

Present: Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood  
Vice Chairman, Councillor D Clenshaw  
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Phillips  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin  
Councillor Mrs J Bland  
Councillor S Gawrysiak  
Councillor Miss K L Gehrman  
Councillor W Hamilton – substituting for Councillor Miss S Evans  
Councillor D Silvester

In attendance: Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk  
Mrs B Walker – Committee Administrator/Minute Taker

Also Present: Councillor D Hinke, Councillor Ms L Meachin, Councillor I Reissmann  
1 member of the press  
11 members of the public

**71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Miss S Evans. An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Mrs J Bland.

**72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor W Hamilton declared a personal interest in minute number 75 – Henley Skatepark Initiative because he lives opposite Makins Recreation Ground.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin declared a personal interest in minute 80 – Fairmile Verges – Regatta Parking because her husband is a member of the Lions Club of Henley.

**73. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

*Councillor D Hinke – Elizabeth Road – Minute 75 – Henley Skatepark Initiative.*  
Suggested that when the Town Council invited Henley residents to a town meeting to consider the new Localism Bill, including Neighbourhood and Community Planning, it also incorporates the provision of sporting and leisure facilities because Neighbourhood Planning is not only concerned with housing. He considered it would be advisable to delay the decision on the refurbishment of the skateboard area at Makins until the Neighbourhood Plan is considered.

*Mr T Arnison – Greys Road – Minute 75 – Henley Skatepark Initiative.* Suggested there were 3 issues to address re this proposal:-

1. Noise considerations. There was considerable noise disturbance from cars parked in the car park particularly when they play music during the summer months with their windows and doors open.
2. The proposed use of the site should be taken into consideration eg a skateboard park or a gathering area as the latter may attract antisocial behaviour eg drug use.
3. Raised concerns regarding how the signatures for the petition were gathered at the Henley College by the Henley Skatepark Initiative and felt some students were intimidated into signing.

*Mr M Dodds – Greys Road – Minute 80 – A Statue in Henley.* Said he was expecting to hear from Councillor Miss S Evans on the proposed statue for Henley who had tendered her apologies – in light of this he suggested that written rather than verbal reports be given. He questioned the nature of the statue and whether it was really “free”?

Councillor Mrs J Bland joined the meeting at 7.40 pm.

*Mr J Newton – Greys Road – Minute 75 – Henley Skatepark Initiative.* Expressed concerns regarding the noise that the new facility would generate and also if large numbers are attracted there could be issues with car parking which is already limited in this area.

*Mrs A Dunker – Greys Hill – Minute 75 – Henley Skatepark Initiative.* Henley resident and also Vice Chair of the Henley Skatepark Initiative. Responded to the previous comments as follows:-

- Regarding noise considerations - the concrete construction of the proposed skatepark would actually reduce the amount of noise. The noise from people gathering at the skatepark is no worse than that emanating from, for instance, residents entertaining outside on a summer’s day eg barbeques with music.
- The nature of drug dealing (eg quick and inconspicuous) means it is very unlikely to take place in a public place such as the skatepark
- As a collector of signatures at the Henley College for the petition Mrs Dunker assured the meeting that the gathering of signatures may have been enthusiastic but was at no stage pressured and no-one was “intimidated” into signing.

#### **74. MINUTES**

- i. The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 14 February 2012 were approved and then signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood as a true record.
- ii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 23 February 2012.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

**The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 23 February 2012 be received, approved and adopted.**

- iii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee held on 15 March 2012.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

**The minutes of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee held on 15 March 2012 be received, approved and adopted.**

**75. HENLEY SKATEPARK INITIATIVE**

- i. The Committee received, considered and noted the report prepared by Mr C Brathwaite and Mrs A Dunker, Chair and Vice Chair of Henley Skatepark Initiative (HSI) that outlined the group's investigations into providing a new, free to use facility at the Makins Recreation Ground.

It was **RESOLVED**

**that standing orders be suspended to enable Mr C Brathwaite and Mrs A Dunker to address the meeting.**

Mr Colin Brathwaite thanked the Committee for inviting himself and Mrs Dunker to present the HSI's report and explained that it was a result of 10 months of investigation by the group and included consultation with residents, users of the existing skatepark and Makins Recreation Ground, skatepark designers and providers, local councils who had similar facilities, the local police, local schools and included 2 public meetings.

Mr Brathwaite felt the HSI had comprehensively met the remit set by the Town Council to carry out "further investigations into the improvement/expansion of the multi-sports play area at Makins Recreation Ground" and had answered all the questions posed by the Council and more in their report. Mr Brathwaite explained that in order to further explore the provision of a new facility the HSI needed the Council to re-affirm its support and location of the facility, in principal, in order to investigate funding opportunities.

The Chairman Councillor Mrs J Wood thanked Mr Brathwaite and Mrs Dunker for presenting their excellent report and invited Councillors to ask questions; the following comments were made/questions were asked:

- The report was very thorough and comprehensive and the Committee thanked the HSI for their hard work.
- Are there any skateparks similar to the proposed skatepark that members of the Committee could visit and are they located near to residential areas?

Mr Brathwaite confirmed there were. He gave examples as Newbury and Woodley and said he would be happy to arrange a visit for members.

- Would planning permission be required?

The planning department had been contacted and advised that planning permission would not be required if the proposal did not include additional new buildings and the volume of the skateboard "bowl" did not exceed 200 cubic meters. Further consultation would take place once the type of bowl was agreed and a pre-application made.

- It was understood that the provision of a concrete skatepark would reduce the noise levels compared to the existing equipment (which acts like a drum). Members asked if investigations had been made into landscaping around the skatepark and whether this could further minimise noise?

It was intended to further investigate the provision of landscaping in the next phase of the investigations should the Council agree. It was envisaged that landscaping including trees, plants, paths etc could help minimise noise and contribute to the visual amenity at Makins.

- Could funding for this project be expanded upon?

The HSI would be investigating funding opportunities to finance the project however the HSI asked the Town Council that money it would have spent on maintenance or removal of the existing skateboard park be allocated towards the new facility.

- The HSI looked into gated facilities however preferred an un-gated facility as this would encourage use; a concrete facility was hard to damage/vandalise; fencing would be very expensive and could use a significant amount of the budget.

- Concern was raised regarding disturbance/noise to neighbouring properties, the suitability of the site being so close to a residential area and the loss of green space at Makins.

It was confirmed that should the footprint of the facility increase it would be towards the car park and would not encroach into the green space at Makins.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brathwaite and Mrs Dunker **RESOLVED**

**that standing orders be re-instated.**

- ii. The Committee considered a proposal as amended at the meeting:-

that Henley Town Council grant, in principle, the Henley Skatepark Initiative permission to build a top-quality free-to-use concrete wheeled sports facility on the site of the existing skatepark at Makins Recreation Ground subject to Town Council approval of the designs and footprint, which will be researched and submitted by the HSI.

that the Town Council continue to support this project and the investigations of the HSI Project Group to:-

- explore designs and prices through a tender process
- explore and apply for funding for this project

Following a lengthy debate and a recorded vote it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that Henley Town Council grant, in principle, the Henley Skatepark Initiative permission to build a top-quality free-to-use concrete wheeled sports facility on the site of the existing skatepark at Makins Recreation Ground subject to Town Council approval of the designs and footprint, which will be researched and submitted by the HSI.**

**that the Town Council continue to support this project and the investigations of the HSI Project Group to:-**

- **explore designs and prices through a tender process**
- **explore and apply for funding for this project**

For

Councillor Mrs J Wood  
Councillor D Clenshaw  
Councillor Mrs P Phillips  
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin  
Councillor Miss K Gehrman  
Councillor S Gawrysiak  
Councillor D Silvester

Against

Councillor W Hamilton  
Councillor Mrs J Bland

Councillor Mrs J Bland left the meeting at 9.06 pm.

**76. JUBILEE PARK – SIGNAGE AND SPONSORSHIP BOARDS**

- i. The Committee received and considered a report regarding signage for Jubilee Park as there is currently none to indicate the location of the newly re-named Jubilee Park.

A comment was made that the suggested sign of white writing on a green background, similar to those on other Town Council properties, was dull.

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that a double-sided (or similar) sign be erected on the corner of Jubilee Park nearest to the roundabout subject to the consent of AFC Henley.**

**that the sign be white writing on a green background reading reading “Henley-on-Thames Town Council Jubilee Park [www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk).**

- ii. The Committee received and considered a request from Henley Hockey Club regarding the erection of advertising boards around the perimeter of the astropitch at Jubilee Park.

Concern was raised that any commercial boards should be placed at Jubilee Park.

The Committee acknowledged that sports clubs need to raise funds however as the astropitch at Jubilee Park is a community facility and is used by a number of sports clubs it was considered inappropriate for the Henley Hockey Club to have sponsorship boards with the income going to one club.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that permission not be granted to the Henley Hockey Club to erect advertising boards at Jubilee Park.**

**77. BUDGET**

The Committee received, considered the outturn of the budget report to February 2012.

The Committee recognised the considerable income raised by the Mill Meadows Car Park and noted this is mainly due to the good weather, the contracting out of the administration of the Excess Charge Notices to Vinci Park and the vigilance of the Parks Services who were congratulated.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**78. PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received and noted the progress report. The Town Clerk reported that the Allotment Association were delighted with the work at the Vision Splay, which was currently underway at Watermans Allotments and extended their thanks to the Town Council.

**79. A STATUE IN HENLEY**

In the absence of Councillor Miss S Evans it was **RESOLVED**

**that the matter be deferred for further consideration at the next Recreation and Amenities Committee and that a written report be requested.**

The Chairman declared any comments/opinions Councillors wished to offer could wait until that meeting.

