

Present: The Chairman, The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor T B Buckett MBE
Councillor A J Follett Substitute for The Vice Chairman Councillor Dr B G Wood
Councillor Mrs R Myer
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith
Councillor Miss L Pye
Councillor S R Smith
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs G Zakss

In attendance: Mike Kennedy - Town Clerk

Also present: Mrs L A Martin – Committee Administrator/Minute Taker
One member of the press

657. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

658. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are hereby reminded that, under the provisions of Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (The Code of Conduct), a member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent. A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgment of the public interest. A member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting is being held whenever it becomes apparent that the matter is being considered at that meeting, unless he has obtained a dispensation from the standards committee of the responsible authority; and not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter. For the purposes of this Part (of the Act), "meeting" means any meeting of the authority; or any of the authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees.

No declarations received

659. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 January 2009 were approved by Councillors as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin.

660. PROGRESS REPORT

Councillors received and noted the Progress Report and made the following comments:

Fairmile Cemetery Min 639 (28.10.08)

Councillor A J Follett asked when the next meeting would be with Mrs Bell. Councillor E Hodgkin replied that options for use of the chapel were still being researched and a meeting would be arranged in due course.

Freemans Meadow – Min 652 (20.01.09)

Councillor G Zakss informed the committee that arrangements for opening of the new facilities have been made for Saturday 18th April. Many thanks need to be given and a list of invitees has been prepared by the Committee Administrator. A leaflet needs to be prepared regarding the opening and delivered to surrounding residents inviting them to attend as well.

Action: Committee Administrator to prepare draft leaflet for approval

Fairmile Verges – Min 652 (20.01.09)

Councillor T Buckett advised the Committee that building work is being carried out at the last house along the Fairmile. A builder's skip, building materials and a builder's sign have been placed on the verge. In addition there are three cars parked outside and he has asked if HTC could ensure that these items are moved.

Action: Committee Administrator to approach the owners to request removal of these items

Green Burials – Min 655 (20.01.09)

Councillor G Zakss informed the Committee that she had spoken with French Jones regarding the press release and that it was now in hand. A launch is being planned for April.

661. BUDGET

Councillors noted the details of the budget monitoring report as at 31 December 2008.

662. OCC SUPPORT – DELGATION OF FUNCTIONS

Councillors considered the report by the Town Clerk regarding delegation of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) functions. Data collected by our One Stop Shop regarding OCC issues handled by them had been forwarded to OCC but the Town Clerk re-iterated that there is unlikely to be funding for One Stop Shops in the future. He added that Councillor Tilley was happy to explore other opportunities.

Councillor A J Follett requested that the One Stop Shop data be circulated to all Councillors for information.

Action: Committee Administrator to arrange

Councillor A J Follett thought that item 3.7 of the Town Clerk's report regarding possible use of available funding was a good idea and suggested that a new website and tourism promotion in conjunction with the Henley Partnership was important. The time frame of this proposal also needed to be finalised and suggested that it would be better to wait until the next financial year before applying for funding.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith will lobby following receipt of One Stop Shop data. He pointed out that Henley on Thames Town Council was actually in a minority in respect of taking on roles normally carried out by the District Council.

The Committee RECOMMENDS that

- HTC move forward on item 3.7
- Town Clerk to meet with Henley Partnership with a view to establishing a small group to move this item forward
- HTC to agree a timetable for next financial year
- HTC to be the driver of this initiative

663. AFC HENLEY – NEW PAVILION

Henley on Thames Town Council was asked to give consent as landlords to the re-siting of the proposed new pavilion. The pavilion already has planning permission for its current proposed location, but it was felt that re-siting may be beneficial in terms of security of the new building.

The Town Clerk tabled a copy of an e-mail from the Secretary of Henley Hockey Club who was concerned that any windows or roof tiles facing the astro pitch could be in danger from flying hockey balls given the current height of the fence. It was suggested that window grilles could be the answer but this needed to be referred back to AFC Henley before a decision was made.

The Committee RECOMMENDS

that the matter be referred back to AFC Henley for comment before consent is granted.

664. WASTE ACTION GROUP

Councillors received and noted the notes of the Waste Action Group meeting held on 16th February 2009.

Councillor S Smith informed the meeting that he felt Henley residents were probably unaware exactly how big a 240 litre bin is and suggested SODC should be putting out a picture of the bin to help educate the townspeople on this issue. Councillor T Buckett asked about the distribution of sacks. Councillor S Smith confirmed that our One Stop Shop will not be involved in this and that distribution of sacks will be made by SODC contractors at the time of collection.

Councillor R Myer asked about microchips in the new bins and what they would be used for. Councillor S Smith confirmed that they would only be used for location purposes and there was no intention to introduce a 'pay as you throw' scheme.

Councillor A J Follett proposed that Henley on Thames Town Council write to SODC regarding the removal of the Community Waste Vehicle. This vehicle should be left in place for at least 6 months after the change over to the new collection system to allow townspeople to get used to the new arrangements.

The Committee RECOMMENDS

That the Town Clerk write to SODC regarding the removal of the Community Waste Vehicle.

665. LIGHTING ON TESCO ACCESS ROAD

Councillors noted the improvements to the lighting. Councillor A J Follett proposed that Tesco also be asked to remedy drainage problems along the access road.

666. HENLEY TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL

Councillors noted the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2009. Councillor S Smith pointed out that free wi-fi access was already provided in the town by both Starbucks and Café Nero.

667. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

It was moved by the Chairman and RESOLVED

that the public and the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters which were about to be discussed are considered to be confidential.

668. SPORTS CENTRE CONTRACT

Councillors received and noted the notes of the user group and sub group meetings held on 13th February and 19th February respectively.

Councillor E Hodgkin informed Councillors that following the withdrawal of CLS from the sports centre contract with effect from 1st April 2009, there is not enough time to make new arrangements. Options discussed at the sub group meeting included sourcing an alternative provider or bringing the contract back in house. The sub group's proposal was that CLS carry on for up to 6 months with interim arrangements in place to allow time for new arrangements to be made.

Councillor A J Follett asked whether or not this would involve a management fee at a reduced rate. The Town Clerk replied that this has not yet been decided but all income from the facilities would be passed to Henley on Thames Town Council. Councillor T Buckett asked if it was feasible to bring the management of the facility in house now. The Town Clerk explained that although cleaning and bookings were not an issue, full Facilities Management resources were not available and this needed to be costed and resolved before any proposal could be considered.

The Committee RECOMMENDS

that the actions on this issue set out in the sub group's meeting notes be completed, with recommendations for future management brought back to the Committee by June 2009

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm

lm

Chairman