

Present: Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin(Chairman)
Councillor I Reissmann(Vice Chairman)
Councillor A J Follett (Substitute for Mrs P G Buckett)
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith (Substitute for Mrs R Myer)
Councillor Miss L Pye
Councillor C I Pye
Councillor S Smith
Councillor Mrs J Wood

In attendance: Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk
Ms N Taylor – Committee Administrator / Minute Taker

Also Present: One member of the Press
Two members of the Public

21. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs P Buckett, Miss L Hillier and Mrs R Myer.

22. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

23. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr Andrew Bennett, Nicholas Road

Advised that he would like to know more about the Litter Working Group but had no questions at the moment.

Councillor A Follett joined the meeting at 7.35pm

24. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2010 were approved by the Chairman Mrs E Hodgkin and signed as a True Record.

25. CHALLENGE UK TRIATHALON

The Chairman welcomed Mr Alan Rose and Mr Andrew Priest from Just Racing UK who gave a short presentation in support of the Challenge UK Triathlon which they would like to hold in Henley on Thames on the weekend of 18 September 2011.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith advised that he was aware that there had been some problems getting approval for the closure of the Highways from a particular Officer but that he and his colleagues Peter Skolar and Rodney Rose were in support of the scheme but he could also understand why the Officer did not want Henley to end in gridlock during the event. Having said that Councillor Nimmo-Smith advised that he welcomed the

opportunity for Henley to host such an event and will do his best to ensure that the event takes place.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked if there were any specific problems that they were up against? Mr Alan Rose advised that the initial response had been that Oxfordshire County Council would not support the scheme at all as they did not want anything on the Highways – The Henley / Marlow Road was initially planned for complete closure but that is now not happening.

Councillor S Smith asked if there was any alternative to the Marlow Road as there was no other route in or out of Henley that would not cross the race course? Mr Alan Rose advised that the closure would now only be on the Sunday, would be one way, and would be removed by 10.00am.

Councillor A Follett asked how the event would benefit Henley, as, if this Council supported the event it must also bring with it the support of the residents of Henley? Mr Alan Rose advised that it was estimated that the event would bring 1500 athletes and their families to Henley along with supporters and spectators, most of whom would require accommodation and refreshments.

Councillor A Follett asked if the event was to take place would the assistance of local volunteers be required? Mr Alan Rose advised that between 500-1000 volunteers would be required and if they came from organisations then a donation would be made to the organisation, but if the volunteers were individuals then payment would be made in the form of souvenirs, T-shirts and food at the event.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked if there would be any benefit to Henley or if everyone would stay at the Management College and Rugby Club sites? Mr Alan Rose advised that there would be a great benefit to Henley from people seeking refreshments, accommodation, general shopping, and souvenirs etc. Hobbs has agreed to provide a Boat Taxi service from the Management College where parking will be provided, to the town.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked how it would be possible to have the finish in the Market Place? Mr Alan Rose advised that the Market Place would be the ideal finishing place with runners taking a route from the Rugby Club, over the bridge, part of the half marathon site in several laps and then ending on the Market Place – this would require a half road closure.

Councillor I Reissmann asked if Mr Rose could keep this Committee informed as often as required in a format similar to today and drip feed any information as soon as it comes through? Mr Alan Rose advised that he was happy to update the Committee as soon as he had anything to report

The Committee **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND**

that this committee unanimously offers its support to this initiative.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin thanked Mr Alan Rose and Mr Andrew Priest.

Councillor Mrs J Wood joined the meeting at 8.10pm

26. POLICE

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Pink to the meeting and invited him to the table

Sergeant Pink reported the following:

The whole team are at present preparing for the Regatta, concentrating on Licensing issues in the town centre and underage drinking in conjunction with South Oxfordshire District Council Licensing department.

A list of contact telephone numbers have been prepared and supplied for use after 4pm during the Regatta.

Following consultations around the town, all the main issues are being looked at and will be considered after the Regatta and reported back to the next meeting.

Crime as a whole is the same as last year with both burglaries and car crime low, a better idea on licensing will be available after the summer months and a report available in the Autumn.

CPSO Collette O'Neal will be leaving shortly but will be replaced by Karl Churchill who is a Neighbourhood Specialist Officer which is a benefit to Henley as he will be ring fenced for the town.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked if anything was happening with the problem of diners on the pavement outside La Bodega?

Sergeant Pink advised that the issue had been raised and was being looked at by South Oxfordshire District Council Licensing Department.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked if the fact that St Mary's Church had hired a Security Guard for the Regatta period was likely to cause any problems?

Sergeant Pink advised that as long as the guard was only guarding their property it was not a problem.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked if the Sports Bar had been granted a Temporary Licence?

