favour, 3 abstentions, and the Resolution was duly carried.</p>	KSM
37	<p>SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES:</p> <p>The Town Clerk reported 8 posts have now been installed at various locations around the town and the 3 devices are now active. It is anticipated that the devices will be moved on a 2-3 weekly rotation with the data downloaded and shared with the police.</p>	
38	<p>MAYORAL ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>Report from Councillor K Smith</p> <p>A whirlwind start to what I hope will be a delightful and stimulating year as mayor.</p> <p>It began with two quick visits to Fairford Airbase. The first was a Royal International Air Tattoo briefing. What an incredible organisational headache, particularly this year with local road closures affecting routes to the airshow. This was followed by a visit to Hangar 1217, where I witnessed a low key ceremony welcoming the new base commander Lieutenant Commander Eric Rambo and his wife to his base personnel.</p> <p>Also, in May I attended three mayor making ceremonies at Royal Wootton Bassett, Malmsbury and Chippenham. I was especially intrigued by Chippenham where youth was proudly on show, with the retiring mayor, only in her thirties, who attended over 150 events during the year and the new mayor who is only 27 and proud to be the first gay mayor of the town.</p> <p>I was delighted to be asked to join a VHL Highworth Town Tour event with members from the Fairford and Lechlade Business Club, which ended with refreshments in the Old Bakery and an opportunity to share ideas and make some very useful local contacts.</p> <p>My final mayoral duty in May was to attend the 49th Charter Celebration of Highworth and District Lions. A splendid dinner at Wrag Barn Golf Club. Hearing about their phenomenal fund raising activities locally and the aid they distribute world-wide was truly jaw dropping.</p> <p>In the last couple of weeks, I listened to Petite Messe Solonelle by Rossini, sung by Highworth Choral Society with invited soloists in St Michael's Church. It is a glorious mass</p>	

	<p>written when Rossini was 71. The Choral Society gave a splendid performance, with their 'Cum Sancto Spiritu' a highlight of the evening. Highworth can be proud of such talent.</p> <p>Finally, on Sunday 15th July I was invited to Elias Performing Arts end of term show called Dreams, performed to a packed audience, many of them families from Highworth at the Deanery Theatre. 120 performers from three years old to twenty gave wonderful performances of dance and singing. The choreography was awesome, and the principal dancers were so skilled and vibrant it took your breath away. I have already booked them for next year's May Day market.</p> <p>If the rest of the year is as interesting and varied as these first few months and if I can spread a little Highworth magic, then I shall be satisfied I have done my best for the town.</p>	
39	<p>VOLUNTEER EXPO:</p> <p>The Town Clerk has met with the editor of the Link Magazine to work together on Volunteer Expo. It is an initiative that is about connecting communities and bringing people together, whether it is an organisation looking for volunteers or individuals with time available but don't know how to get involved. The event is to be held on Saturday 23rd September 2023, all organisations that operate within the town have been invited to showcase what they do in the community and what resources they need.</p>	
40	<p>MEMBERS BUSINESS:</p> <p><u>Councillor I Durnin-Duffy:</u> Thanked the Grounds Team for the grass cutting at the recreation ground it looks like Wembley!</p> <p><u>Councillor L Gow:</u> The Arts & Literature Event is taking place on Saturday 12th August 2023 please attend if you can. I also attended a councillor training session by the Public Health Department.</p> <p><u>Councillor S Apps:</u> Thanked the Town Clerk for organising the speed signs.</p> <p><u>Councillor G Dennis:</u> Some Park Avenue residents have complained about the cars using the area at school times, is there anything Swindon Borough Council (SBC) can do? Councillor S Weisinger will raise the issue when he meets with Highways tomorrow, Wednesday 26th July 2023.</p> <p><u>Councillor P Newton-Smith:</u> Community Hop On Bus is available soon, Saturday afternoons commencing on 5th August to 30th September. Leaving Faringdon Market Place at 12.30pm. Giving three hours at your destination. Tickets £5 Concessions half price. Route is Faringdon, Radcot, Kelmscott, Lechlade, Coleshill, Highworth, Shrivenham, White Horse Uffington, Fernham, Badbury Clump and Buscot.</p>	SW
Meeting Closed 8:29pm		

Signed:

Date: