

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2018, 7pm At the Community Centre

Present: Keith Smith Phil Baker Ian James Gary Llewellyn
Ian Webb Ryan Acres Sarah Olnier Steve Martin
Ken Saunders Alison Durrant Sandra Rendall

1. **Apologies** Alice Douglas PaulNewton-Smith Nick Gardiner

Visitor: Adrian Young and Martin Wellsted

2. **Minutes of November Meeting:**

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

3. **Matters Arising:**

From July 2016:

4. **Post Box – KS** still to contact

From August:

4. **McColls** – Scaffolding now down. Top exterior completed, windows down to be done by specialist builders

6. **SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment)** – delayed until April. **GL** met with Chris Minors of Persimmon, the Heads of Warneford and Southfield Schools to make sure needs of students were met when deliveries are being made to the site.

8. **Fox** - awaiting costs from SBC regarding chevrons and lighting

12. **Credit Union** – meeting postponed, to be rearranged for January

4. **Correspondence: Aldi planning application**

Letter to SBC for HCPG's attention from Sheila and Martin Trewhella asking for the application to be refused as would damage the viability of the town centre, and we could also lose the Coop because of competition. HCPG have no power other than individuals own opinion. HTC approved outline plan application for Aldi (88% of Highworth in favour) and approved more business units being built as 72% leave the town for work, could encourage more business for the town.

5. **Report from HTC representative: RA**

Police – reported that there had been 2 burglaries in September, arrests had been made. 40 Youths had been successfully dispersed. HTC thanked PCSO Lee Wheeldon for running surgeries on the Podium.

The bus link to Asda and hospital was not being used successfully. Found to be quicker to go into town bus station and change for the hospital. Poorly advertised by bus company.

Fox – waiting on SBC

HTC considered employing 2 traffic wardens through SBC, cost would be too great

Skate Park – waiting on design information

HTC full council meeting – Police Crime Commissioner is attending to take HTC questions (submitted before the meeting) not public ones. Any questions we have can be given to **KS, NG, RA**. HCPG will invite him to an open meeting for the community but we need to make sure we have a good reason to invite him.

6. **Damage to Village Green – discussion:**

KS had received a letter from Steve Weisinger asking for an update on damage caused in 2016 as we had apparently said we would repair. He has also asked for costs, quotes, detailed solutions and correspondence to residents. Original letter to Steve was sent from Amalia, the only complainant. **KS** responded to Steve that we said we would look in to, permission was sought from David Lane to speak to the groundsman who weren't too concerned. Fencing, bollards, wooden stakes and rocks

were looked at. Access needed for grass cutting by HTC, costs and legalities for all were difficult. **KS** admits this wasn't conveyed to Amalia. HCPG would be happy to work with those residents wishing to take forward on fundraising.

The area is wet, nothing can be done about the parking on grass. Signage could be a way forward, though lengthy, applying to SBC for a bylaw which then must go to Parliament to be passed. We will invite Steve to our next meeting and village green residents to discuss further. Make use of borough councillor status of Steve.

7. **Loneliness meeting with SBC:**

Identifying older and lonely people. Encouraging integration into community through social gatherings and group activities. How can we help? Volunteers are needed, can be signed up to SBC Circles where insurance, DBAs are covered. A volunteer advertising campaign is in the pipeline through the Link and other avenues.

The Tuesday lunch club which ran every Tuesday 10-3 for between 12-22 people has now closed, this is something HCA would be willing to host at the Centre. **SO** will liaise with Marion, a lunch club volunteer about continuing and what they would require from us. Could we approach local supermarkets for food? **AY** happy to do a piece for the link.

8. **Town Centre rejuvenation:**

KS and **GL** met with Suzanne Coles, SBC Traffic Manager.

- 2 important issues – Primary Centre Rules, Town Centre in Local Plan, the boundary needs to be wider
- Conservation area – important buildings, lots of residential in town centre therefore dead frontage.
- Vitality = busy, Viability = expenditure
How can we improve?
- movement of traffic round town, parking, junctions at the Fox and The Highworth, Gilberts Alley, Town Centre needs to be more social
- Conservation Area Management Plan gives negative features for Highworth as High Street pavements being tarmacked, pavements could be slabbed. In our Tourism Strategy moving the war memorial to the podium as a more central location. This refurbishment is not new as looked at back in 2009 and is in our Neighbourhood Plan.
- Finances available – HTC receive 25% CIL money for all new builds, need projects in place for when monies received. When is money available and how much from Builders? HTC receive £55 per sqm per house. 50 houses are being built this Spring on the Shrivenham Road plot. It takes about 2 years for money to come through.
- Next steps – Rod to do next stage of mapping, initial ideas for change, consult with community for ideas relating back to what is in Neighbourhood Plan.
- The new Local Plan 2036 recommends outlines of Retail and Leisure needs for Highworth as Primary – High Street and Secondary Frontages – Swindon Street. This is something to consider. Any ideas you may have please send to **GL** or **SR** to discuss at next meeting.

9. **Tourism update:**

Our Tourism Strategy will be presented to HTC's GP& F meeting on 6/2 in the hope that they will support and pay for Highworth to be a member of Visit Wiltshire. **SR** to email out the latest Strategy to HCPG committee, any comments or feedback please to **GL** and **SR**.

10. **Members Business:**

KenS - Thames Water pipeline through Pentylands. A361 Lechlade side, back of Everslea, into field 5 diagonally before bridge in field 3. Plans available to see. A 4-stage plan, money available to 2 at the moment, work to start December 2018

PB – Westrop Surgery now responsible for Hermitage as well

AY – complimented **GL** for his work on Town Rejuvenation work

2 items for February Agenda – Town Rejuvenation and Village Green Damage, invite Steve Weisinger

Next meeting February 7th, 2018