

Present:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, Chairman
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor A J Follett
Councillor C W Gibson
Councillor Miss L Pye
Councillor Dr P J Skolar
Councillor S R Smith
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs G M Zakss (ex-officio)

In Attendance: Mr M Kennedy, Town Clerk and Mrs A H Gliddon, Committee Administrator/Minute Taker

Also Present: Inspector Stewart Haveron, Thames Valley Police, one member of the public and one member of the press.

1978. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received from Councillor Mrs J Wood

1979. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are hereby reminded that, under the provisions of Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (The Code of Conduct), a member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent. A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest. A member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting is being held whenever it becomes apparent that the matter is being considered at that meeting, unless he has obtained a dispensation from the standards committee of the responsible authority; and not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter. For the purposes of this Part (of the Act), "meeting" means any meeting of the authority; or any of the authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees.

None

1980. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Management Committee held on 17 March 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin.

The Committee RECOMMENDS

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Henley in Bloom Civic Pride Sub-Committee held on 6 April 2009 be adopted.

The Chairman, Deputy Mayor Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, drew Members attention to the following

- Hit Litter campaign to be held during the week commencing 27 April 2009, when judging of the Cleanest School competition, in conjunction with the Youth Council, would take place. Saturday 2 May would be the main 'pick litter' day in the town centre with all Councillors encouraged to attend.

- Plant Swap sale Saturday 16 May 2009, 09.30 to 13.00 in the Market Place, in conjunction with the Allotment Association. Proceeds to be split between the Allotment Association and Henley in Bloom. Henley in Bloom was also the subject of a Henley Standard video which is available to view on their website.

1981. **PROGRESS**

Councillors received and noted the Progress Report and made the following comments:

Weed Killing – Minute 1866

Councillor C W Gibson referred to the poor condition of the footpath between Norman Avenue and Hambleden Avenue in terms of weeds. He advised that no weeding had been carried out on this footpath and enquired who it was owned by. Councillor Dr P Skolar confirmed that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) owned the footpath and that he would pass this information on to them.

Councillors noted that correspondence was continuing with OCC to seek confirmation that they would carry out their responsibility for weedkilling. Dates when this would be started have been requested.

Councillor Dr P Skolar advised that pressure is being put on the Cabinet Member for Transport at OCC to provide funding for weedkilling in the 2009/10 financial year and that this is not Henley specific but a county wide issue. He would keep Councillors informed of progress.

Bus Shelters - Minute 1937

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin confirmed that this matter was ongoing with a request for part funding of a shelter in Harpsden Road submitted to SODC via the 'Shelter Grants Scheme'. The Committee Administrator advised that she had been informed that 10 prior requests had been received by SODC who had advised that the Henley application was, therefore, unlikely to be approved in the current financial year.

Mill Meadows Playground – Minute 1909

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that installation of the replacement equipment was due to be completed the following day. It was a fantastic result with lots of excitement there as members of the community had been constantly asking when this would be done. A letter had been received from residents the previous day, so too late to come to this Committee, and would go to the Mill Meadows / River Committee on 5 May 2009.

Councillor Mrs Hodgkin confirmed that a celebration of what had been achieved would be held, with invitees to include John Howell, MP and the mums who had signed a petition asking for new equipment there.

[Post meeting Note: Installation completed and successful ROSPA inspection carried out on 22 April 2009]

Mill Meadows Kiosk, Minutes 1090&1913

The Town Clerk confirmed that a further meeting was being arranged with Mrs Battista to seek a progress report on the installation of toilet facilities for the café.

Market Towns Consultation, Minute 1969

Councillor Dr P J Skolar confirmed that the concerns expressed by this Committee that the two Councils (SODC and OCC) should liaise had been

addressed and OCC would now be working in consultation with SODC in terms of Market Towns.

1982. **BUDGET**

Councillors received and noted the monthly budget report for February 2009.

1983. **POLICE**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, invited Inspector Stewart Haveron to the table. Inspector Haveron reported on the following:

- Litter. PCSOs have completed training and are now able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices. Litter during the Henley Regatta had been an issue in the past and he would be discussing this at a meeting regarding the forthcoming Regatta later in the current week chaired by Berkshire West. Inspector Haveron would also be asking them to be more rigorous regarding licensing arrangements.
- Parking. Following the Town Council's decision to reduce funding for PCSOs, one had now been redeployed away from Henley. Inspector Haveron advised that fixed penalty statistics could go down.
- Other crimes Burglaries in town has eased but had increased out of town, e.g. Goring. Most occurrences had been where properties had been unsecured and the police would be looking to make the public aware.

Councillor Dr P J Skolar referred to recent publicity regarding the possible introduction of 20mph limits around schools. He asked Inspector Haveron if the police would enforce this. Inspector Haveron replied that there is currently no equipment suitable to enforce a 20pmh limit and this would need to be introduced.

