



Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 5 August 2009 at 7pm
The Library, Highworth

1. Present:
Keith Smith, Maureen Penny, Ken Saunders, Claire Smith, Jo Clark, Jo Cook, Alison Durant, Shirley Colbeck-Smith, Paul Newton-Smith
2. Apologies:
Sandra Rendall, Peter Hinton
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:
Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by PNS Seconded by KenS
4. Matters Arising: None
5. Chairmans Report:
Big Arts Plan and the Year of Culture; being planned by Peter Arnell. CS offered to contact Helen Miah (Swindon Arts) offering HCPG's assistance to ensure that Highworth was included. SC advised there was to be a Cultural Olympiad from now to the Olympics and Highworth should be included – a shop front would be really good to advertise events, KeithS and MP to approach Rafu on the use of his premises for this. KeithS would contact Peter Arnel and report back on Schools involvement in the Year of Culture and any other cultural opportunities. KenS advised that The Big Lunch was moved to the Bridge as the weather was so poor and was a good day – next year preparations should start earlier. Eastern Development; there was to be a discussion group formed by Swindon to advise and answer any questions, SC asked when this would take place. MP advised that in the Swindon Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, Proposed Draft Submission Document (July 2009) Highworth was not included as being an area that would be affected by this development, however there was a questionnaire that had to be completed and she would bring this to the councils attention to ensure that it wasn't forgotten. It was agreed that any comments would be put via HTC.
WFCAP has paid for HCPG public liability insurance
Action for Market Towns; Highworth has been designated a Type 8 in their typologies. The Secretary of State has bought out a paper on innovation and skills- the learning revolution but this seems to be aimed more at Borough level. Lord Faringdon has a Trust fund which is for a building Programme and is worth about £70m
6. Vice Chairmans Report:
Council update: MP has invited both Sara Tough and Cllr Brian Mattock CP² to give talks to the Council about what is happening. The Council see this as another talking shop and have declined interest. MP was invited to a Stronger Communities Forum led by Sarah Screen (106 Monies) the only interesting thing about the day is that all communities were advised that Borough was so behind there was little or no chance that any of the historical 106 monies paying out in the foreseeable future. MP cornered Sarah Screen on the possibility of

funding for a Community Hub where the Old Library buildings used to be, she will investigate and get back.

Fox Roundabout; permissions are now in place (except for planning) The black and white chevrons can be removed and new lighting may be paid for. MP will start to look at overall costs. KeithS confirmed that Highworth Festival Committee has about £3k that they may be willing to donate and MP advised that TS Tech has advised the Council that they will help with funding.

Village Green; They had a very successful launch party raising about £400, KenS advised that they would like HCPG to be the bankers for this money, this was agreed as a good idea. The paperwork was signed by Ian Hare (Collards) free of charge and has been submitted, there are to be amendments which are being worked upon.

Swindon Core Strategy; This document is mainly looking at Swindon but there are a couple of paragraphs on Highworth advising that the access between the Coop and the High Street needs to be improved (Gilberts Alley). 'The Plan' also got a really good mention.

7. Gilberts Alley:
Keith and Ken to determine how much this would cost.
8. Job Club Update:
KeithS said that this was going really well and gave statistics which showed that Highworth was being really quite badly affected by the recession. KS to write to Michael Wills and see if he can give any help. MP would like to see more new faces and didn't know how to get the message across. Advertising on Swindon Web seemed to be a good idea. CS suggested getting an article on one of the people in the group – a Human Interest Story and getting it into the media
9. AGM:
Agreed that this would be 21 October in the Community Rooms and open to the public – this would need advertising.
A meeting would be held on Wednesday 14 October to finalise arrangements
10. Website:
PNS advised this was nearly ready. KeithS said it looked really good. PNS also advised that his company had bought a couple of websites Highworth Hub etc in readiness for the future.
11. AOB
Picnic in the Park; KenS advised that it had been attended taking into consideration that the weather was awful, about 50 people attended. Next year they were looking into setting up a sound stage
Transition Swindon; KenS advised that this meeting was all to do with Self Sustaining Communities (food, energy etc.) There did not seem to be any definite direction, Farmers Markets tended not to be used a lot as there were perceived to be poor on quality but expensive. They were considering planting an orchard with money from 3G, this would enable the production of Cider – HBG were also involved in this.
HAFFT event; AD advised that the event was well attended and that they would be able to launch Highworth as a Fair Trade Town in September. She was looking into the idea of Hessian Bags and hoped that HTC, HCPG and HBG would support this with their logo's being displayed. She was still interested in setting up a Swop Shop, swapping skills and goods
HADS Auditions – MP advised that HADS were putting on Romeo and Juliet (the alternative version) all would be welcome

May Day Celebrations : JC advised there was some confusion as to who was doing it. KS said HCPG would support where they could but really didn't want to arrange it – JC to go ahead.

12. Next meeting:
2 September in the Library