

# Highworth



## Town Council

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

5.

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL 20 JUNE 2017

#### PRESENT

Councillor N Gardiner (In the Chair)

Councillors: R Acres  
A Bishop  
(Mrs) J H Bishop  
(Mrs) J Clark  
G Edwards  
(Mrs) A H Livall  
(Mrs) M R Penny  
K Smith  
(Mrs) L Vardy

#### IN ATTENDANCE

3 Members of the Public and 1 Member of The Press.

#### APOLOGIES

11. Councillors: (Mrs) A M Durrant (Work), (Mrs) P M Webster, S Weisinger, C A Adams and P L Adams

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

12. a. Mr P. Newton-Smith. The Clerk informed Mr Newton-Smith that an email has been sent to Helen Vivash (Swindon Borough Council, Highways) informing her of the condition of the road surface at Pentylands Lane. The email enquires if Thames Water will be undertaking any remedial work to the surface once its works are complete there. He also asked to be informed if Pentylands Lane is on the SBC schedule for resurfacing.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

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b. Mrs S Rendall.

- There are no current plans to resurface and re-line the Old Library Car Park.
- In response to her question regarding a cashpoint machine in the High Street:-

Councillor A Bishop is to ask the owner of the old Nat West Bank if he would be prepared to 'host' a cashpoint machine.

Councillors agreed to Councillor N Gardiners request that the Office investigate the possibility of a 'stand-alone' cashpoint.

A letter is to be sent to Mrs Smith-Gibbons (Swindon Borough Council, Conservation Officer) to ask for her support in encouraging McColls to undertake refurbishment work to the premises.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

13. None.

### MINUTES OF MEETING

14. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 2017 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED**

### MATTERS ARISING

15. None.

### MINUTES OF MEETINGS

16. **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
- a. **Planning Committee 18 April, 23 May and 6 June 2017**
  - b. **General Purpose and Finance Committee 6 June 2017**
  - c. **Leisure Committee 23 May and 6 June 2017**

### MATTERS ARISING

17. a. Minute 7. Leisure Meeting 6 June 2017, Councillor (Mrs) M Penny informed the meeting that Borough Councillors have been asked for comment on the proposed site for the Skatepark by 26<sup>th</sup> June. She also intends to pursue the 99 year leases for some of the sites that HTC currently Lease on shorter terms.

If SBC is amenable to allowing the facility to be constructed, it will eventually become the responsibility of the Town Council.

- b. Minute 9b. Leisure Meeting 6 June 2017. Planting shrubs or installing boulders to prevent parking on the verge along St Michaels Avenue would severely inhibit the Groundsmens job of grass-cutting.

c. Minute 17c. GP&F Meeting 6 June 2017. The breakdown of Room income is to be emailed to Councillors.

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

18. a. Councillor A Bishop. He has attended and dealt with the following for the Borough:-

- 19<sup>th</sup> May - Mayor Making (Councillor Maureen Penny as Mayor of Swindon) Evening Dinner
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Braeside School, Devizes. It has a very full summer program both boarding and day visits and some new activities along with kayaks.
  - RAF Fairford information meeting in the evening
- 26<sup>th</sup> May - Planning Committee, SBC
- 30<sup>th</sup> May - Police Crime Commissioners Panel (Progress across the County means that Wiltshire is one of the safest places to live in the Country).
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June - A tour of the Police HQ in Devizes including the Control Room for 101 and 999 calls.
- 13<sup>th</sup> June - Planning Committee – an application for 53 Houses at Blunsdon which despite his objections was passed.
- 15<sup>th</sup> June - Licensing Committee (of Taxis and Dog Kennels)

Locally he has dealt with wall insulation in a property in Rivers Way, overhanging trees in Lismore Road, and a gentleman too tall for his bath in the Railway Village (which unfortunately cannot be changed because it is a listed building).

He also met a delegation from Aldi to receive their proposed plans for a Supermarket in Highworth.

He and Councillor (Mrs) M Penny held Councillor Surgery on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

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

- Meeting with Aldi
- Meeting with Rob Richards re Skate Park and leased land Reflection posts in Sevenhampton re erected
- Job received from Pam re dangerous tree in Castle Eaton. Tree has been checked, resident spoken to, no work necessary - resident happy
- Pruning of trees in Sevenfields and The Willows
- 3 bungalows in Kings Ave with major condensation. Installation of positive air fans and cavity wall insulation where necessary
- Overhanging trees/bushes between Reddown and supermarine. Area checked by officers - no action - deemed to be safe.