Sergeant Pink advised that a Temporary Events Licence had been granted, but that there had been lots of meetings and advice had been taken on board. The bar was being run as a Cocktail Bar that would shut at 1.00am, by an organisation called Firehouse who were a brand name and worked other sporting venues such as Polo events.

Councillor I Reissmann asked what was being done about recent problems experienced at Brunner Hall?

Sergeant Pink advised that there had been a few issues recently with criminal damage, but assured Councillors that patrols in that area had been stepped up and a group of young men cautioned for their behaviour.

Councillor I Reissmann asked if there was any update on Waterman's Allotments?

Sergeant Pink advised that CPSO Claire Hewitt was attending the site regularly and talking to allotment holders. Sergeant Pink also advised that patrols had been taking place along the wooded area to deter drinking .

Councillor I Reissmann asked what the general policy was on criminal activities if not 0% then what was the percentage?

Sergeant Pink advised that on a Friday and Saturday evening there was a 0% Policy where Section 27 Notices would be handed out which would mean a ban from the town centre for 48 hours, and if repeated an arrest.

Councillor I Reissmann asked what the policy was on dangerous driving as residents of Northfield End were concerned about drivers who drive over the pavements to park their vehicles?

Sergeant Pink advised that if dangerous driving was reported then Police Officers would investigate and also see if the issue needs to be raised with a Highways Officer. Sergeant Pink also advised that speed indicator devices can be deployed around town if there are areas causing concern.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith raised the subject of revisions to yellow lines in Deanfield Road and asked if there was any point in providing yellow lines if no one is ever prosecuted for parking on them, and asked if more visible patrolling was possible?

Sergeant Pink advised that a month ago a blitz was carried out on offenders and 146 tickets were issued by one CPSO. Parking issues are taken seriously.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith asked if the recent Budget would have any impact on policing in Henley?

Sergeant Pink advised that at the moment team numbers would remain unchanged.

Councillor S Smith asked what is a Section 59?

Sergeant Pink advised that a Section 59 is antisocial use of a Motor Vehicle. Once issued, if a re-offence occurs, the vehicle in question will be seized.

Councillor S Smith asked what view the Police took on people parking on the zig zag lines at the Kings Road crossing?

Sergeant Pink advised that the issue of parking on zig zag lines was taken very seriously as it is a Public Safety Issue. This is something that can only be dealt with by a Police Officer as a CPSO does not have the powers. The Officer will deal with it at their discretion and can either move the offender on or issue a ticket for £60 with 3 points on the Licence. Sergeant Pink requested that if Councillors notice that this is a continuing issue then they let him know.

Councillor S Smith asked if having extra yellow lines would mean less efficiency in Adwell Square?

Sergeant Pink advised that complaints had been received so tickets had to be issued and this included West Street.

Councillor Miss L Pye asked what is a disturbance?

Sergeant Pink advised that a disturbance could be anything rowdy in the streets to a small scuffle.

Councillor Miss L Pye asked in respect to the CCTV why is Henley so high with recorded incidents?

Sergeant Pink advised that it wasn't because we have so many more incidents but because we have such a good relationship with the controllers we get better response.

Councillor Miss L Pye questioned the number of Crime Visits in the CPSO performance indicators?

Sergeant Pink advised that only certain types of crimes get a visit from a CPSO.

Councillor Mrs J Wood asked if there would be a late train on Saturday night for people wanting to return home from the Regatta?

Sergeant Pink advised that the last train leaving Henley on Saturday night would be 12.01am.

Councillor Mrs J Wood asked what was happening with the cars in Berkshire Road that are parked half on the pavement and half on the road?

Sergeant Pink advised that notes would be passed out to begin with, but if the problem wasn't resolved then they would be followed up.

Councillor A Follett asked what was happening with the Neighbourhood Action Group?

Sergeant Pink advised that he was working through the consultation packs to see what issues were raised, i.e. parking, litter & speeding. Another meeting to be held in August / September to decide the way forward.

The Chairman, Mrs E Hodgkin thanked Sergeant Pink for his report. Sergeant Pink left the meeting.

(ii) Councillors received, considered and noted a report on PCSO performance indicators for quarter four for 2009-2010.

27. PROGRESS

Councillors received a report on progress and made the following comments:

Road Reports - Minute 113 (16.03.10). The Chairman reminded Councillors again that outstanding Road Reports were well overdue and requested that any reports that have not already been submitted should be done so by 31 August 2010.

Councillor I Reissmann requested that a reminder of the roads that he needed to report on be sent to him.

Entrance Signs – R&A Minute 14 (01.06.10) Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin requested that if possible the entrance signs be left in place until after the judging on 8th July 2010.

