



Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 2009 at 7pm
Council Committee Room, Highworth

1. Present:

Keith Smith	Maureen Penny	Sandra Rendall	Ken Saunders	Sarah Olnor
Jane Hunt	Paul Newton Smith	Claire Smith	Jo Clark	

Apologies:

Rob Gillespie	Anthony Peake	Joanne Cook	Alison Durrant	Peter Hinton
Shirley Colbeck Smith				

Visitors:

Adrian Young Anthea Beaumont

2. Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by MP Seconded by Ken S

3. Matters Arising:

Gillespie with 2 ll's and Peake with an e

4. Chairman's Report on progress:

- KS sent a letter with Plan to Sinclair Brown, in charge of Tourism SBC asking if he was prepared to open a tourist office.
- Recent Youth Meeting regarding Skate Park. KS had written to John Gilbert, Head of Children Services regarding raising money for skate park and MUGA, SBC have indicated possible £40k available together with the £6k raised by youth in 2001/02, also a possibility of being on school premises. There may also be school improvements and 106 monies money available. Would SBC match the fund.
- HBG had held monthly meeting on the current market and crop circles. Farmers as well as businesses attended, good to see a diverse attendance.
- Voluntary Action Swindon invited HCPG to apply for a £5k grant (Grassroots), awaiting reply although we cannot apply for start up. They are also running Trustee Network Workshops, SR to email to committee.
- Proposal for £500 grant from HTC towards Admin. AP cannot propose (conflict of interests) therefore KS will put proposal through David Lane .
- Colin Lovell and Brian Mattock are willing to meet with HCPG and HTC (possibly together). AP taking this forward.
- MP – Was fortunate to meet a SBC employee from Highways regarding the replacement of pavements in Highworth High Street at a cost of £80k. The proposed work was discussed at a meeting later that day with Simon Lymn to see if it could be postponed and the money held over for future use in the refurbishment of the High Street. Unfortunately work was due to start two/three days later and had already been agreed with HTC from 2007 budget.
- WFCAP meeting in Tiverton on 7/2/09 with Market and Costal Towns Network (previously MCTI). Council leaders from Devon and Wiltshire, talks on community and green issues etc. MP and PNS will attend weather permitting.
- KS will speak to Wroughton group regarding working together.

- Adrian – With regard to Honda shutdown and business closures during the recession, what is the community doing to help those affected? Two levels to be taken into consideration, manufacturing and self employed.

Offers of help already received - United Reform Church has a hall which could be used, Amanda of Sally's ~~would~~ might do cheap drinks and food on Wednesdays. Rewriting of CVs and interview advice.

Would a drop in centre be of use?

HCPG will front a meeting to find out what help and assistance people want/need. Meeting to be held in Community room on Thursday 12th Feb at 2pm.

MP – Book room, speak to Job Centre, TSTech, Honda and David Lane also Steve Silk from HBG

PNS – Poster

KS and MP – will do words for poster

JC and SR – distribution of posters to shops, pubs, schools etc

Adrian from the Link will put a piece in the Link for March publication about how the meeting went and for future help to others.

5. Report on Meeting with Simon Lymn:

MP and KS met with Simon and looked around Highworth for 2 _ hours, positive but unproductive. No funds from his department available, any would have to come from capital spend. He agreed that extra parking was needed and that diagonal parking in Swindon Street would be a good idea. Gilberts Alley – this was most positive, there is a grant for access available but landlords of the alley have to be found out first. KS – Who owns what? Spoken to Ian Hare, Solicitor who did search and found 3 owners he will look further into this as there are indemnities and rights over land issues. SBC should have an interest as the Library is also in the alley. Simon agrees that SBC should be talking with HTC and HCPG before final decisions are made, his department will in future talk with us first, and let us have names and numbers of others.

- Figures for new traffic flow to follow
- Is Highworth being used as a rat run to the A40 A419 / A420?

6. Discussion on Adult Education (Mrs Duffey): unable to attend due to weather

7. Further representation in the town (Vice Chair):

Following the death of Rod Haines, his son who wishes to become a councilor has forced an election which will take place in March. MP has been asked by the Conservative party to stand, MP has agreed (but will not be political) There is also a European election in June, they could both take place then to save two lots of voting. HCPG and HBG would lobby on MPs behalf.

8. Members Business:

Ken S – Transition Swindon Food Networking Meeting, outline attached to **January's** Minutes.

Pentylands Day – Swindon College not now attending, but plenty of other things going on. SR to email invite to our email list.

Pentylands on the Podium on 7th Feb.

PNS – website being redone

CS – went to an interesting meeting about bringing communities together. An enthusiastic and engaging speaker from Manchester Council who we could use at a later stage

Anthea – The Festival Committee have £3k available which they would like to donate to Fox Roundabout. Getting SBC to agree to changes, KS will meet with Anthea to discuss. They would also like to kick start an In Bloom Competition.

JH – Wiltshire magazine do good articles on local events, we should get a piece on Highworth done.

9. Fund Raising Ideas: (JH)

Social Enterprise – social objectives reinvest back into community which is supported by our present government to solve a social problem. Public good rather than private profit.

Development Trust – partnership for regeneration

Independent – with freedom to do as we wish.

We first need a business plan of what we want to be, do we get the community to invest and become an interested party (being paid back at a later stage) 3-5K needed to set up and get going, grants not available for set up, this is where we are failing. Small initiatives needed to get funds, if we don't move forward we will be seen as not doing anything.

Approach an empty shop landlord to use free of rent to sell for others taking a small commission. Donations box, also reinforce our policy.

Have a morning on the podium selling bric a brac (this has been booked for Saturday 28th Feb.)

Next meeting Wednesday 4th March 09 place to be confirmed.