



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
HIGHWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
21 FEBRUARY 2017**

PRESENT

Councillor A Bishop (In the Chair)

Councillor:

R Acres
C Adams
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

IN ATTENDANCE

Police Constable Phillippa Sharpley, Police Constable S Watts and 33 members of the Public.

APOLOGIES

104. Councillors: (Mrs) P M Webster, S Weisinger (Chairing Audit Committee at SBC)

HIGHWORTH POLICING

105. There has been a significant increase in burglaries in the area. Patrols have now been increased and investigations are ongoing. No arrests have been made at present.



Highworth is a Fair Trade Town



Twinned with Wassenberg



Twinned with Pontorson

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (10 Minutes Limit)

106. a. Mr Ian James He enquired whether the figure of £23,000 notified to him by a Councillor will be fully used to fund 15 additional hours for the Library. He was informed that this would form the basis of the discussion set aside for this in the agenda.
- b. Mrs Tracey Edwards She informed the meeting that SBC Street Smart is not opposed to put parking cones along Swindon Street for a trial period of 2 months to try and ease the illegal parking issues. She also stated that SBC had informed her that SBC is not opposed to Highworth funding its own Traffic Enforcement Officer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

107. None.

HIGHWORTH LIBRARY

108. a. At the last meeting the Precept Demand was increase by £23,000. It was made clear that £20,000 was set aside as a £16,000 cap plus £4,000 contingency for the library. The additional £3,000 was intended to compensate for a £3,000 shortfall in forecasted bank interest, due the fact that the bank has informed that it will be paying 0% on savings accounts and this forecast income will not be forthcoming. This information was supplied after the precept figures had been submitted to the Council.
- b. The Council has been advised that SBC Libraries has now confirmed to Councillor (Mrs) M Penny that it will guarantee 15 hours additional opening hours per week for the first year for the sum of £20,000.
- Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and Seconded by Councillor P Adams that Highworth Town Council contribute the sum of £20,000 towards the addition of 15 extra hours of opening of the Highworth Library for the first year of the agreement. This to be subject to Swindon Borough Library Service guaranteeing these additional 15 hours for the sum of £20,000 within a binding Service Level Agreement. Voting was 12 for, 0 against and 1 abstention. The resolution was duly carried and the Service Level Agreement is to be negotiated on these terms immediately. It should also be stipulated within the agreement that the staff provided for these extra hours are to be exclusively employed within Highworth Library and are not to be used to temporarily compensate for absences or staff deficiencies within Swindon Library Service.

ILLEGAL PARKING AND VANDALISM TO CARS – SWINDON STREET

109. The police no longer carries out the enforcement of illegal car parking, only cases of vehicle obstruction. This falls to the Swindon Borough Parking Attendants as SBC alone has the power of enforcement. The Police did report to the meeting that the vandalism incident has been investigated, although there was insufficient evidence to prosecute and that case is now closed. Any speeding hotspots should be reported to the Police and they will target these areas. Obstructive Parking on Shrivensham Road outside tyre factory is an ongoing issue and is particularly intolerable as there are two schools situated close to this junction. The Rural Police Management will discuss this situation with the PCSO's in the hope of formulating a plan. Currently, the Deputy Town Clerk is examining and analysing the information provided by SBC on the visits of Traffic Enforcement Officers, their enforcement activities and the revenues from these. The Offer of traffic cones by SBC is to be followed up, as is the claim that SBC is prepared to dedicate an Enforcement Office permanently to Highworth.

MINUTES OF MEETING

110. **RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2017 BE ADOPTED AND SIGNED**

MATTERS ARISING

111. a. Minute 89. It was confirmed that Councillors R Acres, K Smith, N Gardiner were to investigate improvements to the HTC Website.
- b. Minute 100. SBC has agreed to remove the double yellow lines for up to 8 metres at the end of the roadway above the Old Library car park to enable the mobile Lloyds banking bus to park. HTC is to ensure cones are put out early morning on the days the van will be attending.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

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

- a. **Planning Committee 7 February 2017**
 b. **General Purpose and Finance Committee 7 February 2017**
 c. **Leisure Committee 7 February 2017**

MATTERS ARISING

113. a. GP&F Committee minute 72. Councillor (Mrs) P Webster wish to clarify that when making her Declaration of Interest at the commencement of the meeting it was because she is an Early Years Provider in a Parish other than in Highworth which is experiencing the same same situation as is Highworth Pre-school. She also wished to correct the name of the official mentioned in the minute to Gareth Cheale.
- b. GP&F Committee minutes 77 & 78. Resolved by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny and seconded by Councillor C Adams that minute 77 and 78, being the two resolutions regarding the Financial limitations to be placed on the Library Contributions for the first year, not be ratified. Voting was: For 12, Against 0, Abstention 1. The Resolution was duly carried. These two Resolutions are no longer valid and will not be relevant to further negotiations.
- c. GP&F Committee minute 80. It was confirmed that the meeting scheduled for Friday 24th February 2017, to be held here at HTC Offices, with Borough Councillor Keith Williams (Cabinet member for Street Smart) to discuss the proposed devolvement of SBC services to Parishes, is to go ahead.
- d. GP&F Committee minute 84. It has been provisionally agreed that entrance to the new public toilets is to be 20 pence.