She also reported that since she has been Mayor of Swindon, she has attended 30 separate Engagements from the Queens Garden Party to a Pirate Party at Wharf Green.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

19. It was unanimously agreed that Public participation at Committee meetings will be regulated in the future as follows:

- GP&F and Leisure meetings – The Public will not be permitted to speak at these meetings unless invited to do so by the Chairman either on request or by circumstances making this necessary during the body of the meeting. In these cases Standing Orders will be suspended to allow for the

member of the Public to address the meeting. All Public intervention will be confined to the agenda items under discussion.

- Planning meetings – As for the above, but with the addition that at the commencement of that segment of the agenda where Planning Applications are to be considered, the Chairman will invite any members of the Public attending to address the Councillors with regard to their particular application, limited to 5 minutes. A note to this effect will be included in all future Planning agendas.
- It was unanimously agreed never to accept memory sticks to be used in the Councils equipment at meetings.

### **TAYLOR WIMPEY DEED OF VARIATION (COST)**

20. Councillors agreed to provide the money to pay for the legal costs of Taylor Wimpey to enable the Variation of Terms to the S106 agreement to progress, once assured that all the funds will be released to Highworth.

### **TO ACCEPT INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

21. Resolved by Councillor N Gardiner and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny to accept the Internal Audit Report from Auditing Solutions Ltd. Carried unanimously.

### **TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

22. Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and seconded by Councillor N Gardiner to approve the Annual Governance Statement. Carried unanimously.

### **TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

23. Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and seconded by Councillor N Gardiner to approve the Annual Accounts. Carried unanimously.

### **TO ANNOUNCE MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITY**

24. Councillor N Gardiner announced that his chosen Charity for his Mayoral year is to be the Nexus Youth Project.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **25. Police Report – 20/06/2017**

We would like to begin this report by updating you all on some positive action taken relating to criminal activity both locally within the area of Highworth and overall within the North Swindon CPT area. Over the past 6 months, there have been higher than usual volumes of reports of Burglaries. We understand that this has been a big concern for residents within Highworth and the surrounding villages. Various teams within Wiltshire Police have worked extremely hard investigating these incidents and a large number of arrests have been made. We have also seen three suspects sent to Prison as a result of this activity; most recently a 51 year old male received a 4 year sentence. Inspector Reed previously attended and updated local residents in regard to this issue. Further to that meeting there was a burglary in May following which 2 males have been arrested and charged. There is nothing to indicate a further series targeting the area. Police are also aware of a burglary targeting a high value vehicle and this is being investigated.

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

You may be aware that local PCSO Lee WHEELDON 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.

Local  
Officers will be at the podium in the market square of Highworth on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June from 0900-1200 hours. We welcome all members of the community to come and say hello, including members of the town council.

There have been recent reports across Swindon and surrounding Villages of an increase in the number of doorstep calls from Rogue Traders and door-to-door salesman. Whilst the majority of these carry appropriate Identification, some are not always legitimate. We urge all residents to remain vigilant with anyone that comes to their front door offering products or services. If anyone feels at all concerned, then advice is to call 101 and report any suspicious characters to the Police. Residents can also contact Trading Standards to report any unusual activity. We continue to work closely with Trading Standards in tackling this matter. PCSO WHEELDON held a surgery on the 19<sup>th</sup> June at the Coventry Building Society on the High Street alongside Trading Standards to offer advice to local residents. A further joint surgery is planned for later in the year.

We are fully aware of the concerns and frustrations felt by local residents regarding the process for reporting criminal or anti-social activity in your area. The 101 system is something that we, as local Officers, do not have any control or influence over. The system is under review by Senior Officers at this time. What we do ask though is that whilst the process may sometimes feel very difficult or 'pointless', we passionately urge all residents to please be as patient as you can and continue to report incidents to us. The more that we as an Organisation are told, the greater power we will have in solving any local issues with the support of Partner Agencies.

Many Thanks  
Community Coordinators  
North Swindon Community Policing Team

## QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

26. a. Councillor K Smith. A letter is to be sent to the Manager of Hanover House to request that the Hedge alongside the pavement is cut back. The letter is to be copied to Swindon Borough Council.
- b. Councillor (Mrs) A Livall. Councillor G Edwards advised the Council that the Police are aware of a caravan being stripped down in the lay-by near Inglesham.
- c. Councillor G Edwards. Swindon Borough Council is conducting a Consultation on new powers to prevent Dog Fouling. Enforcement will be the responsibility of the Borough.
- d. Councillor R Acres. The website updating is progressing and almost ready to change over.
- e. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny.
- The date of the Civic Service is to be 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
  - The Council is to purchase some fans to be deployed in the Council Chamber.

f. Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy. The paving slabs at the base of the steps at the Newburgh shops are to be reported to Swindon Borough Council as they are uneven. The area is litter picked daily and is a recognised trouble spot for rubbish.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 8.02 pm**