

**Present:** The Chairman, Councillor Kellie Hinton  
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Laurence Plant  
Councillor Ian Clark  
Councillor Donna Crook  
Councillor Dave Eggleton  
Councillor John Hooper  
Councillor Sarah Miller  
Councillor Laurence Plant

Helen Gaynor – Friends of Freeman’s & Northfield End and Bell Street Residents’ Group

**In Attendance:** Karl Bishop – Parks Service Manager  
Kyle Dowling – Horticultural and Senior Parks Warden  
Becky Walker – Estates Manager

**Also Present:** 4 members of the public

The Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, Councillor Kellie Hinton took the Chair.

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Kellie Hinton called for nominations for the election of Chairman for the municipal year 2019 – 20.

Councillor Sarah Miller proposed and Councillor John Hooper seconded that Councillor Kellie Hinton be elected.

There being no further nominations, and following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**

**that Councillor Kellie Hinton be elected Chairman of the Open and Green Spaces Sub Committee for the municipal year 2019 – 20**

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman called for nominations for the election of Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2019 – 20.

The Chairman, Councillor Kellie Hinton proposed and Councillor Sarah Miller seconded that Councillor Laurence Plant be elected.

There being no further nominations, and following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**

**that Councillor Laurence Plant be elected Vice Chairman of the Open and Green Spaces Sub Committee for the municipal year 2019 – 20**

**3. WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Ian Clark and John Hooper to the Sub Committee.

4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members received and noted the terms of reference for this Sub Committee.

5. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Councillor Ken Arlett, Sally Rankin and Lynne Adams.

6. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor John Hooper declared an interest in items concerning moorings as the lease of moorings from Henley Town Council at Thameside.

7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

None.

8. **MINUTES**

The Sub Committee received, approved and adopted the minutes of the Open and Green Spaces Sub Committee held on 5 April 2019 and they were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

9. **USE OF MILL MEADOWS**

- i. Members received a report regarding charges for events at Mill and Marsh Meadows. The Sub Committee agreed that a balance had to be found between the peaceful enjoyment of this public open space and the benefits that sponsored events can bring to the broader Henley community.

A member queried whether the May Fair should return to Mill Meadows as there is more space and would cause less disruption to the traffic however it was noted that the May Fair being held in the town centre benefited retailers.

The Sub Committee noted the Calendar of Events for Mill and Marsh Meadows which had been granted permission for 2019. The Chair highlighted the Pop-Up Cinema, the Eat! Food Festival and the Borama event over the next few weekends and asked members to help promote these events.

It was **RESOLVED**

**that the report be noted**

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dave Eggleton joined the meeting at 3.13 pm

- ii. Members received and considered a report regarding a request for the use of Mill Meadows for a branded event in the summer 2019. The Sub Committee agreed that since this would be a ticketed event and not open to the general public and therefore was not an appropriate event for Mill Meadows. However the Sub Committee would consider similar events in the future if they provided an opportunity for the promotion of local produce and local companies.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that the proposal be rejected.**

Four members of the public joined the meeting.

**10. VARIATION TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

**that in view of the members of the public present the Order of Business on the agenda is altered to allow Item 17 – Dog Bins in Henley to be considered next**

**11. DOG BINS IN HENLEY**

Members welcomed a young resident of Henley (and her family) who had written to the Council regarding dog fouling. Dog waste bags were regularly being left in the fields and woods around Henley. The woods in question come under the jurisdiction of Remenham Parish Council and members were aware that new bins were being installed. Members noted that Henley Town Council provided dog waste bins on their land at Mill Meadows, Gillotts Field, Freeman's Meadow and Makins Recreation Ground and dog waste bags are also provided at Mill Meadows. The Sub Committee noted that whilst the Council only has jurisdiction over its land, it can help raise awareness of these types of issues.

The Chair proposed that the young resident be asked to design a poster to educate people about the problem of dog fouling, in liaison with the Chair and Vice Chair and that an amount be allocated in the budget to market and produce it.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that a proposal be made to the Recreation and Amenities Committee for an allocation in the budget for the design and production of a poster to educate people about the problems caused by dog fouling**

The young resident was thanked by members who commended her for bringing this problem to the Council's attention.

Four members of the public left the meeting at 3.32 pm

**12. NORTHFIELD END GREEN UPDATE**

Members received and considered a report from Helen Gaynor regarding improvements at Northfield End Green. Residents were thrilled with the new shrub bed which was exactly what was wanted. The pavements donated by local developer Paul Springett, have been a triumph and thanks have been extended to him. The Residents Group are now gearing up for the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judging on 16 July 2019 as the whole initiative has been entered in the It's Your Neighbourhood category. Viv Greenwood is currently working on the first history board for the new noticeboard to be installed at Northfield End Green.

