

**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 7pm  
At the Community Centre**

**Welcome**

**Present:** Keith Smith Paul Newton Smith Ken Saunders Robin Clegg  
Ian Webb Sandra Rendall Sarah Olnier

**1. Apologies** Alison Durrant Nick Gardner Ian James Phil Baker  
Adrian Young

**Visitor:**

KS received a telephone call from Phil Baker to say that he was unable to attend meetings for the foreseeable future and would be stepping down as chair of Tourism.

**2. Minutes of January Meeting:**

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

**3. Matters Arising:**

5. spelling – pace should read place

7. Fox – Sculptor has indicated the Fox will be ready for a date after 25 February. **SR** will email with possible dates Sundays 3 or 10<sup>th</sup> March and ask length of time needed to install.

**4. Town Council report back:**

Tents in lower REC – in the hands of SBC

Use of mobiles and laptops in HTC Meetings – a reminder to all attending that mobiles are to be turned off before meetings.

Precept for 2019/20 - £438,000 has been submitted by HTC to SBC, this is an increase of 5.2%

HTC have asked to be consultees on the new solar farm. This is to be between South Marston and Red down Farm.

Fibre – After months of chasing Open reach have agreed to meet HTC regarding fibre for Highworth

**5. Loneliness – Progress to date:**

It is felt that Loneliness should be changed to Highworth Connects

Ask **PNS** if he can do an appropriate logo

MW and AY had met with Mary from WI. An article for March Link was put together. Two consultations will take place on 16/3. Council Community Room 10-12 and Goldfinger Pub 2-4 for those who already help in the community and those who have ideas. The idea is to collate what is happening in the town and where we can move forward together.

KS received a call from Jayne Price who is looking to book a room to hold a 'Happiness' course. A Charity 'Action on Happiness' who encourage people with mental health issues to be happy. We could link this in with the loneliness project. **SR to ring Jayne**

**6. Tourism – update and action:**

- IJ and KS met with Brian Elkington and another Brian from URC to request a grant towards the refurbishment of the bank, we are looking for 25-30k Details were given and questions answered.
- URC concerned that we are not a charity, it was explained that any surplus funds would go back into VHL. This will be taken back to their April meeting for an outcome. They were very positive and keen, they want to support us in enhancing the town.
- HCPG had received a letter from the trustees of HCA who had agreed to donate £12k towards the project. Thanks will be sent.
- Martin Wellsted may be interested in renting office space (no services when information centre closed, only draw back)

- PNS Historical Society – Safe room would have changing displays and artefacts (bit like the library has at present). Could also have themed events, speakers. Would be down to the to come up with a programme.
- VHL would be accountable. Raising money through Heritage Lottery, an essential future debate for interested parties and partnership in who takes the lead. Baby steps leading to more in depth involvement. **PNS** will speak to Historical Society about a partnership and define what a partnership would mean.
- All costs relating to Town Centre, ie plaques would come under Tourism
- RC – Faringdon Pump House had a concept designer, is this someone we could use?
- Selby and Co, Solicitors have been appointed with agreement in principal. Cost £900+vat+searches.
- **KS and IW** will meet with Chris Kane next week
- David Miskin has sent through a copy Business Plan and Share Prospectus for us to use. We need to stick as close as possible to Plunkett paperwork
- Power to Change – they rang KS, we can obtain support. Once we have sold shares, we can apply to the Booster Project by submitting our paperwork for kite marking and they will also match fund. This is worthwhile doing, cost £500-700
- Tax rebate – entitled to SEIS 50% tax relief
- Business Plan – we need to submit a tight Vision. KS has prepared a Draft Vision. Committee read and made a few suggestions for change
  1. CBS to come after Ltd
  2. Paragraphs on space to be put in property section
  3. expand on what potential investors want to hear – educational visits, art exhibitions, history conversation tables incorporating elderly, loneliness project
- We will need a Tourism meeting to appoint a new Chairperson. IJ to be asked on his return from holiday. **SR** to find out when and do a doodle poll.
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#### 7. **May Day Market update:**

All moving ahead nicely. Committee suggest that Police be notified of entertainment using firearms and knives.

#### 8. **Members Business:**

**KenS** – CPT could be used for basic painting on the project

**SO** – what's happening with the Skate Park? - SBC wanted dimension, submitted but SBC being a pain. The Company chosen has also gone out of business so other quotes being sought. HTC do not want to be involved any more.

**SR** – to make appointments to visit Uffington, Cricklade and Richard Jefferies museums with **RC and PNS** for ideas and ask questions