

Present: Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mr S J Gawrysiak  
Councillor Mr M Akehurst  
Councillor Mrs J Bland  
Councillor Mr D Clenshaw  
Councillor Miss S Evans  
Councillor Miss K L Gehrman  
Councillor Mr W Hamilton  
Councillor Miss L M Hillier  
Councillor Ms L Meachin  
Councillor Mr D R Nimmo-Smith  
Councillor Mrs P A Phillips  
Councillor Mr I Reissmann  
Councillor Mr D M Silvester  
Councillor Mrs J Wood

In Attendance: Mr M W Kennedy - Town Clerk  
Mrs P Price-Davies - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator  
Mr C Austin - Town Sergeant  
County Councillor Dr P Skolar

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

The Town Clerk read out the fire evacuation procedure and reminded Councillors and members of the public of the Code of Practice relating to Public Participation as stated on the agenda. He also drew members of the public's attention to the laminated rules placed on each seat in the public gallery.

**21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mr D Hinke.

**22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**23. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12 June 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman, as a true record:

**24. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Mr M Dodds, Greys Road*

Mr Dodds commented that recent public participation has uncovered positive feelings about a memorial to George Harrison being erected in the Town. He felt this was important and should be fed into the discussion about the Mermaid Statue on the agenda.

*Mrs A Chumas, Bell Street*

Mrs Chumas, reading from a prepared statement, questioned certain members impartiality with regards to the Stopping Up Order in Bell Street. She explained the advantages of the Stopping Up Order, and felt that it would result in a safer environment for the residents of Bell Street and contrary to popular opinion, it would

not mean that the green would be turned into a car park. She summarised her reasons, believing that health and safety issues alone should determine the outcome.

*Mr D Whittingham, The Malthouse*

Mr Whittingham referred to the fact that there were many people that deserved public recognition for the work and commitment they continuously gave to the Town. He drew particular attention to the District Council's contract road sweeper and felt that the Council should consider a way of rewarding him for all his hard work.

Mr Whittingham was astounded that the Public Inquiry over the Stopping-Up Order was being held at the SODC offices in Crowmarsh rather than at a more local venue, he felt that they had been negligent in making this decision.

*Mrs Dodds, Grey's Road*

Mrs Dodds highlighted the need to cut back the hedge on Grey's Road. She felt that it would not become such a safety problem if it was cut regularly and she was aware that SODC had attended to it last year and that they needed approaching as a matter of urgency.

*Mrs Beyts, Lower Assendon*

Mrs Beyts, Organiser of the Henley Diamond Jubilee River Pageant River Committee, thanked the Councillors for all their support with organising the river pageant this year which had proved to be extremely successful. She presented the Mayor with a gift of a souvenir print and flag from the event on behalf of the Committee.

**25. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Members had before them reports from District Councillors Mrs J Bland, Mrs E Hodgkin, Mrs J Wood and Mr W Hall. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

Matters arising from reports:

A member highlighted the fact that SODC now had recycling facilities in place for some small electrical items, this included batteries, mobile phones and laptops. They could be placed in clear plastic bags and placed on the top of household green bins on recycling day. There would also be a pink bin situated in Grey's Road car park for this public purpose too.

**County Councillors' Reports**

County Councillor Dr P Skolar referred to his report which he had emailed to Councillors previously and gave a verbal update:

***Badgemore Primary School Extension:*** The allocated funds for this work had been ringfenced and the School are aware that once the work commences they will be able to access it.

***Resurfacing:*** Works will begin shortly in short sections along the entire length of Newtown Road from Reading Road, this will include footway resurfacing and kerbing works.

***Census Report:*** The census figures for children under the age of four illustrated that it had increased by 3.9% over the projected figure. This translated to approximately five hundred extra children living in the county and this would obviously have an impact on school admissions. It was re-iterated that OCC would ensure that all these children would be provided with a school place and all Henley schoolchildren would be placed in the Town, although they may not be offered their first choice.

A member enquired as to whether these demographic projections included the Neighbourhood Plans as this would have an impact on this figure. It was confirmed that these were figures based on the 2011 Census Data and not on future projections.

