

Present: Mayor, Councillor Miss L Hillier
Deputy Mayor, Councillor J Brookes
Councillor Ms S Abey
Councillor Miss H Chandler-Wilde
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor Ms S Miller
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Mrs J Smewing
Councillor S Smith
Councillor D Thomas

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

18 members of the Public

1 member of the Media

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Akehurst. Having regard to the nature of Councillor Akehurst's illness, it was **RESOLVED**

that extended leave of absence be granted to Councillor Akehurst for six months on grounds of ill health.

19. MAYORS CADET

The Mayor inducted L/Cpl Matthew Case as the Mayor's Cadet for the municipal year 2015-16 and presented him with the badge of office and a certificate.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21. MINUTES

(i)The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **23 June 2015** were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save to the following extent:

Minute No.10 – Five Member Motion

Following a response from English Heritage on a previous consultation on the draft Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan, a Member proposed that the additional vision be inserted at the end of the Heritage and History Section of the final submission version of the Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan, *'To conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings and move the following into this new objectives section:*

- *Housing Vision objection HO6, which become HH01*
- *Environment Vision object E07, which becomes HH02*

It was **RESOLVED**

that the minutes be amended to reflect this amendment.

22. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Miss M Bond, St Andrews Road

Miss Bond spoke of the recent decision of the Town and Community Committee to relocate the BT Telephone box from the corner of St. Andrews and Belle Vue Road to Greys Road to house a defibrillator. She outlined her idea of the telephone box remaining in its current location and being refurbished to become a community library, this change of use had proved successful in other towns and local residents were also supportive of this idea.

Members felt that this community initiative should be investigated further and the Vice Chair of the Town and Community Committee agreed that it would be an item on the agenda at the next meeting due to be held on 1st September 2015.

Mrs P Philips, St Marks Road

Mrs Philips spoke on the issue of the Council earmarking £70k from the capital budget to improve the sound system for use within the town hall and the quotes that had been obtained from the previous Council. She urged Council to fully consider the facilitation of the improvement to this technical facility. The Town Clerk informed her that this initiative had progressed and that other quotes and consultations had taken place that would feed into an updated report due to be submitted to the Town and Community Committee next month.

Mrs G Dodds, Greys Road

Mrs Dodds gave feedback to Council on the provision of baby swings in the Toddler Playground at Mill Meadows, she asked Members to consider installing extra swings for this age group within this new amenity. Following her observations and discussions with other users it was apparent that at least one extra swing would mean that it would meet the needs of its users more adequately.

Members were in agreement that this flaw in the recent design of the amenity should be addressed and that it was being done as part of a review of all the recreational facilities owned by HTC by the newly appointed Parks Sub Committee.

Mr C Langler, Queen Street

Mr Langler expressed his concern that not all County and District Councillors' reports had been submitted ahead of the Full Council meeting along with the agenda as this resulted in a lack of openness with the public.

Mr J Dean, Regatta Villas, Meadow Road

Mr J Dean spoke on Agenda Item No.10.iii. Finance Strategy and Management Committee Meeting – Minute No. 32iii – Offer to purchase HTC land at Mill Meadows. He wanted to take the opportunity to suggest to Council that an alternative to purchasing this piece of land would be for him to lease it on the condition that HTC could reclaim it at short notice, he urged Council to refer it back to the Finance Strategy and Management Committee for further consideration.

Mr S Narracott, Gainsborough Road

Mr Narracott enquired as to whose responsibility the guttering at the bottom of Greys Road was as the guttering opposite the Police Station was currently unstable and needed immediate attention to ensure that it didn't pose as a safety hazard to the public. Members assured him that they would investigate this situation and report it to the relevant authority.

23. **DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS**

Members had before them a report from District Councillor S Gawrysiak. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report

Councillor Mrs J Bland apologised for not submitting a report ahead of the meeting but the work that she had been involved with was of a confidential nature and it would be inappropriate for her to submit a report divulging personal details.

She reiterated the funding opportunities available through SODC's Infrastructure Fund which was available to fund infrastructure improvements in the towns and larger villages of the district. She suggested various projects and initiatives that would improve the aesthetics and facilities within Henley Town Centre that would fulfil the funding criteria.

She also spoke on the recent success of the use of Pop-up shops being used as a means of trialling the feasibility of Start-up businesses in Wallingford. Anyone interested in considering utilising this initiative should contact the Economic Development team at SODC. It was suggested that this opportunity should be promoted by the local media.

Councillor Gawrysiak suggested that a useful application of the Infrastructure Fund would be to repair and refurbish various street signage around the town as some of the lettering was in poor condition – this would also help retain the heritage appeal of the signage. Members suggested various areas and street signs where this attention was necessary.

A Member requested confirmation on the status of the Henley Skatepark Initiative funding application and was informed that an application for match funding of £100k had been submitted to SODC.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Members had before them a report from County Councillor D Nimmo Smith. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

County Councillor D Nimmo Smith referred to his report which had been previously circulated to Councillors and gave a verbal update on the following issues:

He confirmed that the public consultations on both Waste Recycling and Children's Centres were underway as the County Council had to make cuts so it was essential that both the Public and the Council participated. He also confirmed that the date of a public consultation on subsidised transport was scheduled for 3 September at 7pm in the Town Hall which was an opportunity for residents to officially register comments on the local bus services.

He announced that a programme of replacing the street lighting with a more energy efficient LED lighting scheme was due to be undertaken. Members questioned the Town Council's involvement in the choice of this maintenance work but were informed that as it was deemed renewal work and not capital work consultation with local authorities was unnecessary.

On the 23rd July he had agreed the parking restrictions throughout Henley Town Centre, following consultation so they would now be approved and implemented. A

member spoke in his capacity as a resident of Northfield End, stressing the concern over the safety of on-street parking in this area of the town. He was told that there would be a public consultation on this issue within the next 6 months.

He confirmed that new bollards were being provided in West Street and that the style would be similar to those in Market Place.

24. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Ms S Abey spoke of hers and Councillor S Smith's concern about the Fairtrade Group of which they were representatives on, currently only had a membership of two so they requested that the Henley Standard assisted them in advertising for new members. They felt that it was imperative that the Fairtrade Status of the town continued and that they would like to extend the scope of the group to reflect the social responsibility that they were aware was a priority for local residents.

25. TOWNLANDS STEERING GROUP (TSG)

Members had before them a letter (copy attached) that the TSG was proposing to send to Mr D Smith, the Chief Executive for Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) in order to resolve the issues over their plans for the proposed service model operating at the new Townlands Development.

Members discussed the contents within the letter and the importance of the TSG maintaining a positive working relationship with the OCCG in order to address and resolve the situation. The Chairman confirmed that the Mayor had agreed to spearhead a fundraising campaign so that this could be comprehensively and realistically achieved. He emphasised the importance of managing expectations and asked for any members of the public that had relevant experience and skills in this area to come forward.

26. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS

Members had before them the list of Mayoral Civic engagements from the Mayor for the period **17 June – 28 July 2015. It was RESOLVED**

that the list of Mayoral civic engagements be received and noted.

The Mayor highlighted various events she had attended over this period and some of the activities she had participated in.

27. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 30 June & 21 July 2015 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 30 June & 21 July 2015 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on 30 June 2015 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 30 June 2015 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted having regard to the following matters arising:

Minute No. 23 – Progress – Sound System

A Member reiterated the fact that new quotes and research on improving the sound and vision system within the town hall had been undertaken and that the Town Clerk would submit a report regarding this project to the next Town and Community meeting to be held on 1 September. He confirmed that although a figure of £70k from the capital budget had been earmarked it may not all be allocated to the project. A

Member called for a complete cost analysis of the potential venue hire return to be undertaken in relation to the investment in this initiative. Members invited any interested members of the public to attend this meeting.

Minute No. 23 – Progress – Reinstatement of Georgian Pavement in Bell Street

Members felt that the reinstatement of the pavement was a significant development in having the area restored.

Minute No. 23 – Progress – Telephone Box at St Andrews Road

Following the suggestion of the change of use of this piece of local heritage, a Member clarified the earlier decision for it to be discussed at the next Town and Community meeting to be held on 1 September.

Minute No. 30 – Joint Homelessness Strategy 2015-2020

A Member let Council know that a copy of this Strategy document was currently with the Administrator, Mrs N Taylor.

(iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on **14 July 2015** were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 14 July 2015 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on **7 July 2015** were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 7 July 2015 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

The Chair spoke on the recent work and commitment that had been undertaken by the In Bloom Committee, Officers, Parks Staff and Community Groups in entering the various horticultural campaigns at regional, national and European levels recently. In particular the Entente Florale Europe which was ran extremely efficiently. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Council's thanks and appreciation be recorded in the minutes to key members of staff: Mrs B Walker; Mrs P Price-Davies; Mr G Bartle; Mr K Bishop; Committee Members; Councillors D Eggleton and Miss K Hinton; Mr and Mrs C Langler and the Gardening Buddies.

He also felt that it was important to acknowledge the tremendous work that Biffa's Senior Waste and Recycling Officer, Alex Pyle and her team undertook each year in ensuring that Henley Town Centre was so rigorously and swiftly cleaned immediately following the regatta to return it to its usual state of cleanliness.

Minute No.19 – Allotment Rents

Members discussed the suggested increase in allotment rents for 2016/17. It was **RESOLVED**

that the suggested increase in allotment rents for 2016/17 be referred back to the next meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee to be held on 8 September 2015 with powers to act given the notice period required to inform allotment holders of proposed rent increases.

28. BRANDING

Members had before them a report on the introduction on the new branding from the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk made a presentation to Council on the context and development of the new Council branding. He also pointed out the fact that various signage in the town was in dire need of updating and replacing and that funding for this was available through allocated Section 106 funds, this would mark the beginning of incorporating the new branding into town signage. A debate ensued as to the adoption of the new branding and the importance of retaining the Coat of Arms. Members were in agreement that the new design scheme and its application strengthened the Council's branding, making it more prominent and consistent but the Coat of Arms should be preserved for Civic Functions, Mayoral events and agendas. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Mayor and Town Clerk would draw up a list of approved applications for both the new branding and the Coat of Arms and that it would be presented to the next Town and Community meeting to be held on 1 September and be approved at the next meeting of the Full Council to be held on 6 October 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm.

ppd

Mayor