

**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2020, 7pm
At the Community Centre**

Welcome:

Visitor:

Present: Keith Smith Paul Newton Smith Alison Cross-Jones Sarah Olnier
Ian Webb Sandra Rendall Nick Gardner Pauline Webster

Apologies: Sara Kelly Alison Durrant Ken Saunders Ian James

2. Election of Officers:

		Proposed	Seconded
Chairperson	Keith Smith	Sarah Olnier	Pauline Webster
Vice Chair	Paul Newton-Smith	Alison Cross-Jones	Sarah Olnier
Treasurer	Ken Saunders	Ian Webb	Paul Newton-Smith
Secretary	Sandra Rendall	Sarah Olnier	Alison Cross-Jones

3. Minutes of September 2019 Meeting:

Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by **SO** seconded by **IW**
As we were so busy last year with the refurbishment and opening of Visit Highworth, it was agreed by members to not as many meetings.

4. Matters Arising:

Globe – has reopened with the landlord from the Deer's Leap
King and Queen – has a new family landlord
McColl's – porch canopy still to be done

5. Report from HTC representative:

Meeting on 7/1/2020 – VHL rent of £12k per annum was agreed starting from April 2020
May Day – HTC impressed with what has been planned so far
Planning Consultation on Saturday 11/1 in council rooms about expansion of houses to be built

6. VHL report back from shareholder meeting:

Following a spectacular opening on 21/9/19 there has been good footfall, comments have been positive with visitors far from far flung places, the Visitors book is proof of this.
Funding and shares (donations) far exceeded our expectations, future funding is still needed to pay for utilities.
Tourism side still being progressed.
We now take bookings for Barnes Coach trips.
We are responding to Facebook enquiries, sales and historical queries.
We have our golden toilet for donations, different charity each month.
We now need people to sign up as supporters who will be asked to make monthly standing orders, and the Friends group who will fundraise needs to progress.
Historical Society display to change the display on a regular basis.
Thanks to HTC for agreeing the grant of £12k for rent.
Volunteers are always welcome.
Thanks to Helen and Sandra

ACJ – Q. What if there are craft people wanting to sell their wares, (Thames do this)? They can apply through the Centre or online, pick up an application and present items for scrutiny. Art and craft items must be good quality, Managers decision is final. Thames also do community funding.

7. Projects for 2020 – all ideas welcome:

- Fox – Solar uplighters needed
- Could we do a Fox Trail? Like Wallace and Grommet/Hares. Get the schools and groups involved to make.
- HCPG and HTC to work as a partnership on future refurbishment of Swindon Street and High Street. HCPG had already started a few years ago and funding would be easier if we are involved. Heritage Action Zone funding, chances of success are negligible, keen to progress.
- No funding or professional help from SBC, although they will fund trees in Swindon Street.
- Golf Course – closed and future in limbo. There has been an offer from HTC to take on. Sara Kelly suggested an 'aire' (like in France) overnight camper vans. Could be beautified, crazy golf, small farm park.
- **ACJ** – Community Christmas Lunches. Alison had done this in her previous hometown. For lonely, isolate, single parents, elderly, low income families; Intergenerational. Supermarkets are happy to get involved, free food from some, funding from others, a band of volunteers needed and a venue. Present bag for children and a gift for others. This could be done either Christmas eve/day. Cost approx. £3.5k. Facebook has 70 interested so far.
- Cycle Route
- **ACJ** – The Malmesbury Gift Card for values of £5,10 and 20 to spend in Businesses who have signed up to it, keeping it local. **IW** is meeting with Lesley Woods on Friday about this.
- Men's Shed
- Memorial Garden – needs tarding up. Could do memory bricks? Gill from the quarry
- Gilberts Alley – would need to look at ownership again. Bins – need tidying up or boxing in to look nice.
- Highworth Cheese

8. Members business:

KS – Highworth in Bloom need insurance for 2020 Open Gardens. Are they still covered under Four Year festival insurance? which isn't going ahead this year. **PW** to as Jim Willing to negotiate for them.

PW – Q. What dates for the year's meetings? We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month unless not needed. None in August and AGM in 2nd week of October.

IW – Tesco's blue tokens for HCPG May Day until 31st March in Highworth and Swindon Express

Next Meeting Wednesday 5th February