County Councillor Mr D Nimmo-Smith referred to his report which he had emailed to Councillors previously and gave a verbal update:

**Roadworks:** Finally, the footway reconstruction in Kings Close is going ahead and this news was welcomed by members. It was confirmed that funds for this work were coming from the Capital Fund.

**Chilterns Conservation Board:** Their Sustainable Development Fund has given grants to organisations for producing and distributing Local Food Booklets. This might be an initiative that HTC may like to investigate, information about the scheme was given to the Town Clerk.

**26. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members received copies of reports from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) and The River and Rowing Museum. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

**27. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from 7 June 2012 – 18 July 2012 inclusive for the Mayor, copy attached to the agenda. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for his unstinting support throughout this particularly busy month. She was delighted that the Olympic Torch Relay had been so well organised and that it had been such an enormous benefit to Henley, it was an event that brought all the town together. She expressed special thanks to Matt Prosser, Strategic Director at SODC, and extended thanks to all the Councillors and Council staff, and all other people that had been involved in making it such a significant event.

A member requested that special thanks be recorded in the minutes to Jacqui Brazil and Gareth Bartle for all their help and commitment to the event.

The Mayor confirmed that the date for the special meeting of Full Council to consider the application for the redevelopment proposals for Townlands Hospital was 21 August 2012. It was noted that this would be an open meeting and there would be public participation in the normal way.

**28. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

(i) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19 June 2012 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19 June 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

*Arising from the report:*

Minute 30 – Appeal Decision

Members aired concern that although they accepted the Inspector's decision, there was disappointment that this modern design had been approved and that it

would set a precedent for such buildings in a Conservation Area. Members were assured that the Inspector was obliged to carry out a site visit as well as processing all representations pertaining to the appeal.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10 July 2012 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10 July 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 26 June 2012 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 26 June 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 3 July 2012 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 3 July 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

*Arising from the report:*

Minute 25 – Solar Panel Installation at the Town Hall

A member aired concern about HTC getting permission for solar panels to be installed on a listed building and that they were against it from a visual point of view. A member confirmed that the panels would not be visible from ground level and they would not be visible in the main landscape of Henley. Planning permission would have to be obtained and that the Town Clerk was currently in discussions with English Heritage to ensure that the installation was being handled correctly.

Minute 29 – Code of Conduct

A member reported that SODC had passed the Code of Conduct but in the implementation of it, they conceded on the following two points;

- i) At present, the Councillor in question is named but the subject of the allegation is not, this will now be revealed.
- ii) If the panel rejects an allegation made against a Councillor, they will simply state that it has been rejected.

Minute 31 ii – Northfield End

Members discussed the wording of this item and after discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 3 July 2012 be amended and the following words added “A member felt that HTC should be negotiating by now rather than heading to a Public Inquiry.”

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 10 July 2012 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 10 July 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

*Arising from the report:*

Minute 26 – Red Lion Lawn

A Member aired concern over £10,000 being a rather excessive amount to be allocated to carry out the necessary works on Red Lion Lawn. The Town Clerk explained that the District Council's concerns were shared by English Heritage, he confirmed that Riverworks Ltd have put forward an alternative scheme which will make the development more successful.

Minute 28 – Mermaid Statue

The Council received, considered and discussed additional information about the proposal to locate a Mermaid Statue in Henley. Members were divided on whether this was a suitable piece of public art for the Town and also the nature of the proposal was regarded by some members as just being a promotional tool for the art organisation involved. It was stated, that the installation of the statue and the publishing of the brochure would be beneficial in attracting tourists to the Town. This discussion generated a debate about public art in Henley and a member suggested that a longer term initiative should be the provision of an allocated site where local sculptors could display their work.  
It was RESOLVED

that the Council accept the Mermaid Statue being located on a riverside site in Henley subject to a draft contract being drawn up which includes the additional clauses:

- i) A "get out" clause – which would be at the Council's discretion
- ii) Confirmation that the promoter will "make good" the site where the sculpture is to be located, once it is removed.
- iii) Subject to the fact that there are only twenty of these sculptures worldwide; and
- iv) that the matter be referred back to the Recreation and Amenities Committee so that they could consider a site for the statute and the revised contract.

- (v) The Minutes of the meeting of the Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee held on 20 June 2012 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee held on 10 July 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The meeting closed at 21:25.

*ppd*

*Mayor*