



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016, 7pm
At the Community Centre**

Present: Keith Smith Ken Saunders Ian Webb Sandra Rendall
Sarah Olnor Peter Arnel Nick Gardiner Paul Newton-Smith
Phil Baker Andy Reeves Steve Martin

1. Apologies: Matt Goddard Shirley Colbeck-Smith Mark Pritchard Alison Durrant
Lou Ashford Adrian Hares

Visitor: Ian James

Welcome: Ian was welcomed to the meeting

2. Minutes of February Meeting:

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

3. Matters Arising:

4. NG – HTC website, not done yet

5. PNS – meeting with Jo Phelps, no time at present, still pending

Feb Minutes arising:

4. Post Box – **SR** reported that traders would like a post box in the High Street as this would be quicker for them at the end of the day. Andy Sears was willing to write and get others to do the same.

Localities update (to go back on March Agenda)AR

Highways Submissions – funding comes to an end on March 24th. If there are any outstanding works contact borough councils. Tactile crossings have gone in near The Rose and Crown Pub.

Any requests? Outside King and Queen, main traffic lights are causing problems; lights on Lechlade Road where an old shop used to be could be moved. **AR** will take to meeting on 17/3.

4. Correspondence:

Skate Park – **KS** Alice said that 'she would not pursue raising money at the moment as this was not a priority, as other fundraising for the library was needed'. Alice enjoyed her time at HTC meeting. The signatories of the skate park money are arranging to transfer funds to HCPG to hold for safekeeping. HCPG all agreed this. **NG** there are 2 pots of money, £7k raised by students and HTC £60k being transferred. It will go ahead but it is a question of location at the moment. A consultation should happen as to where the skate park should go. **NG** will take back to HTC.

5. Report from HTC representative:

Podium – Nothing agreed, discussing different costs and ideas. HCPG suggest that HTC get community involved with giving their ideas maybe a competition, article in link? **NG** will raise at next full council meeting. It would be a disaster if podium went.

Congratulations to Richard Williams who has been appointed new Market Manager

6. Highworth Library – Report on progress

- Presently 2628 paper signatures and 3000 online

- Confirmed there is a Community Engagement meeting on Monday 21st March, 10-1pm in Library talking about the Library. Borough Councillors have been invited
- Discussions by councillors on professional certificates/degrees held by library staff
- HTC should not be political in this matter (elections in 2 months)
- Thanks to **NG** for printing all the leaflets
- Thanks to Freya Wilson who donated £51 to the Library fund. **KS** visited Southfield school with a certificate and letter thanking her for raising money doing a 10 hour sponsored silence. Year 6 wrote letters of support, also Warneford signed a petition.
- Thanks to all those volunteers who folded and delivered 4000 flyers. We had more volunteers than we needed.
- The 2 meetings which were held: 107 and 79 attended which equates to 2% of Highworth population. These were both useful, informative and support was offered. A borough councillor also implied that **KS** had lied in his speech, **KS** was reading from Council documents.
- Engagement meeting, at least 300 turned out, HCPG had to print extra questionnaires.
- Our 3 Borough Councillors who are against anything happening to our Library have voted for the Budget cuts, none of them spoke. Labour gave alternatives to save libraries and children's centres
- **KS**, **SR** and **SO** attended the Budget Cuts meeting. 5 questions from various Highworth residents were heard at the meeting.

What do we do next?

- Present petition, our Change.org E petition to be included, **KS** will ring SBC to clarify (Sally Sprayson). First we need to achieve a debate (1 ward) with only 300 signatories/and postcodes required, we have enough to get our voice heard.
- Questions answered after engagement and consultation then strategy, this should show a refreshed view of communities value of their library (not been done for about 10 years)
- PB – cash limits, reserves, contingencies available as an option
- At consultation **AD** said there cannot be one solution, Authority needs to provide more than one, we will challenge as a whole
- An independent group Save Swindon Libraries (Wroughton, Old Town, West Swindon) has been set up, Sarah Church has joined this as Chair. The Labour party have offered to fund this group but have also said they are not political on this issue and will not interfere. Do HCPG (non-political) associate with it? **YES**
- Walcot library is run by volunteers, but do receive 10 hours paid SBC staff help, SBC rent paid. Costs to borrow a book are more expensive, £9 rather than 56p
- Do we need an update community meeting? We can have a community meeting after 21/3
- **Ian James (IJ)** communicate to residents what has happened since meetings including budget, with an idea of what we want to achieve

What message to get across?

- A4 leaflets **NG** will approach a company to donate
- Update on all meetings, 2 x HCPG, engagement and include outcome of budget (our 3 Borough Councillors did not fight for our library) "Quote"
- Meeting on 21/3
- What's next?

Prior to consultation, talk through options, understand and assist with approving and improving
Patrick Weir has portfolio for libraries, he is setting up a task force for people who have views **Q** Should someone from HCPG **KS** be on task force? **YES**

Sarah Church has a meeting with Ed Veizy on Friday. **SO** proposed thanks to **KS** for all that he has done.

7. Totally Locally/HAFFT:

Working together on 12/3. We have decided to continue until end of May, if no real response from businesses then we shall stop.

8. The Vision and Neighbourhood Plan:

No meetings. Email from planner Lizbeth re Strategic Environmental Assessment, SBC has still not done. To what extent, and does it need to be done? No one available to answer as staff change. This has taken 4 years so far. In the meantime the Plan is being drafted.

9. Safe Places in Highworth IW/PA:

Out on 4th March to discuss with businesses. If funds are donated would HCPG hold on account please **Proposed PB seconded SR**. A leaflet card with map highlighting safe places will be produced. Writing to Mayor of HTC for support and to put on literature.

10. Members Business:

AD –Big Lunch in June **March agenda**

SR – HTC had emailed regarding Wiltshire Ambulance wanting to recruit 20 first responders from Highworth

Do HCPG want a table at May Day? N

IW – WFCAP last redundancy has taken place, staying on as a volunteer. Agreed we would contribute 50% cost of insurance, which covers us all for public liability.

IJ – happy to join us

NG – Clean for the Queen happening on 4 and 5 March

SO – liked having the meeting in room 3, more room

PA – Jez Lowe at Warneford School

PB – Surgery will be inspected in next 2 weeks. Please join virtual participation group (survey).

Appointment no shows are receiving letters and texts, seems to be working. New operations manager Alison Stert

There is an app. called PUSH (NHS) for making appointments etc.

Meeting finished at 9.30

Next meeting on Wednesday 6th April 2016