**80. FAIRMILE VERGES – REGATTA PARKING**

i. The Committee received a request from the Lions Club of Henley for permission to arrange charity car parking during the Royal Regatta week 2012 on the Fairmile verges and after discussion **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that permission be given for the Lions Club of Henley to arrange charity car parking during the Royal Regatta week 2012 (from the evening of Tuesday 26 June to Sunday 1 July 2012).**

- ii. The Committee considered giving the Town Clerk delegated powers to approve permission for the Lions Club of Henley to arrange charity car parking on the Fairmile Verges in future years should it be requested.

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that the Town Clerk be given delegated powers to approve permission for the Lions Club of Henley to arrange charity car parking on the Fairmile Verges in future years should it be requested subject to:-**

- **Lion Clubs to erect and pay for all stakes, signs, tapes etc**
- **Site to be manned by Lions members from 9 am – 5 pm each day who will supervise the location of car parking**
- **A full Health and Safety Risk Assessment document to be prepared and read by each member attending**
- **Signs to be displayed indicating that cars are parked at the owner's risk**
- **Public liability insurance to be obtained**
- **In the case of bad weather the Park Services to review whether car parking should take place or whether it should be cancelled to prevent damage to the verge**
- **No overnight parking or camping**
- **The verge to be left clean and tidy and all signs/tapes etc to be removed**
- **All entrances to the service road, house entrances etc to be kept clear**

**81. TORCH RELAY 10 JULY 2012 – IMPACT ON MILL MEADOWS**

The Committee received a verbal report from the Town Clerk regarding the Torch Relay on Tuesday 10 July 2012 and its impact on Mill Meadows and the following points were made:-

- the torch would enter Henley at 9.15 am and would arrive at the River and Rowing Museum at approximately 9.24 am – it would then be carried on a eight man rowing boat to the Leander Club.
- the torch bearer would run down Meadow Road and through the car park to the River and Rowing Museum – therefore car parking would be suspended on this morning.
- safety barriers would be placed along the tow path to allow safe viewing of the torch when it is on the river.
- overnight temporary moorings would be suspended on Monday 9 July so the area is clear on the morning of Tuesday 10 July 2012
- meetings had taken place with the Henley Schools Partnership to facilitate the local school children being able to view the torch relay in a safe environment
- it was intended to provide a breakfast for the school children
- investigation was being made into providing entertainment on the bandstand

The Committee noted that further details would be presented to the Town and Community Committee via the Olympic/Heroes Return Working Group.

It was **RESOLVED**

**that the report be noted.**

**82. 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 were considered to be confidential.**

**MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 MARCH 2012**

**83. CONFIDENTIAL  
RED LION LAWN**

The Committee received and noted a written report and the Town Clerk gave a verbal update regarding the works at Red Lion Lawn following a site meeting on 23 March 2012. The following points were made:-

- following advice from Councillor D Nimmo Smith a meeting was held with Mr David Pitt of Riverworks Ltd who had submitted the lowest quote of the 3 companies who were asked to tender for the works. (The other quotes were received at £46,330 and £67,000 plus vat).
- Councillor S Gawrysiak as Vice Chair of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee, Councillor Mrs J Wood as Chair of Recreation and Amenities Committee, Councillor D Nimmo Smith and the Town Clerk attended the meeting.
- Councillor D Nimmo Smith asked that a number of items be added to the tender as follows:-
  - a photographic record of the works to be carried out
  - a design and workmanship warranty be provided for 10 years
  - the installation of 6 mooring ringsThese were added at no additional cost to the original quotation which remained at £37350 + vat.
- An additional quote was requested for relaying all the block paving – this was received as a separate quote at a cost of £4,245 plus vat.
- The Committee noted that the budget allocated to this project is £41,134 (£20,000 from the programmed maintenance 2012/2013 and £21,134 from the under-spend in the programmed maintenance 2011/2012) and that the 2 quotes total £41,595 plus vat was only £461 over budget.
- The quote from Riverworks included preparing plans; seeking the necessary permissions from the Environment Agency; planning permission and liaison with neighbouring landlords (including Oxfordshire County Council and Hobbs Boatyards).
- Due to the time scale of the permission it was decided the optimum time for the works is September 2012 and those companies who had leases for mooring boats would need to be informed that the area would not be available this summer
- investigations would be carried out to remove the self-seeded tree by the bridge as this could restrict how the contractor would carry-out the works

The Committee thanked Councillor D Nimmo Smith for his valuable advice and after discussion **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that Riverworks Ltd be appointed to carry out the repairs to Red Lion Lawn at a cost of £37,350 plus vat as detailed in their quote dated 2 February 2012.**

**that Riverworks Ltd also be appointed to relay the brick paving at Red Lion Lawn following the works at a cost of £4,245 plus vat as detailed in their quote dated 27 March 2012.**

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Chairman

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