

**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 7th November 2018, 7pm  
At the Community Centre**

**Welcome**

**Present:** Keith Smith Phil Baker Ian James Nick Gardiner  
Ian Webb Sandra Rendall Alison Durrant Ian James  
Ken Saunders Paul Newton Smith Robin Clegg

**1. Apologies** Ryan Acres

**Visitor:** Anne-Marie Murphy

**2. Election of Officers:**

		<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Keith Smith	Paul Newton Smith	Ian Webb
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Paul Newton-Smith	Ian Webb	Alison Durrant
<b>Secretary</b>	Sandra Rendall	Phil Baker	Paul Newton Smith
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Saunders	Keith Smith	Phil Baker

**3. Minutes of October Meeting:**

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

**4. Matters Arising:**

Aldi – Now on SBC Planning Agenda for 11/12. Waiting for High Court to quash decision as not done in time for November meeting. SBC to view any new documentation with 6 weeks to respond.

McColls – new distributors Safeway

King and Queen – Free house and sports bar

6. Fox – Chevrons are being lowered on 19/11. Sculptor is a perfectionist, weather permitting Fox could be installed before Christmas

**5. Tourism – Update and action:**

Improving and enhancing the Visitor Experience

1. Open a tourist information office, Lighthouse Bookshops deemed to be but only leaflets. We want to give correct information, active visitor experience
2. Museum
3. Space could sell things Highworth
  - Website – Visit Wiltshire funded by HTC. Tourism is Policy 4 of Neighbourhood Plan. SBC Local Plan RA1
  - Visited Lloyds Bank 3 times, ideal venue. Owner likes the idea of a visitor centre.
  - Historical thinking's with Historical Society
  - Contacted Plunkett Foundation. Mission: Inspire rural communities, help and encourage communities to do but provide tools to do it. 2 days free time ends 15/11
  - Started a Business Plan – 3-year cash flow statement done, conclusion that it's a viable proposition. Some assumptions are optimistic
  - 200 members contribute £10 pm as shares
  - 0% business rates, £12k rent pa (hopefully HTC will repay rent) negotiable
  - Expenditure - £10 ph. x 35 hours a week Office Manager and volunteers
  - Robin Clegg – concern over footfall, could be low. Why should shareholders/HTC put money in to it?
  - Space needed for shop, display and museum
  - Improving/promoting Highworth

- What will attract coaches? Toilets, close to M4, parking
- (make our own money – Mabel Stranks)
- Persuade Highworth it's a good idea
- Community Benefit Society – Industry/trade for the community. Sell shares to the residents, unlikely to be a dividend, a gift/loan. Any profit reinvested in Company. Safe and supported by Plunkett (£140) 1 member = 1 vote

Do we go ahead and consult with the community?

- Need to set up a bank account
- Shares in New year
- 21/11 public meeting – posters and facebook
- **IJ** – It may fail, but try because we would regret
- **AD** – how do we sell to a possibly interested person? Enhance, vibrant town, opportunity to own a bit, to succeed
- Those that moan about High Street, Strength to bring in more trade
- Museum – to improve footfall, new historical society talks and displays. Locals, visitors, tourists, fairtrade products
- Paid manager to seek funding etc
- Start-up donation of 4 figures available, promoting etc
- Get HTC on board, take to GP & F in January?

1.Plunkett before 15/11 – use their structures

2.Community Benefit Society. After 3 years would need to be breaking even

### **PROPOSAL**

Go ahead to speak to Plunkett, set up CBS and Public Meeting Wednesday 21/11 at 7.30 in Council Rooms. Invitations to HTC, Businesses in town, Charities, flood the town

**KS** send out structures, cashflow statement to look at

Thanks to **IJ, IW, KenS** for input

**PNS** thanks to **KS**

### **6. Members urgent business**

**PB** surgery complaints to PB. Extra new Community Navigator

**SR** – Lunch Club. Working with WI who have about 20 volunteers cooking and delivering meals. Starts on 5<sup>th</sup> December in Methodist church. Hopefully start at Community Centre in January.

Meeting closed 8.50