

Present: Councillor Mrs G Dodds (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs P G Buckett
Councillor A J Follett (substituting for Councillor Mrs J Wood)
Councillor Mrs R Myer
Councillor S R Smith
Councillor Miss L Pye
Councillor I Reissmann
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (Ex-Officio)

In attendance: Mr M W Kennedy – Town Clerk
Mrs B Walker – Committee Administrator / Minute Taker

Also present: 1 Member of the Press
1 Member of the Public

82. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dr B G Wood and Councillor Mrs J Wood (Councillor A J Follett substituting).
Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Miss L Pye.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor I M Reissmann declared a personal interest regarding any discussion on allotments as a member of the Allotment Association.

84. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

85. MINUTES

i. The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 9 March 2010 were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds.

ii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Mill Meadows Sub Committee held on 5 March 2010.

Minute 56 - The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin informed the Committee that a very productive site meeting had taken place today with Mr S Sriathan (Monson) and Andrew Brown (River and Rowing Museum) to discuss improving pedestrian safety at the entrance to Mill Meadows. Mr S Sriathan had suggested some simple yet effective remedies and Monson will include these ideas when going out to tender for works to the entrance to Mill Meadows.

The Mayor also informed the Committee that she would be writing to the owner of the hedge outside the corner house by the entrance which encroaches on the footpath to ask if the hedge could be cut back.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the minutes of the Mill Meadows Sub Committee held on 5 March 2010 be received, approved and adopted.

Councillor Miss L Pye entered the meeting at 7.34 pm.

- iii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Christmas Decorations Sub Committee held on 8 March 2010.

Councillor S Smith commented that there was still a sign in Hart Street regarding the Christmas Festival.

Post Meeting Note: The sign (South Oxfordshire District Council's road closure sign) has now been removed – a policy is in place to remove signs and unfortunately this one sign, that had dropped to the foot of the post, was missed.

The Committee noted that the winner of the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition has turned on the Christmas tree lights and that this has proved very popular with the children.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the minutes of the Christmas Decorations Sub Committee held on 8 March 2010 be received, approved and adopted.

- iv. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 25 March 2010

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin reminded Councillors of the forthcoming inaugural Henley Festival of Flowers (week of 16 May 2010) during which many events will be held (at a cost of £5 per event) and hoped Councillors would attend.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 25 March 2010 be received, approved and adopted.

86. PROGRESS REPORT

The Councillors received and considered the Progress Report and made the following comments:-

Fairmile Cemetery – the Town Clerk reported the receipt of the initial report from English Heritage and they confirm that they will notify Henley Town Council of the Secretary of State's decision in due course.

Allotments – vandalism – the Committee was saddened to hear of another bout of vandalism at the Greencroft Allotments.

Woodland Memorial – the Town Clerk reported that he had met with the leaseholder, who had said, in principle, he is amenable to the proposal, however felt clarification was required regarding the area in question (location and size), public access, signing the site and fencing.

It was **RESOLVED**

that a site visit be held with the leaseholder, a representative of Sue Ryder Care and representatives of the Recreation and Amenities Committee to further investigate the proposed Woodland Memorial – particularly in respect of size, location, signage, public access (footpaths) and fencing.

87. BUDGET

- i) The Committee received the budget report for the 11 months to February 2010 and felt the expenditure figure, with one month to go until the end of the financial year, was excellent.
- ii) The Committee received and noted the copy of the budget for 2010/11.

88. WATERMANS ALLOTMENTS

The Committee received and considered a report regarding provision of additional allotments in Henley. The Committee noted that the Allotment Association did not view the extension of the Allotments into Watermans Spinney an option as a number of trees would need to be felled, the soil would be of poor quality and the new plots would primarily be in the shade from the remaining wood. In addition the South Oxfordshire District Council is considering placing a Tree Preservation Order on Watermans Spinney which, after consultation, the Town Council is supporting.

The Town Clerk explained that there is currently a waiting list, although Henley's is not as extensive as those of some other local authorities and that the Town Council does have a statutory responsibility to provide allotments however not a continued responsibility as there is a limit to the availability of land.

An alternative option for additional allotments is to extend the site into the southern half of the strip of land to the north of Watermans. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds, noted that the strip could provide approximately 8 starter plots and agreed with the Allotment Association that the provision of any allotments was important and wholeheartedly supported this plan.

Councillor Mrs R Myer asked whether there had been any enquires regarding garden sharing and the Town Clerk said there had not. The Committee hoped that the Henley Standard would publicise this matter to see if there is any interest in Henley.

Councillor A J Follett noted that there is some land on the Marlow Road which appears to have allotment type activity on it and wondered whether contact could be made with the landowner to see if there is any possibility of the hire of land for allotments.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin commented that she had noticed a number of untended plots at the Watermans site.

Post meeting note: Mr D Richards, the Site Manager of Watermans Allotments confirmed there is only half of one plot untended now and this is in the process of being rectified.

The Mayor also expressed that she was still concerned about the expense and visual impact of the fencing to deter deer at Watermans and questioned whether fencing was required on three sides or whether additional fencing/barrier wires installed on the southern boundary alone would be sufficient and suggested the quotations for the fencing are broken down into each boundary.

The Committee RESOLVED

that further investigation be made and costs be sought regarding extending the Watermans Allotment site into the southern half of the strip to the north

that the relevant costings be sought for fencing along the southern, western and northern boundaries – the type as recommended by the Recreation and Amenities Committee (minute 76) stapelok post and light HT wire mesh

that each boundary is costed separately

that a further report be presented to Committee

89. GILLOTT'S FIELD

The Committee considered the wording, number and location of signs to deter dog fouling at Gillott's Field.

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that there be two signs, one to be located by the five bar gate and the other by the pedestrian gate.

that the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds and the Town Clerk be delegated to decide on the wording for the signs.

90. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

It was moved by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds and **RESOLVED**

that the public and the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters which were about to be discussed are considered to be confidential.

91. TEMPORARY MOORINGS

The Committee received a report regarding two boats moored on the temporary moorings at Mill Meadows and the Town Clerk added additional background information.

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

that Social Services should be contacted in both cases.

that the Parks Services be vigilant with regard to boats mooring long term on the temporary moorings and appropriate action be taken.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chairman

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