



**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2016, 8pm
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 Sandra Rendall Nick Gardiner
Alice Douglass Justin

1. **Apologies** Peter Arnel Shirley Colbeck-Smith

Visitors:

Welcome:

2. **Minutes of April Meeting:**
Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by **PNS** seconded by **IW**
3. **Matters Arising:**
Item 5. PNS –meeting with Jo Phelps, still pending
Item 4. Post Box – KS will follow up
10. Bandstand – an article will be in the Link

Brief Report from HTC representative:

3/5 a progress summary by the Mayor, also on major groups, full minutes available.

Skate Park – lots of local interest again, would be a good project to follow up on for 2016/17. There is much misinformation going around. May be worth having a meeting with those who started the original fundraising and HTC. The site seems to be the sticking point. There is a Facebook petition, NG suggest that they are asked to come to next HTC meeting. Park needs to be universal, flexible to suit other sports. HCPG encourage in pushing forward. HCPG hold original plans from 2001, copy to NG (KEITH).

Nexus – Charity status to be submitted soon

REC – decision on new bids by 5/5. It will be SBC run for the next 6 months, ring fenced subsidy of £50k by HTC there if needed. Credit goes to Trustees for continuing the fight
There will be a full council meeting on 10th May

4. **Highworth Library – Update: KS**

- Save Highworth now part of Save Swindon Libraries
- May Day raised £100 with fact sheets given out
- Highworth Library – Conservative leaflet has been picked up by the press but stopped by editor as too close to the election. Hoping Chris Humphries, reporter will follow up on. All 3 SBC councillors quoted “budget 16/17 included no cuts or would affect the library” pushing that the library is safe, no staff cuts etc. If HTC told this why not in the public domain?
- SBC budget of £300k cuts – Sarah asked where the £300k cuts were made, David Rennard has assured no closures this year.
- At a meeting with Gary Perkins (Libraries lead) clear that £300k cuts this year but not prepared to say from where, but £1.5m cuts by 2020. All other Conservative areas have been able to save cuts to libraries and other services.
- Save Swindon Library – Patrick Weir, Senior Officer for Change invited community to meeting to discuss future. We are willing to engage but clear that our redline is no changes or closure.
- Discuss every library open is staffed

- AD to KS – Sarah’s reply about parameters. Highworth 4th biggest library in town, also rural, leased building. Biggest asset is Central so SBC not likely to sell flagship, most used.
- PB – the later you leave cuts, the bigger amount in one go
- GLL interested in taking over some Swindon libraries but not Highworth as rural
- Draft Policy by June/July with another engagement session. September – final policy issued then a 6 week consultation, then hopefully an answer by Christmas.
- Ed Vaizey has Swindon under the radar
- We need to keep the pressure on as SBC aware of the power of the people. Significant numbers are attending our meetings.

5. **Totally Locally/HAFFT**

- Combined May Day raffle made £50 which will be shared between TL and HAFFT – prizes donated by Adrian Hares, Bloomfields and Co-op Fairtrade products. Opportunities to continue working together. Thanks to May Day.
- New businesses have signed up.
- Richard Williams as new Market Manager is open to new ideas and working together. Market has new signage.
- We need to balance needs of local businesses, special events will bring in footfall.
- Tourist Information.
- Nat West – started work on café
- Co-op café serves Fairtrade

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

On the 17/5 Neighbourhood Plan which is commercially sensitive will be officially presented to full closed council meeting, needs to be approved. Available on website 18/19 May and a public drop in meeting on the 21/5 between 9-12, there are 6 weeks to comment. HTC have to like and accept the 16 policies.

Strategic Environmental Assessment wasn’t needed.

Write to SBC Do you have a 5 year plan? (on next Agenda)

Aerograph run by Andy Gloyne has drone photographs

7. **Safe Places in Highworth IW**

A positive response with 14 shops signing up to the campaign. The Link are promoting, Lions have donated £200 for our own Highworth leaflet. HTC have asked for IW and PA to give a talk, waiting for an invite. There will be a formal launch in June.

8. **Members Business:**

KS – Highworth and South Marston United Charities are looking for a new Administrator to carry out basic financial and admin duties. The Charity helps with education and people in need.

NG – Stephen Douglas Bailey doing monthly clean up meets 3-5pm. Local cubs (25) helped out, working towards a badge.

PB – Local chemists keeping records of customer questions asked. Government wishing to use supermarkets as hubs to deliver to local pharmacies or as pick up point. Pharmacies to be cut by 6%. 1 millionth signature has been received.

KenS – There is an appetite for a Chamber of Commerce. Alice would like to take this on, HCPG happy to support. Business Group failed but there are funds available.

SM – Podium article in June Link

SO – No response from SEQOL regarding possible closure of Newburgh day centre (SR details of Debra Brown to SO)

AD – Ladybird Centre, funding expires March 2017.

AD – PNS, SO met to discuss Big Lunch. To take place on 20/8 tying in with Four Year Festival event. PNS will check with Jim

- Best wishes to Alison with the election
- Thanks to Sandra and May Day committee for a good day

Meeting finished at 9.20

Next meeting on Wednesday 1st June 2016 at 7.00pm