



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 7pm  
At the Community Centre**

<b>Present:</b>	Keith Smith	Ken Saunders	Steve Martin	Paul Newton-Smith
	Sarah Olnier	Ian James	Alison Durrant	Sandra Rendall
	Andy Reeve			
<b>1. Apologies</b>	Phil Baker	Adrian Hares	Ian Webb	Alice & Justin Douglass
	Nick Gardiner	Peter Arnel		
<b>Visitor:</b>	Gary Llewellyn			

**Welcome** to Gary who is a Highworth resident, Warneford School Governor and a Planner.

**2. Minutes of June Meeting:**

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

**3. Matters Arising:**

**Item 5. PNS** has spoken with Jo Phelps, will meet when convenient as she has been rather busy

**8. Totally Locally** – in hand

**4. Post Box update:**

**SM** working on getting a post box back into High Street on behalf of businesses. Response from PO: this action has been logged and details passed to Collection Manager. The post box was removed as on private land and no new boxes coming. Box at top of High Street on A361 is to be used in outside hours. Members of the group are being constantly asked where the Post Office is. **KS** to write one last time also ask for signage outside Co-op and in High Street.

**5. Localities update:**

Discontinuation of localities meetings but working with local groups and this is how they now operate. Any issues contact them.

**Highways in Highworth** –

Resurfacing of 2 car parks in Brewery Street. This will be co-ordinated with the rebuild of the toilets

Ramp in Cotswold Way

Informal Crossing, tba

Bydemill Gardens, pathway to be cleared and redone

Hannington sign post to be replaced

Dropped Kerb at King and Queen

Removal of old traffic lights posts at Reg Skulls

**Coate and Lydiard parking charges – 6 month trial**

**Q.** if 6 months trial, why are yearly season tickets being sold? **A.** Trial is the process; review the positive and negative then implement. Season ticket at Lydiard costs £30 pa and £25 at Coate, volunteers will get a pass and any income will go into the central pot. There were charges back in 2004, machines were reused elsewhere.

**Fox Roundabout** – nothing

**Green Wheelie bins** – there doesn't seem to be a system on follow up of annual repayment or some people being missed.

## 6. Report from HTC representative: AD

**Planning** - HTC have repeatedly written to SBC who approve planning when HTC have disapproved and vice-versa, no real communication on decisions. They have apologised on several occasions that it will never happen again, but it does. Borough Councillors should be on top of this.

**Leisure** – Libraries, negative response from SBC councillors

**GP&F** – staffing matters, vacancies being advertised in a transparent way, legally don't have to be advertised, this could imply Equal Ops legislation problems. **AD** will ask at next meeting for clear operation standards

**Fox** – Alan Bishop has got flower boxes go ahead. **AD** to check 106 monies promised for Fox, see if it was ringfenced. Could we get business sponsorship?

## 7. Highworth Library – Report

In KS absence **PNS** will give a speech on Highworth Library debate. KS and PNS to sit down and go through format of presentation. Public questions to AD to ask. Cabinet Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July, Full Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm which is the better option for debate.

Our petition has more than sufficient signatories (minimum of 350 needed we had 2750) which was handed to the Mayor on April 14<sup>th</sup>, which has since been misplaced, we do however have a copy.

- 11 libraries closed, 4 remain open, Highworth with 15 hours paid staff, mixed feelings so protest justified. Highworth building costs of £51k guaranteed until 2018, SBC will no doubt go to HTC and say your problem after 2018.
- Public opinion is that Library is safe.
- Although we are associated with Save Swindon Libraries, need to concentrate on proactive proposals for Highworth. We could argue to close Central Library as this is the largest spend, use as a museum or other, reinvest money into other Libraries. Why is Central still getting biggest positives? Look at what other local authorities are doing to save their libraries. SBC not coming up with any proactive ideas.
- If Charity, 80% relief guaranteed, council 20% costs
- Out of Council hands into a Trust
- Council have rejected a range of suggested ideas. If they cannot offer more than 1 solution, we would go for judicial review
- KS has a meeting with Mary Martin, SBC on 7/7 to talk about a) deprivation on Agenda b) communities in pubs but not called libraries.
- Consultation on 1/8 for 8 weeks with no meetings for 4 weeks as school holidays. Strategy, views, ideas and proposals for Highworth
- Council own fixture and fittings, Co-op own building with a restrictive covenant to be used as a library. If no one comes forward to pay costs, not giving a comprehensive service. Highworth different as building not owned by SBC, we are efficient and cheap, building has to be used as a Library.
- SBC always pushing regeneration of Swindon Town centre
- AR – why does SBC have a preference to a certain idea? not transparent on what basis they have refused/rejected ideas, need to see documentation
- IJ – HCPG to have a standalone meeting after reading strategy, concentrate on Highworth. Format of ideas from KS following his meeting with Mary Martin, to discuss at meeting on AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>. Totally unacceptable, need to fight back with facts
- SM – Q. What happens with the Business Rates? AR- A. SBC facilitate then goes back to Government then filtered back generally

## 8. Totally Locally / HAFFT

HAFFT renewal due January 2017, supporters conference on 1/10

Post EU – Fairtrade will be affected, producers and cost of food in general (tea, coffee, sugar and bananas) need to raise people's awareness.

TL – meeting on 20/7

## 9. The Vision and Neighbourhood Plan:

Consultation finished on 1/7, no information yet, next meeting 20/7.

Next step – town planner will go through comments received, decide which ones significant to go into Plan. If huge changes, Plan could go out to consultation again, if not then to SBC legal team. GL as a town planner had commented on 20 pages of issues on development and planning policies.

Wroughton Plan on Agenda as had gone through Referendum

**10. Safe Places in Highworth:** This is to be launched at The Bridge on 19/7

**11. Members Business:**

**KS** – Steve Weisinger had been in contact regarding a compost bin on Village Green at the back of No 29 Barra Close. KS has written to them to remove

**Festival parade** – do we want to partake? No

**Marquee** – has been borrowed once. Need to do list of Rules, costs and how to put up **SR** will do

**SO** – letter to surgery re chemists, **KS** will do

**Pentylands** – 106 monies from Heywood Heights build, where is it? **AR** to chase Sarah Screen

**AD** – where is Highworth 106 monies? ringfenced or absorbed into borough and where spent? **AR** to chase

**SM** – Podium idea, will feedback to HTC in about a month

**KenS** – Thames Water are putting a new pipeline through Pentylands, work starting April 2017. There will be compensation due.

**Patients Forum** – new big screen in surgery can only be seen by a few and has no relevant information and has a glare

**IJ** – New walk in centre open April 2017 in place of Carfax. GP provision low. Funding desperately needed.

**SR** – Thank you for flowers

Some businesses are unhappy about all day parking in the Market Square by workers, stopping visitors from shopping.

**Next meeting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at 7.00pm  
To discuss our Highworth Library Strategy**