



### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 18 JULY 2017

#### PRESENT

Councillor	N Gardiner (In the Chair)
Councillors:	C Adams P Adams R Acres A Bishop (Mrs) J H Bishop (Mrs) J Clark (Mrs) A M Durrant (Mrs) A H Livall K Smith (Mrs) P M Webster S Weisinger

#### IN ATTENDANCE

PCSO Lee Wheeldon, one Member of the Press and 7 Members of the Public

#### APOLOGIES

27. Councillors G Edwards (Holiday), (Mrs) M R Penny (Mayoral duties) and (Mrs) L Vardy (Unwell).

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

- 28.. a. Mr Paul Newton Smith. Highworth Town Council (HTC) has now received a communication from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) (Property Legal) that internal consultations have been carried out with both Officers and Members and there have been no negative responses. Confirmation is being awaited regarding a matter of process and the permission for the installation of a skate park at the Lower Rec is looking very promising.
- b. Mr Steve Martin. He thanked the Town Council for the restoration of the zip wire on the Northview Playground.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

29. None.

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

30. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2017 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED.**

**MATTERS ARISING**

31. a. Minute 17a. It is to be established how much progress has been made in negotiating 99 year leases on the other property that HTC leases from SBC.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR**

32. The Mayor reported that he has attended the following events:

**CLLR NICK GARDINER 2017 - 2018**  
**MAYOR OF HIGHWORTH**  
**ATTENDED FUNCTIONS**

- **SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017** – Salisbury City Council, Mayor Making Ceremony, St Thomas's Church, Salisbury
- **TUESDAY 16 MAY 2017** – Highworth Scout Group, AGM 2017, Scouthall, Eastrop, Highworth
- **THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017** – Air Tattoo Briefing 2017, Royal International Air Tattoo, Fairford
- **SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2017** – Highworth & District Lions Club, 43<sup>rd</sup> Charter Anniversary Lunch, The Wrag Barn Golf Club, Shrivenham Road, Highworth
- **SATURDAY 24 JUNE 2017** – The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Lady Marland, Charity Concert for Swindon Cares, Christ Church, Old Town, Swindon
- **SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2017** – Melksham Town Council, Civic Celebrations/Civic Service, St Michael and All Angels Church, Melksham
- **SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2017** – Malmesbury Town Council, Choral Evensong, Malmesbury Abbey
- **TUESDAY 4 JULY 2017** – Birthday Party 104 years old, (Mary Knowley) Parsonage Court, Highworth
- **FRIDAY 7 JULY 2017** – The High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Lady Marland, Summer Reception, Odstock Manor, Salisbury
- **SUNDAY 9 JULY 2017** – Marlborough Civic Service, Celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pelham Puppets, Marlborough
- **SATURDAY 15 JULY 2017** – RAF Fairford Enclosure, Royal International Air Tattoo 2017, Fairford

The Mayor also announced the date of his Civic Service as **SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017** – at St Michael & All Angels Church, Highworth. The Service is to commence at 10.15am, further details to be announced in due course.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

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

a. **Planning Committee 4 July 2017**

b. **General Purpose and Finance Committee 4 July 2017**

### c. Leisure Committee 4 July 2017

#### MATTERS ARISING

34. a. Planning Committee – Minute 22. An application has been submitted to SBC for ‘Somerset’, Hampton. An extra-ordinary Planning Committee meeting is to be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm.
- b. General Purpose & Finance Committee –
- i. Minute 26 b. The ‘snagging’ on the Public Lavatory Building is to be completed by the end of this week.
- ii. Minute 26 c. A further email is to be sent to SBC requesting ‘footfall’ information about the Library. Councillors were informed that the ‘out of hours opening technology’ is currently being installed in the Borough’s libraries.
- c. Leisure – Minute 14.
- i. A list of works has been provided for the alterations to the Pavilion Changing Rooms – but not the requested Schedule. Councillors would like confirmation that the Club intend to refurbish the away team changing room to the standard that it has the ‘home’ side.
- ii. Confirmation is to be provided that the alterations are compliant with Building Regs.
- iii. The Club is to be informed in writing that any future building work must include prior consultation with HTC. (the building owner) in order to assure the Council that it will be done to an acceptable standard.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

35. a. Email from Wroughton Parish Council with the following Press Release attached –

