



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016, 7pm  
At the Community Centre**

**Present:** Keith Smith Ken Saunders Ian Webb Sandra Rendall  
Sarah Olnor Peter Arnel Nick Gardiner Alison Durrant  
Adrian Hares Andy Reeves Steve Martin

**1. Apologies:** Matt Goddard Phil Baker Mark Pritchard Paul Newton-Smith  
Lou Ashford Shirley Colbeck-Smith

**Visitor:**

**Welcome:**

**2. Minutes of January Meeting:**

Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by **KenS** seconded by **AD**

**3. Matters Arising:**

**4. NG** – HTC website, in talks with Mary. Could it hold a central calendar of community events?

**5. PNS** – meeting with Jo Phelps still pending

**10. PA** – ownership of trees and curb side in Shrevenham Road. SBC own

**4. Correspondence:**

**Section 106 monies** – now called CIL, Community Infrastructure Levy. Presently 15% rising to 25% fed back to community funding. Developers can mitigate CIL by building social housing. Total £423,921.39 designated to Highworth, most of which has already been spent (timeframe not known)

Letter from David Lane, request to place flower boxes on Fox Roundabout has been put to SBC, design not accepted by everyone. Stone planters now being investigated

**Post Box in High Street** – Still not received reply from Royal Mail. In January Link, HTC had heard that a post box will not return to the High Street. **KS** will continue to pursue

**5. Report from HTC representative:**

**Pentylands** – Well done KenS who gave a good speech in defence. HTC voted against land swap

**Mobile Broadband** - planning approved for a 15m 4G mast at Highworth Bowls Club, it has been ordered and will be installed shortly. 6 small companies have signed up to use hardware and sell; it will offer unlimited broadband, 24megabites. Households will receive leaflets March/April time. SBC have received proposals for Deputy Mayor

**REC** – selection has been made. Consulting with SBC and staff regarding lease of dry side facilities to Trust, this should all happen by April. There will be a lot of community involvement with the new management company.

**Skate park** - Alice a Westrop pupil gave a good speech to council, HTC were very positive. £60k has been ring fenced for this. The £6/7K which was raised in 2000 by children, KS has agreed that this can be banked in HCPG accounts, **Proposed: KenS Seconded: IW (all agreed)**. Alice remained for the talk on the library and took this back to school, Westrop have since sent a letter to SBC.

## 6. **Highworth Library – What next?**

- Decrease of £1.5m by 2020
- Engagement with community by June 2016
- Alongside service changes, savings of £300k this year
- You don't have to use library you can go digital
- Initial engagement with ward members, services in place, projects underway
- Goes to cabinet on 10/2, then to scrutiny the 15/2
- Aim – common understandings of services, assets, then develop proposals to reshape
- Executive summary – volunteers to run, take staff away
- Central library will be the Hub, Highworth will run as a skeleton (**AR**- Central costs can be worked on). Technical information in strategy will hopefully be put into straightforward answers, we need to have community meetings explaining simplified strategy getting people to discuss and write their opinions before the meeting on 24/2. There are solutions, if we can find them.
- **AR** Needs Assessment – take the key facts and elements for the meeting, put forward points about strategy, replacing skilled librarians with volunteers, is it good idea? if not give alternatives available
- Swindon News has not been received by all households, presentation has caused concern and the front cover.
- Meeting tomorrow in Shrivenham, library under threat, appreciate that SBC have to make cuts, solution not the best, look at savings elsewhere. Explain what could or is likely to happen.
- Have we enough time? We need to recruit people to help with leaflet drops to all houses, Friends of Library happy to help but not spearhead the campaign.
- Helpers from HCPG, happy to do their roads, **SO, KenS, SM, AD, IW**
- **NG** happy to print leaflets at work
- **AR** we need a bespoke package before 24<sup>th</sup>, social, capital, inform, activities that happen then quantify
- **AD** Libraries Consultation in 2011, Highworth had a high increased services need whereas neighbouring libraries reduced, the obligations of the Act
- Inform community also by links to facebook pages
- HCPG will hold meetings before 24/2, work on our own strategy
- Investigate the Co-op lease etc, write to SBC and HTC relating to the building and 106
- At HTC full council meeting it was disappointing that not many had read the information given to them before the meeting, but HTC view? They have written a strong worded letter to SBC “Do not close”.
- **AR** will email needs assessment etc to **SR** to email out, together with what council, cabinet members are likely to attend the 24/2
- Leaflet drops next week, podium booked for 13/2, then 2 meetings to inform and get written opinions before 24/2
- Continue with petition until end of February

## 7. **Totally Locally/HAFFT:**

Working together, 12/3, Fiverfest leading up to and May Day

## 8. **The Vision and Neighbourhood Plan:**

Vision is running alongside Neighbourhood Plan

Draft 2 of the Plan which contains nothing confidential has been distributed to town councillors. Next step is to ask community groups for their support as there are 36 policies that need descriptions. One sticking point is the Environmental Assessment Document which may be 20 pages long; do we need to do it? What happens if we don't? Next meeting in March

## 9. **Safe Places in Highworth IW/PA:**

Meeting on 17/2, 7pm to recruit committee and sign up businesses and shops. HTC have been asked and aware, shops have been prompted to get involved. Moving forward.

**10. Members Business:**

**KenS** – Pentylands has been turned down by HTC. Thanks to Ken for his speech  
TsTech are on shutdown 15-19/2. Assistance usually given in the park, could this be used for library leafleting?

Payback team – Ken will talk to them, re helping with leafleting

**May Day SR** – Have applied for a £1,000 grassroots grant to assist with admin

**Festival NG** – list of dates now available on website [Highworthfestival.co.uk](http://Highworthfestival.co.uk). More publicity with each event. Tech Day at Warneford, hopefully with help from the Nexus group

**PA** – Does HTC have an emergency planning policy? **AD** – SBC have one as it is the boroughs responsibility. Follow this up in a couple of months' time

**IW** – WFCAP our insurance will be paid for 2016/17, but definitely not looking good. Other Community Area Partnerships have closed, 24 down to about 2

**AD** – future agenda items: Big Lunch in June, Universal Credit live April/May time, **KS** will speak to CAP.

**KS** – Village Green, grass has once again been vandalised by vehicles on the grass. Spoken with Maureen Penny about putting in posts to stop parking, grassroots grant and highways. Liam HTC groundsman has another idea, under discussion

**KS** – received an email from localities inviting him to join neighbourhood champions at a residential in Bristol

Next meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016