

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

In Attendance: District Councillor Mrs J Bland
Mrs J Wheeler – Town Clerk
Ms H Barnett – Town Manager
Mrs N Taylor – Committee Administrator / Minute Taker

14 Members of the public
1 Member of the press

230. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence received from Councillor D Eggleton and Sarah Miller.

231. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

232. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 14 February 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save for the following extent:

that the Resolution be amended to remove the k from minute number 222 -‘that Henley Town Council would award the sum of £1,000k to the May Fayre event’ so that it reads ‘that Henley Town Council would award the sum of £1,000 to the May Fayre event’.

Councillor Miss L Hillier entered the meeting at 7.32pm

233. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Donna Crook – Abrahams Road

Ms Crook requested that SODC be asked to re-think cutting the budget support for PCSO’s as they provide a vital community service, protect the vulnerable and do a lot of good work.

Ken Arlett – Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett questioned why SODC with £100m worth of liquid assets would want to go into partnership with a bankrupt County Council, and queried if the money SODC raised from the sale of Council houses in Henley would be given to Henley Town Council to be spent in the community.

Mr Arlett also stated that SODC have advised that in the first year following the amalgamation of the Councils there would be £20m in savings but nothing after that, why is that?

The District Councillors advised that a bid has been put forward, but the detail is not yet defined. SODC has more liquid assets and OCC has more property. It was thought that there was £100m which should have grown over the years to £140m, but is actually down to only £60m as the money has been used to subsidise Revenue Services. This money will however be split £30m for the Community Fund and £30m for Housing.

Michelle Thomas – Belle Vue Road

Item 9 – Right to bid for land formerly known as LA Fitness – Ms Thomas stated that she hoped that the Council will be supporting the letter being sent to SODC to put a bid forward. She advised that correspondence between Keep Henley Active, the Mill Lane Residents Association and SODC Planning regarding the procedural errors is now complete and the next step is to speak to the ombudsman. She would like HTC support with this and is happy to circulate all evidence.

Ms Thomas commented that since the LA Fitness application, Newtown Business Park has seen a marked trend towards similar changes of use for this area.

Ms Thomas also spoke of her concerns over the cuts in School funding. She stated that not one school in Henley will be unaffected and the Councillors need to contact their MP and request that he lobbies to get these funds reinstated.

Valerie Alasia – Makins Road

Mrs Alasia stated that the surface of the towpath on Riverside South is in a very dangerous condition and urgently needs repairing. There are cracks every six feet and she is concerned that someone will fall in the river.

A member advised that discussions had taken place this morning and a tender document was being put out for the towpath to be repaired in stages.

Ian Clarke – Cromwell Road

Mr Clarke informed the meeting that in his view it was more important to retain the Cadet Centre on Friday Street than LA Fitness. The Centre he stated could be used as a Youth Centre, it had accommodation for a caretaker and a bar and could be used for lots of things as well as the Cadets. He also wanted to know what had happened to the £800,000 offered to Henley Town Council for the former Jet Garage site.

Pam Phillips, St Marks Road

Spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan and urged Councillors to show more passion and determination to make objections. She complained about a banner hanging from the railings on Red Lion Lawn and the posters around town that in place even though the event was finished.

Mr A Salam, Café Le Raj

Mr Salam complained about the effect of negative publicity surrounding his retrospective planning applications. Cllr Hinton stated that the Town Council cannot control the stories printed in the Henley Standard however she was pleased that the neighbours and Mr Salam have agreed to meet to discuss the situation regarding his noisy extractor.

234. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Members had before them the reports from the three District Councillors. After much discussion and debate, it was RESOLVED
that the reports be received and noted.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Members received two reports – the second report was specific to Henley. After more discussion and debate, it was RESOLVED
that the reports be received and noted.

235. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

A member informed the Members that Henley Symphony Orchestra were taking a group of 55 people to Bled the 1st week in July and 60 rowers were travelling over in September.

A member reported that she had attended a meeting of the River & Rowing Museum Trustees and they now have a new Chair of the Trustees, Mr David Worthington who has lots of plans

and ideas. The member requested that the Town Council's thanks be passed to Mr Paddy Nicoll for all his hard work in getting the Museum on a solid financial footing.

236. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS

Members had before them the list of Mayoral Civic Engagements from the Mayor, from the period of 8 February – 21 March 2017. It was **RESOLVED**

that the list of Mayoral Civic Engagements for the period 8 February – 21 March 2017 be received and noted.

The Mayor informed Members that he had today attended the official opening of the Townlands Memorial Hospital along with Councillors S Gawrysiak; I Reissmann and David Nimmo Smith.

He further informed the meeting that his Charity Fundraising Dinner on Saturday night had raised between £12,000 - £14,000 for his chosen charities and has been a great success.

237. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- (i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 21 February and 14 March 2017 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21 February and 14 March 2017 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

There followed a discussion about the performance of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with differing views as to their performance so far.

- (ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 21 February 2017 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 21 February 2017 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (iii) The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 28 February 2017 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 28 February 2017 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (iv) The Minutes of the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee held on 07 March 2017 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 07 March 2017 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee then brought item 13 into the approval of the Minutes. For ease of reference, I will keep the item order unchanged.

Cllr Kellie Hinton left the meeting.

