



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 7pm  
At the Community Centre**

**Present:** Keith Smith Ken Saunders Ian Webb Sandra Rendall  
Phil Baker Peter Arnel Paul Newton-Smith Shirley Colbeck-Smith  
Sarah Olnier Alison Durrant Nick Gardiner Mark Pritchard  
Lou Ashford Andy Reeves

**1. Apologies:** Matt Goddard Adrian Hares

**Visitor:** Steve Martin, Highworth Physiotherapy

**Welcome:** To Steve Martin who is interested in joining

**2. Minutes of December Meeting:**  
Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by **PNS** seconded by **Kens**

**3. Matters Arising:**

**From September – 11. KS** still to write to Chief of Post Office regarding post box in High Street

**From November – 12. KS** still to write to HTC and SBC regarding 106 monies

**4. NG** – HTC website, will take to next meeting

Nat West has put in planning permission for downstairs café and flats above, plans available on SBC website

**5. PNS** – having a meeting with Jo Phelps, Beat Manager regarding Safety issues and Cold Calling Zones

**10. PA** – ownership of trees and curb side in Shrevenham Road. **AR** will look into

**4. Community Assets – What should our approach be?**

Budget Consultation closes Jan 24/25 to Community Groups. Consultation Budget proposal February 18<sup>th</sup> at SBC cabinet

Q. Do we want to comment on Budget Consultation?

What Highworth community assets are up for consideration?

Proposed library closure – what would the impact be on services offered?

**Mark Pritchard and Andy Reeves** on behalf of Rachael Watts who is writing the Library Strategy

Quote from Community-based Assets Programme Q&A

*'The Community Assets Programme is reviewing the purpose of community based assets and the services operated within them to develop co-location opportunities by working with communities and local organisations to ensure local access to services is sustainable and in line with local demand'*

**Background –**

- All local councils have had funding cuts by central government. Government grants reducing yearly and will cease by 2021.
- SBC have to save £50-60million over the next 5 years.
- By 2020 78% of the budget will be spent on vulnerable people and 22% on everything else.
- The 2016 budget is looking at 72 community based assets throughout the borough, Children's Centres, Youth Centres, Community Centres, Country Parks and Libraries. **NB** The Ladybird Centre is safe until 2017.
- £1.5 million is to be cut from the Libraries budget by 2020 equating to 65%. A strategy is being written using the Needs Assessment Data to make these savings, looking at the

figures, staff costs, and business rates (NNDR which SBC currently pay could save 30-40k per year)diversity, needs of community, services provided will be looked at.

- Highworth along with 5 other areas are being used as Pilot areas, meaning; community assets and services are being explored, proposals developed for a targeted reduction in subsidy.
- **KS** – All services being passed to parishes to run, untrained clerks will be responsible for jobs run by experts, this is a big issue. Mary Fenwick in HTC has passed a Clerks Qualification
- **MP** – to ask Rachael to send Highworth Needs Assessment data to **KS**, including how many organisations use the Library, what services are provided by the Library? Cost of Library expenditure and saving target? How does it compare to other Libraries? Central library bill is £736,811 pa
- What is Highworth Library's actual expenditure? £200,000 pa including bills
- **KS** to email any questions to **MP or AR**
- At present voluntary run libraries have 10hours SBC services a week
- Many villages use Highworth library as they prefer professional, friendly advice and help from face to face contact. Expertise in many areas would be lost if volunteers are used to run our Library, the service would decline.
- We need to oppose parts of the strategy we don't like when done and work on our own strategy to save our library
- As far as HCA are aware the Community Centre is safe
- **KS** will respond on HCPG's behalf asking SBC Why do you need to cut the budget in this way? The impact it will have on education and youth. Also regarding cuts to Highworth Library in particular
- This issue will be on HTC's next full council meeting on 19/1.
- You can also visit SBC website and respond individually
- February 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a SBC drop in discussion at the Centre between 3-7pm

**5. Totally Locally** - meeting shortly

**6. The Vision and Neighbourhood Plan:**

An extension to grant monies until the end of February has been given to enable the Strategic Environment Assessment to be done. Proposals may have to be changed following this. HTC planning meeting: Pentylands was discussed with a possible land swap and an infill of two bungalows which crosses the town boundary.

**7. Safe Places in Highworth IW/PA:**

A meeting to be held with local businesses, Police, Totally Locally, Churches and Sarah from the Link to get it up and running.

**8. Members Business:**

- Attended Meeting on 7/12 on common knowledge in Community Engagement by Wiltshire County Council, Ian felt this was not for us

Next meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016