Councillor S Smith asked if the police are able to enforce parking on zebra crossings. He advised that this happens at Kings Road. Inspector Haveron confirmed that this is an enforceable offence which any police officer has the power to deal with. He would carry the message back that he expects this to be done.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs G Zakss advised that the official opening of the Freeman's Meadow playground had been held the previous Saturday. She had been informed that young people and motorbikes are gathering in the area. It was agreed that she would pass details on to Inspector Haveron and that the police would take the opportunity to visit the site.

Councillor A J Follett enquired whether it was possible to relax restrictions on parking in loading bays on Sundays or weekends e.g. in Duke Street. Inspector Haveron advised that the Highways Authority apply for this legislation and suggested that Councillor Follett refer the matter to them. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, advised that people wishing to unload are often not able to access the loading bays due to illegal parking.

Councillor Mrs J Bland joined the meeting at 7.40pm

Councillor Follett requested that the police are made aware of the possibility that fly tipping may increase due to the Oakley Wood civic amenity site being closed for three months and the introduction of alternate week litter collections in July.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked for Inspector Haveron's views on the feeling that Henley is becoming a popular 'night time' location.

Inspector Haveron replied that during the six month period when the night club had been closed disorder had gone down and fewer fixed penalty notices issued. The number of minor assaults in the town had also reduced. He suspected that there may be a slight rise in these figures following the reopening of the night club. The police will be carrying out patrols to deal with any offences. Overall offences were down by 6%, mainly in rural areas. This was also the case last year. He confirmed that Henley police were fully staffed.

Councillor Dr P L Skolar asked if the police access statistics of A&E departments. Inspector Haveron replied that the Health Service does not make these statistics available to the police.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, thanked Inspector Haveron for attending and hoped that the police would take part in the Civic Service on 17 May 2009.

Inspector Haveron thanked Councillor Hodgkin for the invitation and he left the table.

1984. **VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

Councillors received and noted the financial reports on visit numbers to March.

The Town Clerk advised that a viewing station for red kites was now open at the Centre, although this was currently showing nests at the New Forrest as the nests in Henley were not yet active.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the current licence to run the Centre would expire at the end of September 2009. He would be producing a report on the way forward after September to a future meeting of this Committee.

1985. **THE HENLEY PARTNERSHIP**

Councillors received and considered a paper prepared by Councillor A J Follett.

Councillor Follett confirmed that this had been referred back from the Full Council meeting on 7 April 2009 to identify a reciprocal saving in the budget of this Committee.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin confirmed that if the Town Council wishes to be a full partner of the new Henley Partnership, the membership fee should be paid.

Following discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDS

- a) that £500 is allocated to the Henley Partnership Subscription line of the Town Management expenditure budget and the budgeted expenditure line on "Town Improvements / Action Plan" is reduced from £4,000 to £3,500 to accommodate this proposed membership fee. Thus making a "nil" change to the total Town Management budget.
- b) that the Accountant is requested to make these changes to the committee's budget list.
- c) that this payment will only be made if the following two items take place -:
 - that Matching £500 subscription fees are paid by both OCC and SODC to Partnership working in Henley
 - that The Henley Partnership undertakes a full review of memberships, and requests and receives appropriate membership

fees / subscriptions from other members / member organisations for 2009/10.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs G Zakss asked for it to be recorded that the vote on the above was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Councillors requested that the Town Clerk has a conversation with the Chairman of the Henley Partnership to establish what money from the old Henley Partnership has been transferred to the new organisation.

1986. **LITTER IN MARKET PLACE**

Councillors received and considered a paper prepared by Councillor A J Follett. Councillor Follett advised that following the Charter Market on two Thursday evenings he had noticed that all four litter bins in the Market Place had been full of packaging, cardboard boxes etc.

The Town Clerk advised that he had taken action on the matter and had written a conciliatory letter to the Charter Market traders, which the Town Sergeant had handed to all stallholders, seeking their cooperation and requesting that they take all litter away with them. The Town Sergeant had indicated that the letter had received a positive response.

Councillor S Smith felt that it was unfair to blame the Charter Market traders. He had notice that every bin has been full to overflowing on Tuesdays and Wednesday and had seen shop owners put their boxes in the bins every day.

Councillor Follett agreed that this raised a different issue and modified the proposal to ask staff to monitor this and if necessary write to shop premises in the town reminding them that the bins in the Market Place are litter bins and not for trade use.

Councillors were of the opinion that Starbucks was responsible for much of the litter and it was agreed that they should be requested to make alternative arrangements for litter collection.

The Committee RECOMMENDS

that the Town Hall staff keep a watching brief and monitor the situation.
that a letter is sent to Starbucks requesting that they make alternative arrangements for their rubbish

1987. **RED LION LAWN**

Councillors noted that the Red Lion Lawn area has recently reopened following refurbishment by the Parks Service Staff to replace the decking which was found on inspection to be rotting (and probably not as a result of vandalism which was originally assumed) and a general clean of the whole area. The railings will be repainted shortly. Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin was pleased that the work had been carried out and thanked the staff for their efforts.

Councillor S Smith advised that a swan was currently nesting close to the Red Lion Lawn.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.