238. RIGHT TO BID FOR LAND FORMERLY KNOW AS LA FITNESS

Members considered if they wished to register their intention to treated as a bidder on the above site to delay its sale and enable the Town Council to present an alternative proposal to purchase on the behalf of the community
It was **RESOLVED**

that a letter to register interest should be sent, and

that the Working Group comprising of Councillors S Smith, I Reissmann, and J Brooks should continue, also looking at ways in which to establish a Council bid of registration for the top shops and possibly the Cadet Centre.

239. LEADERSHIP IN ACTION – SLCC CONFERENCE

Members considered the attendance of the Town Clerk at this conference for Larger Town Councils. It was **RESOLVED**

that approval be granted for the Town Clerk to attend the conference for Larger Town Councils on 7 & 8 June 2017.

240. IT DISASTER RECOVERY SOLUTION

Members considered the installation of a data recovery solution at a cost of £2,672. It was noted that this solution would mean that the Town Council could be up and running with a couple of hours. It was **RESOLVED**

that approval is given for the installation of the data recovery solution at option 2.

241. CHANGE OF DATE

Members noted the change of date of the next Full Council Meeting from Tuesday 2 May to Wednesday 3 May 2017 due to the bank holiday Monday but requested that a check be made with South Oxfordshire District Council to ensure that they will not require the room for the elections taking place on 4 May. It was **RESOLVED**

that a check be made with SODC as to their requirements for the room.

Post Meeting Note: Committee Administrator checked and was advised that the polling station would open at 6.30am on Thursday 4 May, so the room would realistically need to be prepared on the Wednesday evening.

242. VIREMENT OF £1,500 FROM PLANNING CONSULTANT TO COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Finance Committee has recommended that the sum of £1,500 be vired from the Planning Consultant budget to the Grants budget to enable a grant of £1,500 be made to the Town and Visitors Regatta. This sum was incorrect and should have read £2354 – this is the outstanding total of the Grant applications that the Finance Committee wished to support. The view was that the Planning Consultant had £5k allocated which was unlikely to be spent in the current financial year. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED**

That the sum of £2354 be vired from the Planning Consultant budget to the Grants Budget – and that the outstanding grants be awarded.

243. MICHAEL HERRIOT'S EMAIL

The Town Clerk gave a verbal account of this saga. Mr Herriot had already received an apology from the Town Clerk for lack of clarity as to the Data Protection procedures at the Town Hall. A motion to apologise to Mr Herriot for allegedly forwarding his email to the MP failed – four votes in favour and six against. A second motion to apologise to Officers for failing to protect them from the threat of legal action was approved. This item would be referred to the Legal and HR Working Group.

244. UNITARY PROPOSALS FROM COUNTY WITH SOUTH AND VALE

Members considered an email from Maggie Scott (Assistant Chief Executive of OCC) and agreed that Henley Town Council wishes to invite her to come and speak at Henley. It was **RESOLVED**

that Maggie Scott be invited to come and speak to the whole council after the elections in an open session that the public can attend.

245. STREET FOOD EVENT IN HENLEY

Members considered this new initiative and agreed to give the Councils support on a trial basis as long as local businesses providing food and drink are included. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Town Council supports a Street Food Festival in Hart Street, to be managed by Blue Collar and alongside this event, Henley Town Council co-ordinates a Visit Henley Day in Market Place on Saturday 20 May 2017.

Thanks were given to the Town Manager for all her hard work in the organisation of this and other festivals / events in the town.

246. MAYOR ELECT

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor Elect for 2017/18.

Councillor W Hamilton was nominated by Councillor J Brookes and seconded by Councillor D Nimmo Smith.

A member suggested that due to the uncertainty caused by the up-coming by elections that no nomination should be made this year.

Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor W Hamilton be considered as the Mayor Elect for 2017/18.

247. DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Elect for 2017/18.

Councillor S Smith was nominated by Councillor W Hamilton and seconded by Councillor D Nimmo Smith.

A member suggested that due to the uncertainty caused by the up-coming by elections that no nomination should be made this year.

Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor S Smith be considered as Deputy Mayor Elect for the 2017/18.

248. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was moved by the Chairman and **RESOLVED**

that the public and the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest be reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

249. 40 ACRE FIELD TENANCY RENEWAL

Members considered the renewal of the Tenancy Agreement for a further five years. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Tenancy be renewed for a further 5 years.

250. REVIEW OF VALUATION FOR LAND AT GILLOTT'S SCHOOL AND THE FAIRMILE.

Members agreed that this matter should be considered by the HR Legal Group, who can then report to the next Finance Strategy and Management Meeting on 18 April 2017. It was **RESOLVED**

that the item be considered at the next HR Legal Group meeting that will take place between now and 7 April. A report from this meeting will then be taken to FSM on 18 April 2017.

251. LOVE HENLEY BRAND

The Town Manager was invited to the table. Members considered the purchase of the Love Henley brand. After a lengthy debate regarding how successful the brand actually was, it was agreed that although purchasing the brand would be a good idea to help develop and promote the 'Henley' brand - the £3,000 asking price was too high. It was **RESOLVED**

that a meeting take place with the Town Manager, Councillor S Evans and Alison Hussey to discuss options.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Nt/jw

Chairman