

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Kellie Hinton
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Sarah Miller
The Mayor, Councillor Glen Lambert
Councillor Sara Abey
Councillor Donna Crook
Councillor Dave Eggleton
Councillor S Evans
Councillor David Nimmo Smith
Councillor Ian Reissmann

In Attendance: Mrs Janet Wheeler – Town Clerk
Becky Walker – Committee Administrator

Also Present: 1 member of the press
1 member of the public

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

22. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

23. GREENCROFT ALLOTMENTS

Members received and considered a report regarding deer fencing at Greencroft Allotments, The Chairman welcomed Dave McEwan, Chairman of the Henley Allotments Association (AA) to the table who spoke to the report and made the following comments:-

- there has been increasing incidents of damage to produce since last Autumn
- once deer find a food source they are unlikely to leave it
- culling was considered however not felt appropriate and is not a long term solution – fencing was therefore felt to be the best solution
- the AA are keen to have the fencing installed as soon as possible
- some of the borders are already secure. Approx 150 metres of fencing (plus 2 gates) is required on the southern boundary by the car park and possibly a short section of fencing on the north eastern side by the Cricket Club
- advice has been sought on the best type of fencing and 3 quotes have been received (a fourth is expected)
- information to date indicates the estimated work will cost approx £3.2k. The Accountant has advised up to this amount is available within this Committee's budget. Mr McEwan advised that should the specification change (eg including rabbit proofing) the funding of the additional cost would be considered by the Allotments Association

Members considered the request and during the discussion the following comments were made:-

- metal posts are preferred to wooden for longevity

- concern was expressed at possibly using a string of wire above the fencing as it may not be visible to deer and could cause injury and a higher fence maybe preferable
- it was agreed time was of the essence and as the amount is within this Committee's budget the Town Clerk should be given delegated powers to view the 4 quotes and place the order

After consideration it was **RESOLVED**

that approval be given for expenditure up to £3,200 for the installation of deer fencing subject to the receipt of at least 3 quotes

that the Town Clerk be given delegated powers to place the order in liaison with the Chairman of this Committee, the Parks Manager and the Chair of the Henley Allotments Association

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 29 May 2018 were received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

25. BUDGET

The Committee received and considered the management accounts to May 2018.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the management accounts up to May 2018 be noted

26. PROGRESS

The Committee received and considered the progress report and the following comments were made:-

Fairmile Chapel – First Chapel – noted

Park Run – members were sorry to hear Mr Barr no longer had operational responsibility for the Park Run in Henley and asked that thanks be extended to him for all his hard work in setting up the Henley Park Run and commented on what a success it had been in its first year.

Members were keen to progress the Junior Park Run and asked that the contact details of the new co-ordinator for Henley to be obtained from the Park Run HQ.

Makins Recreation Ground – the installation of the new playground is due to be completed by the beginning of the school holidays. The fencing will begin to be installed at the end of July – the playground will be open without fencing for a short time and temporary notices will be put up to advise dogs are not allowed in the play area.

An official opening is planned - the morning of 15 September 2018 is suggested possibly in conjunction with the opening for the Outdoor Gym Equipment.

Brunner Hall fencing – the fencing is due to be installed in August 2018

Repairs to Freemans Meadow play area – it was noted quotes are being obtained for the repairs to the surround of the playground and the Accountant is satisfied this amount can come from the “Planned Maintenance Allowance for Unknowns” up to a maximum of £3k.

Litter on Marsh Meadows – a member expressed frustration that barbecues were continuing despite signs be putting up. It was noted the Park Wardens and the new Park Ranger who has been employed have been effective in asking people to put out barbecues when they are on duty.

The new Park Ranger, who wears a body cam, provides daily updates with photos and has reported that he has not experienced any aggression. It was felt his presence was proving effective and therefore his hours should be increased from one hour per evening and asked if a budget could be found.

It was noted 3 people had responded to the Chairman's letter in the Henley Standard and Henley Herald regarding creating a Friends of Mill and Marsh Meadows Group. Councillor Sam Evans asked if those who completed the survey had been contacted – please see the note below.

RFO/GDPR officer post-meeting note: Some members of the public have given their contact details to those conducting the survey. Such details constitute personal information and as such cannot be passed on to HTC without express permission. The survey was not conducted by HTC. Those who conducted the survey could ask the respondents to contact the Council directly if they wish to be involved in a 'Friends of' Group for Mill and Marsh Meadows.

Members noted the new temporary signage which had been put up at Mill Meadows and thanked Dynamic Print Media for producing the sign free of charge.

Chairman's note - thanks to be extended to Annabel Vere, photographer, for taking the photo used on the signage at short notice and at no cost.

Councillor Donna Crook expressed concern at the continued incidents of visitors not using the public toilets and using the Meadows instead. Members asked for advice from the police to be sought (eg what offence has been committed) and a request for the Meadows to be included on the patrols. Members also asked the Town Clerk to ask fellow Town Clerks if they had any experience of this problem and for advice on fining for littering etc.

Post meeting note – the Police are willing to prosecute where possible, with adequate evidence.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that information/advice be sought from the Police on what offence is being committed when visitors defecate in the park

that the Town Clerk seek advice from fellow Town Clerks who may have had experience of this problem of public defecating in a public open space

that signs be put up stating visitors must not defecate in the Meadows and to use the toilets provided at the Pavilion or opposite the Station when closed

that the RFO be asked to look for a budget to increase the Park Ranger's hours for the summer period

Welcome Wall – The Creative Brief had been sent to selected designers. However it should be noted by Councillors that when you invite conceptual ideas – and are not offering to pay – more agencies will need to be contacted. This will be progressed and a report with ideas brought back when ready.

Greys Road Embankment sign – noted the sign has been ordered

Post meeting note – the installation date is Thursday 19 July 2018

Budget – Mooring Survey - noted the surveys have been handed out to moorers during June and is available on the Town Council's website and no responses have been received.

27. MILL LANE CAR PARK

Members received and considered a report regarding charging at the Mill Lane Car Park.

A number of members expressed support for charging as it created a new income however felt a system should be in place to enable residents to park for free when they walk their dogs eg not charging till 9 am or having a permit scheme. It was noted high usage of the car park is seasonal only.

A member raised concerns that an unintended consequence maybe people parking on Mill Lane and is already narrow. A member questioned the reason for introducing charging – if it is to pay for ways to tackle the current litter issues etc then it was highlighted that the Town Council does have adequate funds to cover these costs if scheduled into the budget. It was also felt charging would be unpopular with residents.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that charging is not introduced at the Mill Lane Car Park at this stage

28. MILL MEADOWS MOORINGS – THE PIZZA BOAT

Members received and considered giving permission for Muchroom Bargee (the Pizza Boat) to moor at Mill/Marsh Meadows on an occasional basis.

Members noted the boat would like to visit twice in July and twice in August. Members agreed he offered a good service and were in favour of giving permission on the condition that no vehicles were driven across the grass and rubbish was not left on the Meadows.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that permission be given for Muchroom Bargee (the Pizza Boat) be given to moor at Mill Meadows and trade pizzas from the boat for 2 weekends in July and 2 weekend in August subject to vehicles not being driven to the boat (along the tow path or on the grass) and that all rubbish is removed from site

29. 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 publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The public and the press left the room.

30. MAKINS RECREATION GROUND - OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

31. FAIRMILE VERGES

The meeting closed at 9.14 pm.
bw

Chairman