



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2016, 7pm
At the Community Centre**

Present: Keith Smith Ken Saunders Ian Webb Nick Gardiner
Sarah Olnier Alison Durrant Steve Martin Paul Newton-Smith
Phil Baker Peter Arnel

1. Apologies Sandra Rendall Adrian Hares Ian James Alice & Justin Douglass

Meeting opened at 7.05 pm

Chair offered commiserations to Alison for not getting elected as a Borough Councillor.
Chair stated he had sent flowers to Sandra on behalf of HCPG

2. Minutes of May Meeting:

Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by **PB** seconded by **IW**

3. Matters Arising:

Item 3 Skate Park NG Has had meeting with parties and will push forward with consultation about suitable locations. The Skate Park group will be attending HTC meeting on 7th. (A discussion took place) **NG** to update next meeting.

Item 4 Post Box KS had written and received an acknowledgement had chased letter and been advised matter was being investigated but so far no further updates. **KS** will write again.

Item 5. IW asked for update **KS advised** –meeting with Jo Phelps, Highworth Beat Manager meeting has yet to take place.

PB remarked on article in the link about the suggested band stand on the podium

Item 8 IW Chamber of Commerce prepared to help.

4. Localities update There were no Localities of other SBC representatives present due to the imminent local elections they will resume visits in June.

5. Report from HTC representative:

AD There was little to report as no business had been conducted due to elections.

6. Vision/ Neighbourhood Plan See item 9

7. Highworth Library – Report on progress: KS The article in the Adver of 13/5/2016 regarding election leaflet issued by **MP** is being followed up.

AD remarked that no decision has been made over the £300K cuts and the discussions have been put back.

Save Swindon Library Sarah Church (SC) and KS have written to **MP** asking for clarification of her election leaflet.

SC/KS had met with Patrick Weir based on a letter sent to him outlining points in regard to the cuts proposed in the emerging model and they don't accept a number of issues and expect SBC to research a range of options for professionally run libraries.

HCPG are fighting for the retention of Highworth Library and are part of the Save Swindon Libraries.

Discussed

MP's leaflet said professional staff would be in library. **PW** said to date no commitment had been made as to who will pay for the staff.

Library Staff had met in working groups and agreed with sentiment that libraries are a public space.

Core services Still no decision on what is an acceptable level.

Funding SBC are still talking about funding by parish precepts. It was made clear that there needed to be more than 1 option for consultation (Legal Requirement) otherwise a judicial review could happen.

All options needed to be properly costed and defined.

Concern about the delay. This was apparently due to the huge response to the consultation.

The high performance of current library service was recognised and Swindon was best in the South West.

The campaign would continue to oppose the budget reduction.

Volunteer staffing remains unresolved.

Future Meetings: Dependant on progress. Mary Martin now responsible for libraries. The consultation document will be published day before cabinet meeting on July 5th

Poster campaign for save the library. **AD** will sponsor a prize for adult section.

July 14th is next SBC full cabinet meeting when Highworth petition will be debated. A few names were put forward as to who might deliver a 5 minute speech. It was agreed that the person needs to be seen as apolitical. **PNS** prepared to deliver a speech.

8. **Totally Locally / HAFFT**

AD reported there she needs to write officially to HTC to clarify that although the work alongside each other, HAFFT and Totally Locally are 2 separate entities.

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

A planning consultant was employed (with grant money).

KS pointed out that acknowledgements are not in the draft but wished to thank the following for their contributions

KenS Pentylands/bio diversity: **Anne Marie Murphy** Historical Society: **Jo Clarke** History of the Town: **Sandra Rendall** for her work typing up etc: **Link Magazine** for list of groups: **AD** for info re HAFFT & **NG** for statistics and Exel work.

Plan Brief: When HTC approved the concept of a plan Highworth investigated more than 18 sites, this is unique as most towns/groups only looked at 2 -3 sites. The Document is about more than housing, it is a blueprint for the town and vision aspirations turned into questions.

It allows the town to ask HTC what its policies are. There are 17 polices and 2 definitions on the document.

Local Green space is protected.

Public Open space needs to be exchanged for an equal sized area if development is to take place.

The neighbourhood plan is the best protection we have, it may not be perfect but on the whole HTC is delighted with the plan.

Time frame: Reg 14 6 week consultation the final draft drawn up. Draft to SBC for approval/ amendments then inspector in Bristol who will make his comments. If the plan is not approved then it starts all over again.

VISION

The next step is for HCPG to see how the neighbourhood plan is/can be incorporated into the Vision.

10. **Safe Places in Highworth: IW PA** have had a draft copy leaflet printed. The deputy mayor is to open the project. Opening will be after the leaflet is distributed. The I.C.E. cards need sorting.

11. **Members Business:**

NG REC progressing communications due shortly over proposals. REC no longer loss making.

NEXUS: was 1 of 5 finalists at the Bath and West show for the Prince Charles award. Did not win. Lots of new ideas. Close to achieving charity status.

PB Surgery: **SO** joined PPG. CQC rated practice a good. Mori survey in Swindon has Highworth 5th out of 26 surgeries. New GP starting Sept. Next week Pharmacist starting at surgery dealing with prescriptions. Surgery trying to maintain service in Highworth & have put bid in for Tadpole Farm Surgery.

SO Day centre gone quiet no info coming forward. PPG meeting Dr Stacey where pharmacy is lacking is home delivery service McParland won't consider it as is too expensive. McP Confident both pharmacies will stay open but will lose % of government grant. They are monitoring all conversations with customers to see where time is spent.

Meeting requested HCPG write to surgery about concerns over home delivery.

PA Persimmon Homes holding consultation in St Michaels Hall 16th June.

KenS Thames Water putting in new pipeline from Faringdon to Blunsdon will go through Pentylands Park.

Next meeting on Wednesday 6th July 2016 at 7.00pm