

- Present: The Vice Chairman, Councillor M Akehurst
 The Mayor, Councillor S Gawrysiak
 Councillor Mrs J Bland
 Councillor D Clenshaw
 Councillor Miss S Evans
 Councillor Miss K Hinton
 Councillor I Reissmann
 Councillor D Silvester
- In attendance: Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk
 Mrs B Walker – Committee Administrator/Minute Taker
- Also Present: 1 member of the press
 1 member of the public

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood, the Vice Chairman Councillor M Akehurst took the Chair.

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Councillor Mrs J Wood.

72. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

73. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr C Baker – Lauds Close – President of Henley Hockey Club - Item 5 - Henley Hockey Club Clubhouse The Clubhouse is in need of repairs, particularly the kitchen, however the Club is aware discussions are taking place involving the possible sale of the area of land where the Clubhouse stands for development and the relocation of the Clubhouse and changing rooms to Jubilee Park on the other side of the road. Mr Baker asked if there is an indication of timescale on this project as it may affect the Club's decision on whether to spend money now on repairs.

74. VARIATION TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

In accordance with the Standing Orders 5 (a) (vii), it was **RESOLVED**

that in view of the member of the public present the Order of Business on the agenda is altered to allow Item 5 – Henley Hockey Clubhouse to be considered before Item 4 – Minutes.

75. HENLEY HOCKEY CLUBHOUSE

The Committee received and considered a request from the Henley Hockey Club seeking permission from the Town Council, as landlord, to make alterations to their Clubhouse as follows:-

- to relay the floor in the Clubhouse with a wooden type floor
- to skim the ceiling and put in new lights
- to completely renovate the existing kitchen

Prior to considering the request, members considered Mr Baker's question during the public participation session, regarding the timescale of the possible development of the area around 357 Reading Road and the relocation of the Clubhouse to Jubilee Park and made the following comments in response:-

- the Town Council has not yet decided whether it will put the area at 357 Reading Road up for sale – it has merely offered it up as a possible site for development within the Neighbourhood Plan
- the possible development of this land forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan for which there is a timetable as follows – the draft application of the plan to be submitted to the Inspector later this year and a referendum to take place in November 2014
- only once the Neighbourhood Plan process has been completed will it be known whether 357 Reading Road is to be included as one of the sites for re-development
- a best guess would be between 18 months and 3 years however there are no guarantees and the best advice is for the Henley Hockey Club to keep abreast of developments within the Neighbourhood Plan and make a decision based on this information

After further discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the Town Council give permission, as landlord, to the Henley Hockey Club to carry out repairs to their Clubhouse as follows:-

- **to relay the floor in the Clubhouse with a wooden type floor**
- **to skim the ceiling and put in new lights**
- **to completely renovate the existing kitchen**

76. MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 4 February 2014 were approved and then signed by the Chairman, Councillor M Akehurst as a true record.
- ii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 14 February 2014.

Members welcomed the prospect of a Henley in Bloom beer and congratulated the Chairman, Committee, Gardening Buddies, the Parks Service and Committee Administrator on their hard work on this Committee.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 14 February 2014 be received, approved and adopted.

- iii. The Committee received and considered the notes of the meeting of the Jubilee Park User Group meeting held on 28 February 2014.

Page 1 - Item 2 – Notes - It seems apparent that the Town Council does not communicate often with Tesco Stores Ltd and it maybe the right time, particularly in view of the discussions regarding the possible development of the land adjoining the store, to request a meeting. It would be courteous for

the Town Council to inform Tesco Stores, as a neighbour, of the developments being discussed and to seek their views. It was also noted Tesco Stores leases the land the store is on from the Town Council and it would be beneficial to both parties to develop lines of communication. The Town Clerk confirmed he has correspondence with the Estate Management Department regarding maintenance of the land and a meeting had recently taken place of Jubilee Park Users and Tesco Stores.

Members agreed clear objectives need to be set prior to asking for a meeting to ensure it is productive and the relevant representatives attend. Possible items for discussion could include:-

- the proposed development of 357 Reading Road
- car parking issues associated with any such development
- routine maintenance issues eg the re-painting of the pedestrian crossing and maintenance of shrubbery
- invite Tesco Stores to propose agenda items
- how the Town Council and Tesco Stores could work together as a Council and a key retailer respectively to bring benefit to the residents of the town eg community projects

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the Town Clerk contact the Manager of the Tesco Store in Henley and informally discuss the possibility of arranging a meeting to consider a number of issues including:- the possible redevelopment of 357 Reading Road (plus any car parking implications); routine maintenance; working together on community projects for the benefit of the town; any items Tesco Stores would like to discuss and to seek advice on how to progress this matter

Page 3 – Item 6 - Partnership Working/Sports Development – A member questioned how effectively GLL/Better could manage Jubilee Park should South Oxfordshire District Council/Vale of White Horse not award them the contract to run their sports facilities including the Henley Leisure Centre. This would mean they would no longer have another facility in Henley and would manage Jubilee Park from Rivermead in Reading (8 miles away).

