

Present: Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (Chairman)
Councillor A Follett (Vice Chairman)
Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood
Mrs G Follett
Mr A Hawkins
Mrs C Langler
Mrs R Reed
Mrs M Taylor
Mr M Jex
Mr K Bishop, Park Services (in attendance)

Also Present: Miss J Smith - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors Mrs G Dodds, Mrs R Myer, Mr C Pye, and Mr S Khan.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

52. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Henley in Bloom / Civic Pride Meeting held on 3 March 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

53. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

54. PROGRESS

A Progress Report was noted and tabled at the meeting.

YMCA Project Phase 2 – Minutes: 546, 564, 576, 589, 7, 19, 35

The Chairman advised that she had spoken with the YMCA and offered the Gardening Buddies services for the next Phase of the project.

Royal Wedding Commemorative Flowerbeds, Mill Meadows – Minutes 37, 43

The Chairman advised that the beds had been prepared for late May planting (post frost) and a holding notice would be placed on the information board in front of the beds informing the public that the commemorative flowerbeds were coming soon.

Thames and Chiltern Regional Competition- Minute 48

The Chairman advised that she had received an email from Trinity School, who had been very active in producing vegetables and using their produce for cooking last year. They want to be involved in the Regional Competition and it was agreed that this could tie in nicely with the idea of using locally grown produce for the judges' lunch. The Chairman confirmed that she is to have a meeting in May with Trinity School to discuss the idea further with the possibility of holding the lunch in the grounds of the school.

It was confirmed that no notification had been received from Thames and Chiltern regarding the judges visiting on the 14 July and a response would be received in May.

55. BUDGET UPDATE

The Committee received and noted the budget report as at the 6 April 2011. It was

RESOLVED that the balance £9,899.10 be carried forward into the 2011/12 financial year.

The Chairman advised members that the Town Council's horticultural contract had recently gone out to tender with a recommendation being made at the next Recreation and Amenities Committee on 26 April 2011. However, the promotion/sales campaign for the sponsored hanging baskets would need to take place in early May, prior to the election, and therefore a decision regarding the cost of the sponsored hanging needed to be confirmed. The preferred contractor had quoted £43.00 per basket for sponsored summer and winter baskets and it was agreed that the hanging baskets remain at the 2010 price of £57.50 per basket including VAT which still allowed a small amount for administration costs with a discount to sponsors of £5.00 for ordering a summer and winter baskets at the time of placing an order. It was

RESOLVED that 2011 sponsored summer and winter hanging baskets remain at £57.50 per basket including VAT with a discount to sponsors of £5.00 for ordering a summer and winter baskets at the time of placing an order.

56. GARDENING BUDDIES

The Chairman advised that there had been two successful and well attended Gardening Buddy sessions held recently, with a new volunteer joining the team. Work had been carried out at the various beds in Mill Meadows. The next meet on the 16 April would be at the Youth Centre with Toad Hall providing the plants and soil. The following session on the 28 April would focus on the entrance beds.

57. STATION PARK

The Chairman advised that following a meeting with Chiltern House Business Centre they had kindly agreed to sponsor Station Park for £600 for the next five years. At the meeting, they had expressed they would like to see the grass area rejuvenated and hence members had before them a quote (attached to the agenda) with three options for reseeded or re-turfing 225sqm of the grass area. It was agreed that sponsorship monies would cover the work required to rejuvenate the grass area. It was

RESOLVED that option 3.1 (a) from the report be adopted to seed bear patch of grass totalling 225sqm (approx. half the total area) including seed and topsoil at a cost of £600.

58. SPONSORSHIP

It was agreed that two signs should be purchased for Station Park in recognition of Chiltern House Business Centre's five year sponsorship of this area. It was

RESOLVED that two HIB sponsorship signs are purchased for Station Park in recognition of Chiltern House Business Centre's sponsorship five year commitment and a letter is sent confirming this agreement.

Action: Confirmation in writing to be sent regarding the five year sponsorship agreement with Chiltern House Business Centre and signs to be produced.