HIGHWORTH YOUTH CENTRE

114. Councillor N Gardiner declared an interest in this agenda item as he is a Trustee of Nexus. SBC has confirmed that the youth centre will be closing and youth workers to be made redundant. Leon Barrett, the Officer in Charge of Street Smart at SBC has written to Councillor (Mrs) M Penny with proposals for the disposal of the Youth and Community Centre at Newburgh Place. More information is required on the Borough's intentions and the Borough Councillors are to investigate this further. There will only be one Youth Engagement Worker and the criteria for qualifying for that support has been made harder. The Councillors decided that future provision of Youth Services would be better provided though the Nexus Project and will continue to support it.

PROCEDURE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

115. There is an existing Policy on "Grants". This Policy, among all the others, is to be circulated electronically to Councillors between now and the June GP&F Meeting, where Councillors will be asked to adopt them officially. It was confirmed that all officially adopted Policies will be published on the Council web site.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

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

- Blunsdon tree stump left after tree felled and failed to be removed
- Gullies on Blunsdon/Highworth road cleared
- Road edges and potholes to be repaired in Kingsdown Lane
- Pump on central heating Queens Ave fixed next day
- Central heating failure at Home Farm, fixed same day
- Saturday Surgery Highworth and Blunsdon
- Parish Meeting at Blunsdon
- Attended the following meetings in Swindon: Dementia, Library Task Force, Planning, Police Crime Committee, Meeting with parishes, meeting with head of Libraries Allison Jordan, Adult Health and Full Council.

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

- Cricklade Road: resurfacing and cleaning has now been done (with the help of traffic lights)
- Land by Caretakers house. SBC workmen parked all their vehicles on this land whilst renovating the pavements in Shrivenham road. They left it a mess and this has encouraged parents to park there whilst dropping off their children. He stated that at present it doesn't meet SBC criteria for reinstatement. Although it does not look nice, it does meet the standards for immediate repair.
- Attended Councillors Surgery
- Attended the following meetings at SBC, two lengthy full council meetings, AAB (Archaeological Advisory Body) where it was pointed out that there is no significant works on the ground at Shrivenham Road, Resources and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Scrutiny Committee where she enquired about the future of Youth Centre building and was told to contact Kathy Sherratt if we wanted to take it over. "Switch on Swindon" is asking anyone who wants to help rebrand it, is to contact SBC.

CORRESPONDENCE

117. None

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

118. a. The Town Clerk. We have received notification that the car park at Brewery Street is to be resurfaced and the parking spaces relined, to include 3 disabled bays.

b. Councillor K Smith. The booklet "Useful info for Councillors" is to be updated to identify that the GP&F Committee has responsibility for the Administrative staff.

c. Councillor (Mrs) M Penny.

- A Tree Preservation Order has been issued for the tree on the Podium. An appeal has been submitted to SBC.
- Work on Cricklade Road has been completed.

d. Councillor N Gardiner. The status of Highworth Recreation Centre has now changed, it no longer relies on a subsidy or a grant, therefore no longer needs to be reported on. This representative position is to be omitted at the next Annual Council.

e. Councillor G Edwards. It was confirmed by Councillor (Mrs) M Penny that SBC does not consider the Highworth Mayoral chain at the Borough to belong to Highworth Town Council. It was the chain for Highworth Rural District Council

STANDING ORDERS

119. The Town Clerk Councillors' attention was drawn to the Council's Standing Orders and they were reminded that Members of the public are not permitted to speak during meetings, other than those items on agendas setting time aside for Public participation, such as "Public Question Time". Additionally there may be a requirement for a Member of the Public to be invited to speak, but this must be with the permission of the Chairman of that meeting. When this occurs Standing Orders are to be suspended and once finished standing orders reinstated. Councillors should not encourage public participation, deliberately or by other means, such as body language or addressing their comments to the audience. Councillors should not turn towards the audience when speaking at meetings and should always address all their comments through the Chair.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10pm