The Town Clerk informed members GLL/Better had assured the User Group they would be able to manage Jubilee Park effectively from Rivermead should it be necessary and the level of service would be maintained. Members were advised that the previous contractor managed Jubilee Park from Abingdon.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the notes of the Jubilee Park User Group meeting held on 28 February 2014 be received, approved and adopted.

77. BUDGET

The Committee received, considered and noted the management accounts to January 2014.

78. **PROGRESS REPORT**

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

Makins Recreation Ground – Pram Walk - the Committee noted SOHA are currently investigating costs regarding repainting the pram walk, installing a hand rail and making a necessary repairs.

Members also noted SOHA are currently considering the future use of the land where the garages used to be and this presented a considerable opportunity to improve this area. Members agreed an informal conversation between a Town Councillor and SOHA may be beneficial at this stage and Councillor I Reissmann offered to contact SOHA.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that Councillor I Reissmann contact SOHA regarding their plans for the old garage area at the top of the Pram Walk and to open discussions as to how the Town Council may be involved and to report back to this Committee

Makins Recreation Ground – Skatepark – the Committee noted the planning application has been submitted and the target decision date is 21 April 2014 and the deadline to make a comment is 23 March 2014.

Toilet Refurbishment – Mill Meadows – the Committee noted the refurbishment started on Monday 17 March 2014 and is due for completion on Friday 16 May 2014

Tree Preservation Order – the Committee noted the TPO on the oak at the top of Makins Recreation Ground has now been placed (minute 59 refers).

79. **TODDLER PLAYGROUND**

The Committee received and considered the notes of the Toddler Playground Advisory Group held on 25 February, 10 March and 11 March 2014.

An update of the refurbishment of the playground was given and the following points were made:-

- following a site visit today it is apparent further pieces of equipment have reached the end of their life and may need to be "closed" in the near future on health and safety grounds and therefore there is an urgent need for the refurbishment
- 5 companies tendered and a short list of 2 was drawn up - Kompan, and Play and Leisure. **Please note the plans are available in the Council Offices for viewing prior to a final decision being made at Full Council**
- both schemes are very good, however after applying the scoring criteria (based on range of equipment, age suitability, durability, price, maintenance requirements, availability of references/guarantees, incorporation of consultation results/comments and wow factor), Play and Leisure were the preferred scheme.

A discussion ensued and the following queries were raised and comments made:-

- why is the whole surface of the playground made of a safety material (wet pour) as this adds considerably to the cost?
Having a wet pour surface allows the whole area to have play-value and enables a coloured, themed surface. The wet-pour does have a considerable cost however the cost would only be reduced by approximately £10 k should the surface only be placed around the individual pieces of equipment and would considerably reduce the play-value.

- when was the £135 k budget set?
When the 2013/14 budget was agreed by Full Council in January 2013, £30,000 was earmarked for planned maintenance of the toddler play area. (see report to R&A 2.10.12 Agenda Item 8(ii)). This was figure was subsequently increased to £50k following the appointment of a Toddler Working Group by the Mill Meadows Sub Committee in June 2013 and Council's decision to increase the budget provision by £20,000 from capex.

Following investigations and consultation with Kompan, Finance Strategy and Management at its meeting on 11 March 2014 has recommended to Full Council £135,000 be placed in the budget which would provide a completely new facility which although more expensive would be of a high standard, last for longer and prove better value for money. The additional money is being funded as follows:- £50k previously earmarked for the purchase of land, an increase in the capex ceiling from £250k to £266 k and the application of the £19k buffer

- if the timetable had been different Community Investment Fund funding could have been sought for this project

After further discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the notes of the Toddler Playground Advisory Group held on 25 February, 10 March and 11 March, 2014 be received, approved and adopted; and

that Play and Leisure be appointed as the preferred contractor to install the new Toddler Playground at Mill Meadows following the recommendation of the Toddler Playground Advisory Group

The meeting ended at 8.33 pm

bw

Chairman