The Chairman advised that Henley Standard were considering sponsorship of the Gravel Hill flowerbed for £500 for the next three years. A request had been made by them for three signs to be displayed on this bed to recognise this sponsorship. However, members agreed that this would be overkill and agreed two signs would be adequate. The Chairman agreed to confirm the Sub Committees decision with the Henley Standard. It was

RESOLVED that once Henley Standard has confirmed two HIB sponsorship signs are purchased for Gravel Hill flowerbed in recognition of their sponsorship of £500 per annum for three years and a letter is sent confirming this agreement.

Action: Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin to confirm with the Henley Standard the sub committee's decision for two signs and then a letter sent confirming the agreement and signs to be produced.

The Chairman advised that Henley Standard were also keen to sponsor a bed along the Fairmile or the entrance to the town. A discussion took place as to the various options that could be available. It was agreed that further discussions needed to take place on a suitable area in this part of the town.

The Mayor confirmed that following a letter that had been sent to Hofmanns asking if they would sponsor a flowerbed in the town, a positive response had been received that they would be interested. A flowerbed on Reading Road near to the Lions Wishing Well or Valley Road bed would be ideal as this was opposite Hofmann's premises. The Mayor agreed to discuss flowerbed options with Hofmanns as well as discussing a sponsorship amount and bring an update back to the next meeting.

The Mayor confirmed that she had also spoken with HiQ Tyres, Reading Road who had confirmed that they would be planting tyre planters again this year to brighten up their forecourt.

The Chairman advised members of the 'Woa! Rhino' initiative and details were tabled as a possibility for Station Park. This initiative is a public art initiative that engages businesses, schools, local communities and artists for Oxfordshire. Members agreed that although this was a good initiative they felt that £4500 was a big commitment with no guarantees of getting sponsorship. Also, members felt that Rhinos had no connection with Henley.

It was suggested that La Barca (a new restaurant on Thameside) is approached regarding purchasing hanging baskets and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin would approach the owners.

59. **20011/12 EVENTS**

HIB Week – week commencing 23.5.11

- Gardener's Question time – 26.5.11

The Chairman confirmed that this would take place in the Council Chamber, Town Hall with Mrs Jenny Herrington, Mr Martin Sheldrake and Mr Andrew Hawkins sitting on the panel with the focus on flowers and shrubs. She advised that Toad Hall had included an advert for the event in a recent garden centre catalogue.

- Plant Sale and Swap and 'Plants on the Move' – 28.5.11

It was agreed that this year members of the public should do the judging for the plants on the move. Councillor A Follett confirmed that he would email all last year's entrants to let them know that this competition would be taking place again this year and work with Mr R Reed to promote the event in the Henley Standard.

Mr G Follett advised that she would not be able to take any plants not sold at the sale home to water. Mr A Hawkins volunteered to take any remaining plants following the event.

- Flower Arranging Demonstration – date tbc

The Chairman confirmed that there would be one afternoon demonstration.

Pride in Your Place Competition

Following promotion of the event in the Henley Standard there had been no interest received from members of the public regarding this competition. It was suggested that a memo be sent to all Councillors with a copy of the A5 leaflet explaining the criteria for the competition.

Action: Committee Administrator to do memo to all Councillors.

Front and Back Gardens and Pubs/Restaurants Competition Judging

Judging dates were agreed as follows: 16 July 2011 for back gardens; week commencing 18 July 2011 for front gardens; and 21 July 2011 for pubs and restaurants with judging panels to be confirmed at a later date.

Front and Back Gardens : Pubs and Restaurants : Pride in Your Place Awards Ceremony – 6.10.11

Members agreed to the evening of 6 October 2011 for the competitions awards ceremony which would be held in the Town Hall.

60. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that this was the last meeting of this Sub Committee for this council and the Chairman gave her thanks to the Councillors and co-opted members for their support and hard work over the past years. Although there would not be a date of next meeting set for the Sub Committee until post elections, it was agreed that a working group should meet to move ahead the planning of the events for the Henley in Bloom week and **Thursday, 12 May 2011 at 9.30am in the Committee Room** was noted.

The meeting closed at 11.20am.

js

Chairman