



Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 2009 at 7pm
Council Committee Room, Highworth

1. Present:
Keith Smith Maureen Penny Sandra Rendall Ken Saunders Sarah Olnor
Jo Clark Alison Durrant Paul Newton Smith Shirley Colbeck Smith

Apologies:
Peter Hinton Claire Smith Anthony Peake
2. Minutes of the previous meeting:
Minutes of previous meeting signed and filed. Proposed by MP Seconded by Ken S
3. Matters Arising:
No reply from Sinclair Brown
Positive response to skate park. P Webster, Keith Smith, Sarah Tough, Peter Robinson meeting
March 23rd
4. Chairman's Report on progress:
 - Proposed £500 grant from HTC towards Admin has been agreed.
 - Fundraising sale on the podium raised £74. Thanks to those who helped and provided items.
 - Stroud and Swindon balance of £50
 - £60 has been agreed by Historical Society for HCPG to become a member of the English History Towns
 - Funding –
 1. Grass Roots Devizes for £5k
 2. Will apply for Grass Roots, Swindon
 3. Community First can only grant £400max
 - Letter from Michael Wills re a letter from Gavin Jones, SBC re Gilberts Alley. Have to prove ownership of land before taken forward. Ian Hand, Collards Solicitors has done a search; he said that SBC should take some responsibility as 2 public buildings (HTC and Library) adjoin this alley. Possibility of HTC adopting the bit not owned. Jo Clark to look further into this to establish something concrete.
 - Swindon Strategic Conference – connecting people connecting places goes live on May 1st 2009. Each cluster will have its own Manager and forum that will identify problems and take forward. We need to make sure HTC get involved and that our plan is put before this management team.
 - KS will speak to Shrivenham Farmers Market to and speak to us about the possibility of regular Farmers Markets in Highworth.
 - £3,000 towards Fox roundabout, permission from SBC needed, HTC are all for it. KS will put in request to HTC meeting to be held on 10th March.
5. Report on MCTN Conference (MP, PNS): MP and PNS went to Tiverton, a meeting on Developing Communities. Mainly about Devon but good information received and new places to look for grants etc. Devon council give £25,000 to each community to do with as they please, shame SBC don't do the same. Community groups set up in this area are all doing well. Our Report has been adopted, so now just need help with info for funding etc. HCPG should now go to HTC and SBC and ask where does it feature in their

budget stream. Rural communities seem to have a better deal from their councils, we are a Market Town in an Urban area.

6. Progress on support for the unemployed MP: Unemployed Meeting – held on February 12th. 13 people turned up including BBC radio. Successful meeting. Sessions will be run on highlighted issues. Huge thanks to library. Jaqui Kerr ran sessions on CV's. Free time has been given by those running sessions. Next meeting March 11th 2-4. Job Centre may attend one of our meetings to assist. Library Assistants have been trained in doing job searches etc and are helping out in certain libraries (job centre overrun with enquiries). Stratton Library run a free legal advice on a Thursday morning.

7. E-Mail received re: Adult Education: KS had received a letter from Isobel Duffey. An article will be written for the Link asking if anyone interested in leisure classes, then take it from there.

8. Further Representation in the Town: n/a

9. Members Business:

PNS – Website revamp

SCS – March 19th Quiz Night in the Library

JC- Following the unemployed meeting, some were having financial worries of getting into town to the job centre. Highworth Charities are looking to sponsor such things like this, JC to speak to them.

KS- with Adrian from the Link looking into a town website that is professional

Empty shop fronts – find out from SBC rates. Displays of community artwork whilst empty

Peter Arnel is organizing a year of culture 2010, get local groups involved

MP- Barclays fund and allow their staff so many days a year to do community things where they live. MP to look further into.

AD- 9-12 Saturday 7th Banana Day in Co-op for Fair Trade week

Next meeting Wednesday 8th April 09 in the Library.