



Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd December 2008 at 7pm
The Library, Highworth

1. Present:
Keith Smith Peter Hinton Sandra Rendall Claire Smith Ken Saunders
Jo Clark Alison Durrant Maureen Penny Shirley Colbeck Smith
Joanne Cook Paul Newton Smith

Apologies: Anthony Peake Jane Hunt Sarah Olnier Rob Gillespie
2. Minutes of the previous meeting:
Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by Ken S Seconded by PNS
3. Matters Arising:
3. KS still to write to Ian Young and Tom Aherne
8a. SCS attended SBC meeting to find out what Gavin Jones intentions for spending money might be – nothing to report with regards to Highworth.
8d. to do
8g. to do
4. Election of Vice Chair:
Maureen Penny was proposed by SR and seconded by PH
5. Approve Terms of Reference:
Minor changes to be made. Proposed by MP seconded by J Cook
6. Approve Equal Opportunities Policy:
No changes. Proposed by SCS seconded by MP
7. Chairman's Report on progress:
 - a) KS had been corresponding with Michael Wills MP regarding SWRDA not giving us any money. Michael Wills had written to Jane Henderson Chief Executive of SWRDA battling our case. Her reply was that they were unable to find funding, a small investment was not possible as monies had been given to the redevelopment of Swindon Town Centre. MW had written back asking that any amount to help HCPG keep this valuable project alive after all the hard work would be gratefully received, as the group were achieving what the Government was wanting communities to do.
 - b) Baroness Andrews said we should follow our Area Action Plan, and that our vision had legitimate status with SBC and had been adopted by HTC.
Big Lottery – we can't apply until we have a structure
Awards for All – this will be our first bid. Resources available for set up but not for employment of staff
Grass Root Grant - HCPG doesn't meet SBC criteria for this (SBC should be bidding on behalf of groups)
Parish Improvement Grant – Open to Wiltshire. SBC would have to buy into it to apply.
Advertiser may do a piece on our launch and say that SWRDA now have no money to give us.
(Appeared in Thursday 4/12)
Working with Anthony Peake to move project proposals forward. HTC will get a copy first before SBC.
Vote of confidence was given to Keith for all his hours worked in favour of HCPG

8. Meeting with Officers from SBC 10/12:

Rural Strategy Update (last time 2001) aims to support new and existing communities. Our 3 Borough Councillors were unable to attend a meeting on the 5/12 so KS, MP and PH will attend the meeting on 10/12 where core strategy themes will be discussed. AP will send a list of questions along with KS. Our Agenda will be sent in beforehand.

- Evesham and Pershaw have a Market Manager where their council provides £30k a year towards costs. Their start up grant has enabled them to provide extra funding 2-3 million. A team (made up of HTC, SBC and HCPG) have been invited to attend to see how it operates and what the benefits are.
- Section 106 monies – how do we move forward
- HCPG Primary Project – what would SBC support? Make sure that they follow their Rural Strategy

9. Ideas Session:

- Tessa Jowell MP had attended the official opening of the Rec swimming pool. KS had asked if she would support us in a big screen in view of the Olympics.
- Regular Farmers Markets and Fair Trade
- Once a month HCPG attendance to let the community know whats going on
- PH – Highworth Business Group now set up and running. HBG would like to adopt 1 or 2 of our projects from the plan, they are interested in green waste, Fox Roundabout, promoting Highworth with festivals, opening the High Street Tunnels and church tower. (Jo Clark had spoken to Conservation SBC regarding tunnels)
- PH on our behalf would put to HBG for an annual festival and maybe we could work together on the Fox Roundabout.
- Now that Fair Trade status was nearly complete (Feb 09) maybe HBG would sponsor the signs for the town and look into the cost of supplying a fair trade shopping bag
- Traffic Survey
- Possible market in Swindon Street – could attract motorists driving through
- MP would talk with David Lane to ask who else had offered funding besides TSTech, and then HCPG would approach them
- Our first priority would be the Fox Roundabout, 2nd Gilberts Alley

10. AOB:

PH - HBG – could we encourage more businesses to join and community groups (latter at a possible reduced rate) Steve Weisinger of HTC is joining. The library is also considering it.

MP – Get information about HCPG and HBG out to South Marston trading estate and Honda

KS – with PNS will update the website

Ken S – Together with Great Western Community Forest are all set for tree planting on 14/2/09. Arts and crafts and groups to get involved.

AD – Fair Trade meeting on 9/12 at the Bridge at 7pm. Looking for more volunteers as the steering group need 4 or more members. Fair Trade will be launched on 28/2/09. Congratulations to AD for all her hard work in gaining Fair Trade Status for Highworth.

CS – Connecting People Connecting Cluster meeting with Bernie. Will report back

Next meeting Wednesday 7th January 09 in the Library.