It was **RESOLVED**

**that the update be noted**

Members noted that there had recently been a tragic fatal accident at Northfield End and the suggestion of a pedestrian crossing being installed was made and it was agreed that this proposal should be referred to the Planning Committee. It was noted that the proposed 20 mph speed limit may have a positive effect on traffic in this area.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that a proposal to provide a pedestrian crossing at Northfield End Green in the light of a recent fatal accident, be referred to the Planning Committee**

**13. FREEMAN'S MEADOW UPDATE**

Members received and considered a report from Helen Gaynor regarding the Freemans Meadow improvements. Wildflower turf is being considered for the meadow as the wildflower seeds have failed. A hedgehog box has been provided by Catherine Notaras. Thanks were expressed to SOHA and Henley in Bloom for funding the Talking Flower Tubes for the playground upgrade, but funding is yet to be found for the animal graphics in the playground resurfacing. The planned start date for the playground upgrade was 12 August, with two weeks prior to that required for the Parks Team to prepare the site. The Sub Committee considered whether the start should be delayed to the beginning of September 2019 to mitigate any complaints regarding the playground closing during the school holidays.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that the start date for the Freeman's Meadow playground upgrade be postponed until September 2019**

**14. MILL MEADOWS - RIVER AND ROWING MUSEUM**

Members noted that Lynne Adams, Operations Director would be leaving the River and Rowing Museum. The Sub Committee wished her well and looked forward to meeting a new representative.

**15. UPDATE ON HORTICULTURE**

Members received a report from Kyle Dowling, Horticulture Park Warden on horticulture in the town. Successful hanging basket workshops had been held at the town's primary schools as well as a Gardening Club at Gillotts School. Planters are to be installed at Wootton Manor Shops and Thames and Chiltern in Bloom judging will take place on 18 July.

It was suggested that householders near to green spaces could be approached to see if they want to improve their local areas similar to the Friends of Freemans or Gainsborough Residents Association.

It was **RESOLVED**

**that the update be noted**

A member requested that an item be placed on the agenda for the Recreation and Amenities Committee for the removal of hedges at Mill Meadows to allow for the creation of more parking spaces.

**16. UPDATE ON CONSERVATION**

Members received a report from Ilona Livarski, Conservation Park Warden on the Parks Service and Henley Wildlife Group's work on the town's wildlife areas. The summer period is general quieter for conservation but lots of wildlife have been enjoying the wildlife areas and Gillotts Field in particular is thriving. Members noted that a Henley Wildlife Week is planned for the 5-9 August 2019 to encourage people to go outside and experience wildlife. An accompanying work booklet is being written for children to complete and they can then become "Henley Junior Wildlife Rangers" and members considered a budget for this..

After discussion It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that £550 be allocated from the Marketing of Facilities at Mill Meadows account (6100) for the design and printing of a booklet for Wildlife Week**

**that £220 plus vat be allocated from the budget for 15m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower turf for Freeman's Meadow**

**that consideration be given to a "Conservation Budget" in the 2020/21 accounts to enable projects to progress**

**17. PROGRESS**

Members received the progress report:

- *Freeman's Meadow Playground* - The order for the upgrade to the playground has been placed with Wicksteed. The date for the commencement of the installation is recommended to be postponed until mid-September.

A donation from SOHA (of £600) and a contribution for Henley in Bloom has allowed for an additional piece of equipment (Talking Flower Tubes) to be added to the playground. The SOHA and Henley in Bloom logos will be incorporated into the playground signage.

Football posts and benches will be installed once the layout of the playground is confirmed in consultation with Friends of Freeman's.

- *Northfield End Green* - The planting of the shrub bed has been completed. Remove from progress.

It was **RESOLVED**

**that the report be noted**

**18. MOORING AND CAR PARKING – MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

Members received and noted the tabled management accounts for Mill Meadows up to March 2019.

**19. USE OF MOORINGS AT MILL MEADOWS**

Members received and considered a request from a local small boat charter company regarding the use of the Town Council's moorings as a drop up/pick up point. The Chair and Parks Manager had met with the owner and had no objections as long as insurances are in order, payments for moorings are made etc. The Sub Committee agreed that the provision of a permanent drop off/pick up point should form part of a riverbank review to undertaken in the autumn.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

**that subject to the approval of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, the company be permitted ad hoc use of Mill Meadows temporary moorings but this should not be for long periods of time**

**that the provision of a permanent drop off/pick up point and steps in to the river be considered as part of the Riverbank Review**

A member reported that the steel coping is coming away from the river bank on Thameside on OCC land. The Sub Committee noted that Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak is dealing with this matter in his capacity as County Councillor.

20. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates of future meetings were agreed as follows:

**Friday 5 October 2019 at 9 am**

(to be presented to the Recreation and Amenities Committee on 22 October 2019)

**Friday 10 January 2020 at 9 am**

(to be presented to the Recreation and Amenities Committee on 21 January 2020)

**Friday 20 March 2020 at 9 am**

(to be presented to the Recreation and Amenities Committee on 7 April 2020)

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm.

Chairman

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