#### **ARE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS A WASTE OF TIME, EFFORT AND PUBLIC MONEY?**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 the Secretary of State, Sajid Javid published his decision allowing a planning appeal and giving permission for 103 houses in Marlborough Rd, Wroughton, in contravention of Wroughton's Neighbourhood Plan and Swindon Borough Council's Local Plan. Wroughton residents are rightly very angry and frustrated at this decision. Since Neighbourhood Plans were first introduced in the Localism Act 2011, Government have promoted them as a constructive way in which communities can influence planning in their area. Successive Secretaries of State, in written and verbal statements have said that planning decisions should comply with Neighbourhood Plans. It is unfortunate that in the case of this appeal the Secretary of State has made a decision which contradicts those statements. We believe that this decision, like a number of other recent planning decisions undermines the credibility of Neighbourhood Plans.

Wroughton's Neighbourhood Plan was developed over a period of nearly 3 years by a team of volunteers with help and assistance from the community. It was subject to considerable scrutiny by planning experts, to ensure that it met the legal requirements and was then put to a referendum where it received overwhelming support from the electorate. The plan recognises that there is a need for additional housing within the village and makes provision for it on sites which are sustainable. So far planning applications have been approved for in excess of 160 houses which are in compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council considers that the appeal site is not sustainable and that the road access is unsafe for both pedestrians and cars. We do not believe that this development will bring any benefits to our community.

Steve Harcourt, Chair of the Parish Council said 'I am bitterly disappointed at this decision, and I know

that many Wroughton residents share my disappointment. Many of our residents put a lot of time and effort into helping produce the plan and it now seems that all that effort was wasted. I believe that the Secretary of State has let us down in coming to the decision to allow this appeal. Up to now I have been a strong advocate of Neighbourhood Plans, and I have been asked for advice by a number of Parishes who are working on them. Sadly I now feel that the limited weight which is given to them is not worth the several years of effort involved in developing them and then getting them adopted. Although successive Ministers have supported Neighbourhood Plans in written and spoken statements, it seems that this support is not forthcoming in deciding appeals.'

b. Letter from Friends of Gloucester House. In view of the large contribution that Gloucester House makes to the Community, it was resolved by Councillor N Gardiner and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant that Highworth Town Council provide a one off grant of £2500.00. Seven Councillors voted in favour, five voted against, the resolution was duly carried.

## REPORTS BY REPRESENTATIVES

36. a. Police Report. PCSO Lee Wheeldon reported:

There has recently been a number of Non-dwelling burglaries, thefts and associated Criminal Damage, they all appear to be businesses or outhouses on the periphery of Highworth in isolated locations. Items stolen include landscaping equipment, roofing tiles, personal belongings and an Ifor Williams trailer. Enquiries are ongoing with more leads to follow.

The Police continue to have regular patrols in the area to offer some high visibility crime prevention and reassurance.

He has been attending the Market Square on Saturday mornings in Highworth every few weeks, holding Surgeries to speak with any residents that wish to discuss any matters affecting them. This is something that will continue to take place.

A recent traffic initiative resulted in 4 instant tickets for speeding (40mph in a 30mph limit) and a court appearance for someone overtaking dangerously doing 76mph in a 50mph limit.

PCSO 3991 Lee WHEELDON will be on the Podium in the Market Square on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July from 0900-1130 hours. Topics will be burglaries and how to protect your home.

PCSO Wheeldon was thanked for arranging extra patrols on the eve of the Wrde Up Festival to protect all the equipment overnight.

b. Borough Councillors.

i. Councillor A Bishop – Councillor A Bishop reported that he had attended and undertaken the following:-

29<sup>th</sup> June – Police Crime Commissioners Panel held in Devizes, chair voted in (as of last year), deputy, Junab Ali from Swindon. He also reported that Wiltshire is the third best Police Force in the Country.

6<sup>th</sup> July – Licensing (Taxis and dog walking).

13<sup>th</sup> July – Planning (glad to report that the two dwellings that we voted to grant permission for at Sevenhampton was upheld this time).

Saturday morning Surgery with Councillor S Weisinger - a complaint was made that the High Street needed a make-over. Able to explain that McColls would soon be done, Puddleducks would soon be re-opening and Nat West would open as a coffee shop/restaurant in September.

Rubbish being tipped in Knowlands.

15.

