



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 2017, 7pm
At the Community Centre**

Present: Keith Smith Phil Baker Nick Gardiner Paul Newton-Smith
Ian Webb Sandra Rendall Alison Durrant Gary Llewellyn
Ken Saunders Ian James

1. Apologies Steve Martin Adrian Hares Sarah Olnier Alice & Justin Douglass

Visitor:

Welcome

2. Minutes of November Meeting:

Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by **IJ** seconded by **GL**

3. Matters Arising:

Item 5. PNS has spoken with Jo Phelps regarding perceived crime by the vulnerable.

Without a formal group such as Neighbourhood Watch, it is difficult for us to tag on, also would be a big project with a lot of work involved.

Crimes being reported: suspicious looking characters, anti-social behaviour by children, no real serious crime just petty stuff.

The Community Centre has offered space for the Police to use whilst in Highworth, so as visible

From July:

4. Post Box – KS still to do

6. Fox Roundabout – 3 planters on the roundabout **were not** paid for by Mayor Alan Bishop but by Highworth in Bloom, confirmed as HCPG hold and pay these accounts. 106 monies – there is £7,660.32 in Public Art monies still available for a sculpture, this will soon be returned if not spent, Pam Adams, HTC said she would organise this.

11. Podium – this should be done in line with making the Market Square more presentable/updated.

There is a responsibility to look at beautifying the Town as mentioned in both Neighbourhood Plan and Swindon Plan. Our Swindon Borough Councillors should be pushing for this to happen. We need to do a physical plan of what we would like to see from The Fox, Swindon Street, High Street, Market Square and Gilberts Lane, this is something concrete to work with. Liz Smith, SBC could be more accommodating if we did.

GL will speak Rod Navaratt, Highworth Architect who is community minded, about pricing up a drawing for us.

A meeting with Sarah Screen, SBC in January to determine what 106 monies are available to Highworth. Could also check with Roger Smith, Savilles who work for Taylor Wimpey.

IJ - Would not like HTC to think HCPG were taking charge. **KS, NG and AD** to take concept to Chair of Planning, HTC

4. Report from HTC representative: NG

Bank – proposal for mobile bank 2/3 hours over 2/3 days a week. Vehicle is 7.21m long, where should it go? Outside Co-op? no loss of car parking spaces.

Parking Issues - Talk of HTC paying for the services of a Traffic Warden 2/3 days a week on 6 hour shifts. Talking with SBC about costs and legalities involved. High Street Residents have no parking facilities, Business Employees park all day, also used by surrounding villages for all day parking whilst using the bus into Swindon for work, could also be used incorrectly with the new Orbital and Hospital bus service.

Parking Meters? We have to remember to attract people not put off

5. Highworth Library Update:

- SBC agreed Strategy of 15 hours per week staffed
- Saturday 12th December a protest in Market Square followed by talks with SBC Councillors in HTC surgery. 4pm a group had a read in at the Library where they stayed for an hour past closing time. Alison Jordan, Head of SBC Libraries made tea and coffee. Chris Humphrey, Swindon Adver just happened to be in Library and did a piece. A point was made.
- Save Swindon Group – Sarah Church has had access to a solicitor who penned a draft letter, which several protestors sent with own additions to Secretary of State, no replies as of yet. We should also contact Shrivenham College for support.
- **KS** had meeting with Steve Taylor, SBC who reminded KS of being prejudicial, as on HTC and HCPG
- SBC weren't looking at governance of 5 libraries until June, but this has been bought forward to February as talking about being run by a 'Trust'
- At a public cabinet meeting, Maureen Penny did ask questions of Mary Martin without any result
- KS attended a Scrutiny Meeting which was 'appalling'. Mary Martin showed no understanding and was not able to answer any structured questions.
- *Hearsay*: GLL who run some of the towns Sports Centres are looking at running the Libraries
- *Hearsay*: a) North library, Orbital will move to Haydon Wick which is run by GLL
- *Hearsay*: b) GLL to take over Central, move Library upstairs and put a gym downstairs for revenue
- HTC Meeting on 3/1, Alison Jordan and Andy Reeve came to give a briefing, but didn't present
- Steve Wesinger proposed that the 50k set aside to subsidise the REC be given to SBC to keep library open for more hours. Figures from SBC 20 hours pw = £39,617 pa, 52 hours pw = £62,928. David Lane explained that 50k doesn't exist as waiting for final bill. If HTC are to subsidise, what? Alison Jordan suggested staff. Budget for new books to remain the same
- Kitchen to be refurbished as a meeting room and store cupboard into small shop, bringing in an income
- If we can run for 30 hours staffed, finishing at 6 with a Supervisor doing 18 ½ hours, 2 Assistants and supplement with volunteers
- For 16k pa, HTC could employ a Library Assistant
- Librarians covering the 5 libraries will get a pay increase for extra responsibility. They will be moved around so as not to form bonds with communities.
- There are 2 weeks to work out and present a skeleton plan, before January 20th when precept will be decided, SBC have offered to help with this. Need to look at Service Level Agreement, VAT and Pensions if HTC employing, make sure we get value for money and not be undermined by SBC.
- HTC are being supportive of open for 6 days for 30 hours.
- 2 Managers have operated 15 libraries; both will still be employed for 5, why?
- We want a Librarian to stay in Highworth, not going to be easy
- Thanks to Keith for all his hard work over the last year
- HR spoke to staff, initially all would be made redundant and have to reapply for jobs, but at a meeting on 22/12 Libraries open until end of August, contracts finish 31/3. HR do not know what they are doing
- **KS** asked David Lane if we could negotiate with other Councils, groups etc.? Clerk would have to attend because of legalities.
- HCPG and community have finally been heard and we will not give up

6. Programme for 2017:

At next meeting, to also include Gilberts Alley

7. Members Business:

IJ – Neighbourhood Plan, no up-date until end Jan/Feb, with Assessor Robert Bryan

NG – accident involving car and child outside Reg Skulls which happened this evening 4/1/17. Traffic lights need to be moved. NG has sent emails

IW – Wfcap is still operating but on reduced funds. Our Insurance may be paid again but we may have to pay back 50%.

KensS – Skatepark – following consultations, going ahead at the REC. The Company that has designed it offer a 30 year guarantee and a yearly check. Need to raise further funds of 40-50k. Freke Norton is interested, applications to Hills, Link, Co-op, maybe crowd funding. HTC should take ownership for future preservation. £7k funds will be held by HCPG until group have own bank account.

KS – David Lane said TsTech are looking to support outside community groups
McColls Regional Manager has informed KS of refurbishment and possibility of maintaining an ATM.
Job Club – KS lucky to have a meeting with Job Centre Plus, following a letter from Justin Tomlinson, know has a contact and regular emails. Learn Direct for over 50's visited. Possibility of setting up a Facebook page for job club.

Meeting finished 9.15pm

Next meeting February 1st 2017