



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6th April 2016, 7pm
At the Community Centre**

Present: Keith Smith Ken Saunders Ian Webb Adrian Hares
Sarah Olnor Alison Durrant Steve Martin Paul Newton-Smith
Phil Baker **Ian James**

1. **Apologies** Sandra Rendall Adrian Hares Mark Pritchard Nick Gardiner
Peter Arnel Andy Reeves
Shirley Colbeck - Smith

Visitors: **Alice & Justin Douglass**

Welcome: Alice & Justin were welcomed to the meeting

2. **Minutes of March Meeting:**

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

3. **Matters Arising:**

Item 5. PNS –meeting with Jo Phelps, Highworth Beat Manager no time at present, still pending

Item 4. Post Box – KS reported that he had written to Royal Mail and had received acknowledgement of his correspondence the matter will be followed up.

AD reported Chemists and other business concerned about drop in footfall after closure of old PO.

Justin/Alice advised that lots of locals & businesses have expressed desire for a Post Box in the High Street.

4. **Localities update** There were no Localities of other SBC representatives present due to the imminent local elections they will resume visits in June.

5. **Report from HTC representative:**

AD reported The Library is not owned by SBC so it cannot be closed however it could potentially become an empty building.

Skate Park: HTC are looking at / assessing all of the sites they own/lease for suitability/compliance with regulations, noise levels, proximity to residential properties, etc.

6. **Highworth Library – Report on progress:** **KS** gave brief resume for benefit of the visitors on SBC's emerging strategy.

KS reported over 2700 paper signatures on the petition have been received, only 300 are required to oblige SBC to have a debate on the issue.

There was some confusion regarding delivery of the petition, it was intended to submit the Highworth Petition at the same time as the Save Swindon Libraries campaign petition however the Swindon petition was submitted on Tuesday.

KS will be contacting the Mayor of Swindon to arrange a time and date to hand over the Highworth petition on the steps to SBC offices in Euclid Street, hopes to have the Adver / press present when this happens. The mayor will not discuss the matter at that time but is happy to receive petitions.

AD remarked that nothing can happen over the petition this close to elections but it should provoke a proper consultation to start in June.

AD reminded the committee that there is a public meeting on 10th April 2-4 at Christchurch community centre.

KS reported that on Thursday 7th April that together with Sarah Church, Helen James and Shirley Burnham they are meeting Cllrs Reynard and Perkins in order to have a coherent discussion on the emerging strategy and to put points & questions to the Cllrs.

I.e. Transition money, why £300,000.00 from library and not from assets elsewhere.

KS stated Highworth Library featured on Points West and Oxford News. Sarah Church had letters published in the Telegraph and Guardian. **KS** has an article in Ripples (Lechlade/Fairford magazine) and an article going into the May Link.

There are no plans for a further mail drop until the June policy is announced

IJ clarified that **KS** request for volunteers to help **AD** carry out a letter drop was non political and letter did not touch on politics

The Conservative group are actively recruiting volunteers to run the library

IW offered the opinion that it was nice to see the local electorate reacting.

SO gave vote of thanks to **KS** for all his hard work and this was seconded by all present.

7. **Totally Locally**

AH reported there are plans for another fiver fest later in April. Numbers are gently increasing thanks to Sandra and Ann Hinton's efforts.

There was a joint enterprise with HAFFT on 12th March.

There is a fairly large proportion of Totally Locally supporters are non traders and **TL** could do with more Traders signing up.

There was a discussion about Farmers Markets and **AH** reported that there was insufficient footfall in Highworth to attract markets from other locations.

8. **The Vision and Neighbourhood Plan:**

HTC has put aside £5000 for the Strategic Environmental Assessment, as they feel it needs to be done by a qualified company for it to carry any weight

SBC now say that Highworth need to identify green space in Hannington and Seven Hampton. And **HTC** are endeavouring to identify all the areas where there are views to ensure they are not obstructed by future development. Next Neighbourhood planning meeting 13th April.

9. **Safe Places in Highworth IW**

Reported there has been a positive response from local businesses 6 places have already signed up and there are a few more in the pipeline. They now have the support of **HTC**, and an article in the May Link.

Things to do: Visit Care Homes regarding the new I.C.E. cards (in Case of Emergency)

The Chair congratulated **IW** and **PA** on their work.

10. **Members Business:**

AD –Big Lunch the official day for this is the 12th of June but **AD** feels that is too early as proper planning is essential. Suggests a Big Lunch could be tagged onto something like the Picnic at the REC after the Highworth Festival or the Fund ay at the Centre. **PNS** as chair of the Festival committee will liaise with **AD** to see what might be possible

PB Government is changing funding to Pharmacies and Highworth may lose one. There is a petition in the pharmacies and **PB** will investigate and report back.

PB reported the surgery had an inspection, they are awaiting the written report but the verbal report was positive. Surgery is upbeat about this.

PB requested that as many people as possible should sign up for the patient group surveys. Article in this month's link.

PB Reported that 4 people from the CAP project took part in the Paris marathon raising £10700.00 £750 put in by a local business.

SO The day centre at Newburgh House is under threat **SBC** say not enough demand and were in today looking to see what the building is used for.

SO Report in the adverb stating **SBC** are releasing parks and open spaces to parish councils.

SM Circulated a mock up of a tented construction for the podium to see if he can get a discussion going on what to have on the Podium if the tree is removed.

KS /PNS facebook discussions going on by concerned people regarding the dilapidated state of the children's play areas around the town. The play areas are HTC responsibility.

Meeting finished at 9.05

Next meeting on Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 8.00pm