28. BUDGET

Councillors received and accepted the budget report to May 2010.

29. HENLEY GUIDE

Councillors received and considered a report on the production of a new Henley Guide.

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that a letter of intent to proceed be sent to Mr John Rees, Local Authority Publishing.

The Town Clerk advised that he thought it wise for a small group of Councillors form an Editorial Sub Group.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood and the Chairman Mrs E Hodgkin have volunteered to be members and a request for further members will be sought at Full Council.

Councillor C Pye asked what Officer cost would be involved, the Town Clerk advised that there would be an initial Officer cost involved on the editorial side.

30. HENLEY TOWN CENTRE LITTER WORKING GROUP

- (i) Councillors noted and accepted notes from the Working Group meeting held on Friday 26 May 2010.
- (ii) Councillors considered a proposal from Councillor Dr B Wood (Full Council Minute 17, 15.06.10) to impose a levy on some of the town centre businesses (Starbucks, Bloc2, Green Olive and Loch Fyne etc) to cover the cost of clearing litter from the Town Centre.

Councillor I Reissmann asked what if any fees these businesses already paid to the council?

The Town Clerk advised that the combined figure for all the businesses with licences to use the Market Place could be seen on the budget report.

Councillor Miss L Pye thought the idea of charging these businesses a little extra made sense as they provided a take away service but did not feel that it was something that we as a Council could enforce.

The Town Clerk advised that these businesses already paid a licence fee.

Councillor A Follett advised that we, as a Council, were unable to separate out businesses to ask for money. Henley Town Council is not the agency for street cleaning - there are laws, bylaws, regulations and rules for what Local Authorities can apply, instead we should be trying to encourage businesses to be socially responsible and this was an issue that the Henley Street Litter Working Group were looking into.

Councillor Miss L Pye suggested that a letter be sent to all the food outlets explaining the problems with litter and asking them to keep their areas clean and tidy.

Councillor Mrs J Wood suggested that a letter be sent to the Regional Manager at Starbucks with our concerns.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that the Henley Street Litter Working Group were trying to educate people.

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that no further action be taken on this matter.

31. CCTV QUARTERLY REPORT

Councillors received and noted the CCTV quarterly report – Quarter 4 2009-2010

32. OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Councillors considered a request for the Mayor to join the Executive Committee of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that Councillor Mrs J Wood be nominated for co-option to the Executive Committee for the period to 2011.

that Councillor Mrs J Wood reports back to this committee exactly what the Executive Committee does.

33. HENLEY MARKET TOWN CO-ORDINATOR ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

Councillors received and considered the Henley Town Co-ordinator's Action Plan Summary for May 2010.

Councillor Mr E Hodgkin advised that she would like to see more focus on the Olympics.

Councillor I Reissmann questioned why there was no mention of the Environment Group Committee on the document and advised that he would bring his findings back to the next meeting.

Councillor Mrs J Wood advised that she has not personally had any meetings with Mr O'Dell but felt that when he speaks he makes a lot of sense. Councillor Mrs J Wood questioned if the report answers the questions that this Council asked of him?

Councillor A Follett raised concern regarding the time scale and if it was a start or finish time? Councillor Follett would also like to see some indication of success on the report.

34. REGISTRATION OF TOWN HALL FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

Councillors were advised that an appointment has been arranged for Alicia Gilroy – Oxfordshire County Council Registrar to view the Council Chamber and the Committee room. Oxfordshire County Council are seeking to relocate the Registry Office and would be looking to use the Committee Room as an office and the Council Chamber as a Registry Office / Marriage room for three days a week.

Councillor A Follett advised that he had concerns that this would tie up rooms that are use and questioned if there were any other rooms that could be put to better use.

35. HENLEY INFORMATION CENTRE

Councillors received and noted a footfall report for the month of May 2010.

Members were advised that this report was produced to see exactly how much time was spent fielding calls / visits for Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council now that no funding was received from them, and should be continued until at least the end of this year.

Councillor I Reissmann asked what exactly we are going to do with these figures?

Councillor A Follett advised that we were not sure as yet, but he was certain that they would be required when setting the budget for the Information Centre next year.

36. HENLEY FESTIVAL

Councillors received and noted a request from the Henley Festival to display a banner on the grass verge at the side of the road by Waterman Allotments and the Tesco roundabout (size - 4 metres x 1 metre).

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the Henley Festival be given permission to erect the banner on the understanding that it would be removed for the Henley in Bloom judging on Thursday 8 July 2010)

that the Henley Festival be advised that in future years any application to erect a banner must be received in writing at least six months in advance.

Post Meeting Note: The Henley Festival when contacted advised that as time was so short this year they have decided to put the banner elsewhere, but thanked the Council for its support and would be in contact next year.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm