

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton (Mayor)
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Dave Eggleton
Councillor Sara Abey
Councillor Miss Lorraine Hillier
Caroline Langler
Catharine Notaras
Phil Simms

In Attendance: Janet Wheeler – Town Clerk
Karl Bishop – Senior Park Warden
Becky Walker – Committee Administrator

Also Present: No members of the public
1 member of the Press

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Miss Lorraine Hillier.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

19. MINUTES

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee (HiB) held on 9 June 2017 were received, approved and adopted and were signed as a true record.

20. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- i. Members noted the Henley in Bloom Sub Committee was established at the Recreation and Amenities Committee on 16 May 2017 and Councillor Sara Abey was appointed at Full Council on Tuesday 13 June 2017.
- ii. Members noted Ms Marisa Francini has resigned from the Committee – thanks to be extended to Ms Francini for all her work.
- iii. The Chairman welcomed Catharine Notaras to the meeting. Members considered the co-option of Ms Catharine Notaras, who is a member of the Henley Wildlife Group and Henley in Transition, on to the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee and the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that Catharine Notaras be co-opted on to the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee

21. BUDGET UPDATE

- i. The Sub Committee received and noted the budget to date.
- ii. The Sub Committee noted the Christmas Tree shredding which was run by the Parks Services raised £189 for HiB.

22. HANGING BASKETS

- i. The Sub Committee considered the cost of the summer and winter hanging baskets for 2018/19 and noted Windowflowers had advised the cost of the baskets will rise in line with RPI at a rate of 2.7% therefore summer baskets will rise from £45.50 (2017) to £46.75 and winter/spring baskets from £39.50 (2017) to £40.50. In the 2017 the charge to customers was £50 + vat (£60 in vat) for summer baskets and £45.93 + vat (£55 inc vat). Members noted the cost includes hiring the basket for the season plus watering and maintenance.

After consideration it was **RESOLVED**

that the charge for the hanging baskets in 2018 are as follows:-

Summer baskets	- £51.67 + vat (£62 inc vat)
Winter baskets	- £46.67 + vat (£56 inc vat)

The Chairman thanked the Henley Standard for their continued support of the basket campaign.

- ii. The Sub Committee considered HiB once again paying for (at a cost of £46.75 per basket) baskets on community buildings as follows-
 - 2 summer baskets to be placed on the CAB building in Market Place
 - 2 baskets at the Fire Station in West Street by the edible bed

After consideration members **RESOLVED**

that the Committee should wait to see if any baskets are donated by the community which could be installed at the CAB and Fire Station

23. HENLEY ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROJECT COMPETITION

Members considered a proposal from the Chairman for HiB to contribute a donation of £100 towards the prize for the Henley Environmental Science Project for schools. Other sponsors include the Henley Vet Practice and Quintessa.

The Chairman advised 7 local schools have entered this year and the prize giving would be held at the River and Rowing Museum in June.

Members felt the competition was an excellent platform to introduce and encourage children to get involved in environmental projects and matched the Bloom campaign's educational and environmental objectives.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that £100 be donated from the Henley in Bloom budget as prize money to the Henley Environmental Science Project competition

24. HENLEY WILDLIFE GROUP/GREYS ROAD EMBANKMENT

Members received a report regarding the proposed wildlife interpretation board for the Greys Road Embankment and considered a contribution from HiB to the cost.

The Chairman advised HiB had contributed to the historical interpretation boards in the town and it was keeping with the educational aspect of the Bloom campaign.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that £150 be donated from the Henley in Bloom budget towards the cost of the proposed wildlife interpretation board for the Greys Road Embankment

25. WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY – EVENTS AND PROJECTS

i. CHELSEA FRINGE IN HENLEY

Members noted the date for this year's (the fourth) Floral Flotilla has been suggested as **Sunday 20 May 2018 between 2 and 4 pm** and a request for the use of the moorings at Mill Meadows will be included on the Recreation and Amenities agenda for Tuesday 27 February 2018.

Members were asked to consider supporting the Chelsea Fringe in Henley in organising this event. The Chairman advised that she would once again source a boat to enter on behalf of HiB.

The Chairman advised the launch of the Chelsea Fringe in Henley 2018 is to be held on Thursday 1 March 2018 at 1.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall and all are welcome.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom support the Chelsea Fringe in Henley 2018 and the fourth Floral Flotilla

ii. HENLEY LITTER PICK

Members noted the date of the 2018 Henley Litter Pick is **Saturday 21 April 2018**. Volunteers from the community will be asked for suggestions on areas to litter pick and information will be sent to schools, sports clubs, youth groups etc.

Members applauded litter picks however discussed ways to raise all-year round awareness of preventing litter including:-

- produce leaflets, "Bin it" campaign in local media
- visit schools to promote not dropping litter
- a sign which can be loaned out to indicate where an area has been litter picked to promote awareness – this is a system used in the New Forest
- take every opportunity at all Bloom and town events to give a 5 minute talk on stopping litter and sustainability eg at the Environmental Science Project prize-giving, Park Run, sponsored walks etc

Members considered a budget of up to £80 to provide refreshments following the litter pick. Donations and sponsorship will also be sought.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that up to £80 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget to pay for the cost of refreshments following the litter pick on Saturday 21 April 2018 (between 10 am – 12 noon)

iii. GARDENING BUDDIES

Members received and noted an update from Gardening Buddies regarding their plans for 2018 which will focus on consolidating the areas already planted including the corner of Newtown Estate, Lions Bed and Gardening Buddy Bed (Reading Road), Roundabout, Herb Garden in West Street, Mill Lane Car Park bed, Rotary and Twinning Beds at Mill Meadows, tubs in the town etc. It was suggested the wheelbarrows on the Reading Road be removed as the bulbs are coming up.

The Chairman also highlighted how the Gardening Buddies had worked with 3 students who had chosen working with the Gardening Buddies as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

Members considered allocating up to £300 for plants for the containers and beds around the town cared for by Gardening Buddies. Members noted Gardening Buddies give their time for free and that this was great value for money.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that up to £300 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for Gardening Buddies to purchase plants for the containers and beds in the town

iv. COMMUNITY ORCHARD AT PARADISE ROAD

The Chairman updated members on the planting of the Community Orchard at Paradise Road where a variety of plum, apple, pear and cherries was planted on Saturday 20 January 2018. Over 30 local residents attended and volunteers are still coming forward to help.

v. PLANT SALE

The Chairman suggested Henley in Bloom participate once again in the Allotments Association (AA) and Greenshoots plant sale this year following a meeting with the Chairman of the AA. The Chairman advised her partner would donate plants. Members were asked to support the event by either growing plants or helping on the day.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom take part in the Allotments Association plant sale on Saturday 2 June 2018 (10 am – 1 pm)

vi. SCHOOLS IN BLOOM

a. Members considered suggestions for this year's Schools in Bloom 2018. The Chairman advised the next agenda item "Championing the Hedgehog" could be a schools' project.

- b. Members considered a request from Sacred Heart Primary School for funds from the Henley in Bloom Schools' Fund towards the restoration of their greenhouse to enable the children to cultivate seed and seedlings.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that £200 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom Schools' Fund to be used towards the restoration of their greenhouse

26. CHAMPIONING THE HEDGEHOG

Members considered a suggestion from Catharine Notaras for Henley in Bloom to "Champion the Hedgehog" in 2018. Ms Notaras explained how hedgehog numbers are in a decline due to a number of reasons including:-

- lack of habitat
- fences preventing hedgehogs from roaming and searching for food
- hedgehogs not putting on sufficient weight before starting hibernation

Members felt "Championing the Hedgehog" would be an excellent schools' project.

Ways to help hedgehogs were discussed and the following comments were made:-

- liaising with planners and developers to build in hedgehog friendly policies eg putting in hedgehog access at bottom of fences (small holes). It was suggested the Neighbourhood Plan Committee be advised and asked to promote this.
- visit school assemblies and give talks on how hedgehogs can be helped eg feeding them cat food, how to provide habitats for hedgehogs and their food source (beetles)
- raising awareness of hedgehogs with fun activities eg making hedgehog cakes, making ceramic hedgehogs etc
- bonfire night warnings regarding hedgehogs hibernating

Catharine Notaras and Councillor Dave Eggleton spoke with knowledge about this project and it was suggested they lead on this project and visit schools assemblies to promote it.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom "Champion the Hedgehog" in 2018 and that Catharine Notaras and Cllr Dave Eggleton lead on this project and involve schools and youth groups

27. NORTHFIELD END TRIANGLE AND GREEN

- i. Members noted the triangle at Northfield End has now been transferred to the Town Council and members considered any future planting or landscaping plans for this area.

The Chairman suggested members email suggestions for the next meeting.

- ii. Members considered a request for a memorial bench to be placed on the Triangle at Northfield End however felt, until any landscaping plans were decided for this area, it would be premature to give any permissions for a bench. However other locations were suggested eg Freemans Meadow or the Community Orchard.

28. THAMES AND CHILTERN IN BLOOM

- i. Members noted that Henley was awarded a Gold in the Town Category of the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom 2017.
- ii. Members considered Henley entering the regional Thames and Chilterns in Bloom campaign in 2018. During discussion the following comments were made:-
 - not entering for a year would provide time to concentrate on new projects, review existing projects and come back fresh in 2019
 - entering is time consuming. If Henley did enter help from Committee members would be required particularly as the Chairman is Mayor until May
 - entering gives a focus and provides momentum

The Chairman advised she would take these comments to the Recreation and Amenities Committee on Tuesday 27 February 2018 when this matter would be considered and would email Bloom members following the meeting.

- iii. The Chairman advised that the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Seminar which took place on Thursday 2 November 2017 at the Town Hall was a great success and was well attended with 32 delegates from 15 different Bloom groups from around the region.

29. GARDENS OF HENLEY 2017 AND 2018

The Chairman gave a verbal update of the "Gardens of Henley 2017" and the Awards Evening held in October. The Chairman advised, and members agreed, that the Gardens of Henley competition would benefit from a review and re-structuring to give it a fresh image. A discussion ensued and the following comments were made:-

- new entrants should be encouraged
- previous winners to be invited to be judges
- find a way to link the schools to the competition
- front gardens only should be judged as these are visible to members of the public. Back gardens are very time consuming to judge
- look at how other towns operate their gardening competitions
- Councillors to be invited to the awards ceremony

Members were asked to email any other ideas they may have.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the Chairman and Caroline Langer, who has organised the competition in recent years, meet to review all aspects and report back to the next meeting

30. CELEBRATION BEDS

Members considered a theme for the Celebration Beds at Mill Meadows for 2018.

The 100th anniversary of the RAF, the 70th anniversary of the NHS and the 200th anniversary of the Leander Club were suggested. It was suggested a site nearer to the Leander Club maybe more appropriate rather than Mill Meadows and Red Lion Lawn was suggested – the Chairman agreed to contact the Leander Club to discuss this further. The NHS was felt appropriate with the recent opening of the Townlands

Memorial Hospital in Henley and celebrating the RAF's anniversary would give an opportunity to involve the Air Cadets in Henley.

After discussion it **RESOLVED**

that there be 2 themes for the Celebration Beds in 2018 – the 100th anniversary of the RAF and the 70th anniversary of the NHS

that up to £250 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for the design and provision of the information board

that the Chairman speak with the Leander Club regarding the possibility of having a display at Red Lion Lawn to celebrate their 200th anniversary

The possibility of having an additional Celebration Bed at Freemans Meadow was suggested and it was felt this idea should be investigated.

31. MAYOR'S ROSE

Members considered an offer from the Chairman, in her role as Mayor, to donate a number of roses entitled "The Mayor's Rose" and were asked to consider where the roses could be planted. It was suggested the rose - a semi double bloom which attracts bees and is lightly fragrant, would be particularly well suited to the Sensory Garden at Mill Meadows and the Parks Service advice should be sought on the exact location and number.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed the date of the next meeting be Thursday 29 March 2018 at 9.30 am.

The meeting closed at 11.12 am.

Chairman

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