Station Road Consultation needed regarding yellow lines.

House at Sutton Park Blunsdon, complaint about rebuilding next door, noise and pollution.

Pentylands Lane change of speed limit and junction with St. Michaels Ave. Investigated the possibility of changing the limit to 20mph. It is unlikely that there will be any funding for this unless Aldi submits a planning application.

We are still waiting to hear about any planned resurfacing works for Pentylands Lane.

He is to arrange for the purple 'Community Clean-Up' rubbish bags to be collected from the Brewery Street Car Park.

- ii. Councillor S Weisinger. Councillor S Weisinger reported that he has attended and dealt with the following:-

Two Full Council Meetings at SBC – at the first one, proposed Councillor (Mrs) M Penny to become Mayor of Swindon which was approved.

Junction 15 Event

Housing works meeting for Blunsdon and Highworth

Resources & Corporate Scrutiny Committee Meeting with Architect for Aldi

Joint Safety Committee Audit Committee

SBC Planning Committee re application for two properties in Sevenhampton – the Officer recommended refusal, the Committee approved them.

Standards Committee

Scrutiny Committee

Councillor S Weisinger also reported that Borough Councillors attended the Swindon Borough Council Full Council Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> July when it was resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor A Bishop that the Highworth Neighbourhood Plan be 'made'. The resolution was carried unanimously.

- c. Swindon Transportation. None
- d. Town Twinning. None.
- e. Executive Committee WALC. Membership is to be debated at a future Committee Meeting.
- f. Highworth Community Partnership Group (HCPG). Councillor R Acres reported that he has attended two meetings. Currently two projects are in hand:
- i. Town Centre update – a base map is being prepared to show what is on the High Street at the moment.
  - ii. Tourism – a new domain name has been obtained and a new website and Facebook page are to be created.
- g. Highworth Association For Fair Trade. Councillor (Mrs) A Durrant reported that she has received an email from the Fair Trade Foundation advising that Sainsbury's has changed its tea from 'Fair Trade' to 'Fairly Traded' which does not give the farmers such a fair deal. Should anyone wish to express a view

there is a petition on 'change.org'.

16.

She will be arranging a meeting in the near future.

- h. Working Party Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor (Mrs) P Webster reported that the Highworth Neighbourhood Plan has been 'made' by SBC and is now the subject of a further 6 week Consultation but it effectively has as much weight now as it will do at the end of this period.

She drew Councillors attention to the possible repercussions of the decision by the Secretary of State to allow a Planning Appeal contrary to the Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillors agreed that a letter is to be written to the MP Justin Tomlinson to invite him to a meeting to discuss the commitment of the Government to its own legislation.

- i. Fox Roundabout – Artwork. Councillor K Smith reported on the work done towards installing a piece of sculpture on the Fox Roundabout. It was agreed that, in principle, this Council would like to improve the visual aspect of the roundabout. Funding is to be discussed at the next GP&F Committee Meeting.

### QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

37. a. Councillor N Gardiner. A letter of congratulation is to be written to the organisers of the Wrde Up Festival.
- b. Councillor C Adams. He predicted that Shrivenham will double in size in the next two years. He also questioned the type of weed-killer being used by SBC and its efficacy. The question will be addressed to SBC and Councillors are to be informed its response.
- c. Councillor P Adams. Borough Councillors strongly encouraged Councillors to report issues such as the state of the road surface in Swindon Road, individually to the Borough. The email address to which complaints and enquiries regarding Highways/Waste & Recycling/lamp posts etc. should be sent is:- [Streetsmart@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:Streetsmart@swindon.gov.uk) The issues will be logged onto the SBC system, a reference number will be provided and the Borough will then be able to prioritise jobs and to see the bigger picture by the number of people reporting an issue.
- d. Councillor S Weisinger. A letter is to be sent inviting an Officer of Lloyds Bank to attend a future Council Meeting. Any complaints from the public to Councillors, regarding the 'HorseBox' (mobile bank) are to be referred to Councillor A Bishop.
- e. Councillor (Mrs) J Clark. She extended her thanks to the Office teams for a prompt and efficient response to a displaced man-hole cover in the High Street.
- f. Councillor (Mrs) J Bishop. She congratulated Mr Ken Saunders on an excellent job of weeding all around the Community Centre.

**The Meeting closed at 8.43 pm**