

Highworth



Town Council

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www.highworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

35.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 17 JANUARY 2017

PRESENT

Councillor A Bishop (In the Chair)

Councillor:

R Acres
P L Adams
(Mrs) J H Bishop
(Mrs) J Clark
(Mrs) A M Durrant
G Edwards
N Gardiner
(Mrs) A H Livall
(Mrs) M R Penny
K Smith
(Mrs) L Vardy
S Weisinger

IN ATTENDANCE

28 Members of the Public.

APOLOGIES

88. Councillors: C A Adams (Unwell) and (Mrs) P M Webster.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)89. Mr Paul Newton Smith.

- Highworth Town Council Minutes are not published in the Link Magazine.
- It was agreed that some of the more computer literate Councillors could look at the website to see if it requires refreshing.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

90. None.

LIBRARY REVIEW

91. Agreement was reached that the Councillors wished to pursue negotiations with Swindon Borough Library Services to increase the opening hours of Highworth Library from 15 hours to possibly 30 hours. Highworth Town Council is to negotiate a scheme where Highworth Town Council buys the services of two library assistants from SBC, by being invoiced for their hours. Any expenditure on this is limited to a maximum of £16,000.00 for the first year. In order to do this the Councillors agreed that money must be available in this year's 2017/2018 budget to enable these negotiations. The deadline for submission of the Precept Demand is days away and a decision to increase the demand to accommodate this requires being taken at the current meeting.

Resolved by Councillor K Smith and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant that the Precept Demand for the Financial Year 2017 to 2018 be increased to the sum of £390,000.00, in anticipation of an acceptable Service Level Agreement being reached with Swindon Borough Council, to fund additional staff to keep the Highworth Library open for longer hours. Councillors voted 12 for, None against and 1 abstained. The resolution was duly carried and a Precept demand is to be submitted to Swindon Borough Council for £390,000.00 for the year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

MINUTES OF MEETING

92. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2016 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED**

MATTERS ARISING

93. 82i – Neighbourhood Plan has been through consultation and is now with the inspectors.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

94. **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

- Planning Committee 3 January 2017**
- General Purpose and Finance Committee 3 January 2017**
- Leisure Committee 3 January 2017**

MATTERS ARISING

95. Leisure Committee Minute 42a. Swindon Highways have been out and assessed the damage to the grass verges and reported they are unable to do anything as the damage is not serious enough.
96. GP & F Committee Minute 69a. HTC is awaiting response from SBC. Special permission was requested to park the mobile bank on the double yellow lines at the old Library Car park road.

SWINDON BOROUGH FUTURE STRATEGY

97. Highworth Town Council agreed that it is unhappy with the current SBC strategy of information Parish and Town Councils that it will no longer provide certain services in future. It is to inform SBC that this is not acceptable. See minute 98 below.

FLY TIPPING – ANTICIPATED SBC STRATEGY

98. Highworth Town Council has not been approached by SBC regarding fly tipping. Highworth Town Council does not have the funds, man power or equipment to be able to take this on. It is considered that SBC alone has the statutory duty to carry out this function and that SBC alone has the required enforcement powers, not available to Parish and Town Councils. The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Chairs and Clerks from other Swindon Area Councils to make a combined stand against this. It was agreed that Cllr (Mrs) M Penny should help with setting up this meeting.

HIGHWORTH GOLF CLUB – LAND CLASSIFICATION

99. Councillors agreed that the Clerk assisted by Cllr (Mrs) M Penny arrange a meeting with Stephen Taylor, Director of Law and Governance at SBC to discuss the leases to include the Golf Club land.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

100. a. Councillor A Bishop. He has attended and dealt with the following for the Borough:-
- Attended Panning meeting
 - Attended Licensing meeting
 - Attended appeals meeting
 - Attended Adults health meeting
 - Joint Strategic planning
 - Police crime panel
 - Dementia/Library Support group

- Saturday Surgery
- NatWest bank – top flat will be ready May/June
- Lloyds bank – Mobile Banking to attend Highworth 3 times per week
- Library task group
- Give way signs in Folly Crescent, advised signs not needed

b. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny. Attended the following as Borough Councillor:-

- Attended Ethical training run by Stephen Taylor
- Attended Consultation meeting on the proposed SHELAA and council housing land
- 2 SBC Cabinet meetings mainly regarding the Library
- Transport subcommittee where decisions are made on appeals by parents looking to get school transport paid for by SBC
- Attended 2 Saturday Morning Surgeries
- Licensing Committee where we decide on T&C's regarding Kennels and Catteries, introduction of licenses for the sex trade and the setting of tariffs for the Hackney Taxi trade.
- Went to lots of Carol Services and Christmas parties as Deputy Mayor of Swindon and held a Citizenship Ceremony on behalf of the Mayor

c. Councillor S Weisinger: Attended the following as Borough Councillor:-

- Chaired Shadow Parish Council meetings
- Attended meeting with Paul Weir
- Attended 2 scrutiny meetings
- Councillors Surgery

REPORT ON M4 JUNCTION 15 MEETING

101. Work is due start mid to late 2018 with completing due 2019. This will include alterations to Common Head roundabout and the White Horse roundabout. The development is required due to the new eastern villages being built and is being funded by Highways and developer funding. The Tendering process will begin 2017.

CORRESPONDENCE

102. None

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

103. Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant: Where services have been taken over from SBC Highworth Town Council is to be flexible in how it provides the service, seeking the most cost effective way, be it by contracting it out or whatever.

Councillor N Gardiner:

- In the previous year 3 people were fined for fly tipping across the Borough.
- Crossing by Reg Skulls site. A survey is to be commissioned to ascertain how many people use the crossing and how many people cross the road further up. This would provide evidence towards a decision to move the crossing.

Councillor (Mrs) M Penny: The email requesting use of a site in Highworth by a circus is to be brought to the next Leisure Committee meeting.

Councillor (Mrs) J Clark. Cllr (Mrs) M penny reported SBC has carried out a site visit to Cricklade Road. However, the temporary traffic lights had not been put in place. They are to re-visit again in the near future.

Councillor K Smith: Requested a copy of the letter sent to residents on the high street.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40 pm