

Present: Mayor, Councillor S Gawrysiak
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M S Akehurst
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss L Hillier
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor Ms L Meachin
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Mrs J Wood

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

Also Present: 1 member of the press
6 members of the public

The Town Clerk read out the fire evacuation procedure and reminded Councillors and members of the public of the Code of Practice relating to Public Participation as stated on the agenda. He also drew members of the public's attention to the laminated rules placed on each seat in the public gallery.

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Silvester, D Hinke, Miss K Hinton and Councillor Mrs P Phillips.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 6th August 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr C Langler, Queen Street

Mr C Langler let Council know that Henley in Transition had carried out a survey in the summer in conjunction with the students of Henley College and they had published their initial findings. As local stakeholders, he put Henley in Transition forward to contribute to the production of the low emission zone strategy for South Oxfordshire.

Dr B Wood, Blandy Road

Dr Wood expressed his frustration that although the Mayor had attended the recent meeting of United!, it was not listed in his diary report. The Chair informed him that the list only covered the period 31 July – 24 September 2013 and that this engagement would appear on the next schedule. He then claimed that he and local residents were angered that Gillotts School had illegally sequestered a strip of land alongside the perimeter of their land which encroached on the public bridlepath.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith assured him that he was incorrect and that he would deal with this matter under Item 5 on the agenda.

Councillor Miss L Hillier, River Terrace

A resident of Thameside had asked Councillor Miss L Hillier to draw Council's attention to a planning application at 13-15 Thameside as the new development would encroach right up to her boundary and she would like the relevant Members to note her concerns.

Mr M Smewing, St.Marks Road

Mr Smewing expressed frustration and concern over the unresolved issue of the temporary materials replacing the paving slabs throughout the Town Centre and that there had been no developments since June, despite assurances from the County Council that it was in hand. Councillor D Nimmo-Smith assured him that that he would update the Council on this matter under Item 5 on the agenda.

Councillor D Clenshaw,

Councillor D Clenshaw announced his decision to return to the Henley Residents Group after standing as an Independent.

Dr B Wood, Blandy Road

Dr Wood expressed his opinion that the Townlands Steering Group should consider holding an emergency meeting as they had not met for over a year and the residents of Henley were entitled to be informed of why the new Townlands Development was still being delayed.

Mr C Baker, Lauds Close

Mr Baker aired his concern about the unfairness of the permission being granted to Tesco to recently introduce a car wash service at their Henley location when two car washing businesses requests to operate in the town were recently declined by the Council.

33. DISTRICT/ COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillors' Reports

Members had before them reports from District Councillors Mrs J Bland, Mrs J Wood and Mr W Hall. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

County Councillors' Reports

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

that the reports be received and noted.

Matters arising from the reports:

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

Town Centre Paving Slabs: He sympathised with Mr Smewing's frustration over the unacceptable duration of time that temporary materials had been used to replace the paving slabs throughout the town centre. He agreed that he would prioritise setting up a meeting with Thames Water and investigate the programme that OCC had in place to resolve the situation.

Henley in Transition: He reported that he and Councillor D Hinke had a meeting with Henley in Transition scheduled so that they could discuss their findings and the interim report based on the survey that they carried in the summer in conjunction with Henley College Students.

Gillotts Land Seizure: He assured Council that Dr Wood's accusation was incorrect as Gillotts School had dealt with all the trees on the boundary that the alleged encroachment includes and that these were legally transferred to the School when it became an Academy in March 2012.

County Council Budget: He reported to Council that the County Council were scheduled to meet every two weeks to refine the 2014/15 and that there were likely to be further cuts in the summer. There were plans to have a series of Road Shows in order to engage with the public and there was one scheduled for Didcot on the 23rd October 2013.

Thameside Lampost: He informed Council that although the special replacement columns were scheduled for delivery in November it was unlikely that they would be in situ until early 2014. Members found this added delay unacceptable and called for this to be dealt with as a matter of urgency as this column was crucial for the erection of the festive festoon lighting along Thameside. The Committee had worked hard to secure the sponsorship for this section of the lighting and arrangements were reliant upon this lamp post being back in situ by the end of November.

Henley Branch Line Electrification: He assured Council that OCC was continuing to liaise with Network Rail and First Great Western. Members were insistent that any future development should include the capacity for electrification. Council were informed that this issue would be reviewed at the next Town and Community meeting.

A Member referred to the increase in local and global air pollution and the affect this was having on the rising level of asthma sufferers, she felt that Councillor D Nimmo-Smith and Lobbying Groups should highlight this important issue.

A member asked Councillor D Nimmo-Smith to investigate when the Cycle Racks at the bottom of Friday Street were scheduled to be re-installed which he agreed to.

34. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

A Member gave a verbal report on her attendance at The Henley Partnership AGM

35. MAYOR'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from 31 July – 24 September 2013 inclusive for the Mayor, copy attached to the agenda. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

The Mayor announced that he had thoroughly enjoyed his recent trip to Bled, Slovenia and reported to Council that the Twinning agreement between the two towns had been signed. He also circulated a book of illustrated poetry that HTC had been presented with by the residents of Bled.

Gold Award – Thames and Chiltern

On behalf of the In Bloom committee, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin thanked all the residents, HTC Staff and District Council for all the help and support in Henley achieving a prestigious Gold Award at Thames and Chiltern in Bloom Awards in September. She also reported that some members of the In-Bloom Committee and the Parks Manager were due to travel to the Best Towns Award ceremony in Cleethorpes as Henley had also been nominated for this award.

The Frogball Statue at Station Park

Councillor Mrs J Wood reported on the recent reception for the Frogball Statue artist, Jan Boyt which had been hosted by the Mayor in the Mayor's Parlour. Ms Boyt had presented HTC with a miniature version of the statue which was circulated to all

Members. She explained that this was part of a rotating programme of public art and that an outreach educational programme for local schools would be linked to it.

36. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- (i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 13 August, 3 September and 17 September 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 13 August, 3 September and 17 September 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on 3 September 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 3 September 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 34 – Fairtrade Status

Members discussed the merits of Henley becoming a Fairtrade Town. The Council was reassured that both the staff and visitors to the Town Hall were given a choice to consume fair trade products. It was **RESOLVED**

that a letter be sent to the Fairtrade initiative informing them that this Council is seriously and fully committed to Henley being a Fairtrade town.

Minute No.39 – Civil Parking Enforcement

Members had before them a report from the Town Clerk on the issue Civil Parking Enforcement. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted and that the matter be referred back to the Town and Community meeting on the 15 October 2013 for further discussion.

Minute No.40 – Traffic Advisory

A Member commented on the fact that she was the outgoing Chair for the Traffic Advisory Committee and that she had compiled a report on outstanding issues and hoped that this report was actually acted upon, she was assured that this was the case.

Minute No.41 - Street Cleaning in the Town Centre

Members had before them a report on street cleaning in Henley Town Centre and four quotes for a deep clean and chewing gum removal in the town. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted and that the quotation from Operator A at the cost of £5,518.00 be accepted.

- (iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 10 September 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 10 September 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No.83 Northfield End

A member requested that it be noted that HTC would like to be involved in the discussions and management of the parking and highways issues at Bell Street and Northfield End.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 17 September 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 17 September 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 32 – Street Snooker – Makins Recreation Ground

A discussion ensued regarding the recommendation that improvements to Makins Recreation Ground be deferred and that the drawing up of a policy for all recreational areas be referred for consideration by the Neighbourhood Plan. A Member suggested that it should be regarded as a positive vehicle for HTC to review all its leisure facilities and amenities. It was suggested that HTC could develop its policies from issues brought out through the Neighbourhood Plan process. However, the view was expressed that the recommendation would effectively mean that all improvements to recreational areas currently underway would have to be referred to the Neighbourhood Plan. After discussion, the resolution to approve the Recreation and Amenities recommendation was lost. A new resolution was proposed and it was **RESOLVED**

that Street Snooker should not go ahead at this time. Recreational improvements on the HTC land will continue however, we will take into account any suggestions made by the Neighbourhood Plan.

Minute No. 36 – Mill Meadows – Refurbishment of the Toilets

A discussion ensued as to the cost of the project and it was decided that if more funds were required to complete the project to the required standards the Council would have to explore other sources of finance to fund this project. It was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor D Nimmo-Smith would act as an Advisor to the Toilet Refurbishment Working Group.

Minute No. 38 – Red Lion Lawn

Members reviewed the licence for the Red Lion Hotel to serve light refreshments on Red Lion Lawn and it was agreed that they should be allowed to continue with the licence for 2014. The Town Clerk had previously reported to Committee that he had been in contact with the Manager to ensure that they were mindful of the fact that this area was a shared public space.

- (v) Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee
The Chairman gave a verbal update on the current progress of the new Townlands Development and he assured the Council that they were continuing to monitor and scrutinise the final details to ensure that the development could start. Following questions about monies raised through the Steering Group's initiatives, he agreed to produce an updated financial report for the next Full Council meeting. A debate ensued regarding the delay of the Townlands development.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the Chairman of Townlands Steering Group should call a meeting of the Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee.

37. AUDITED ANNUAL RETURN AND AUDITORS REPORT

Members had before them a copy of Audited Annual Return and Auditors Report for the year ended March 2013 from the Accountant. The Council gave due consideration to the Return and Auditors Report, which had been reproduced and had been previously circulated and **RESOLVED**

that the Annual Return and Auditors Report for the year ended March 2013 be received, approved and adopted.

38. LEASES

The lease between Henley Town Council and KVB Design, Kings Arms Barn was presented to Council for signing and sealing. It was **RESOLVED**

that the lease between Henley Town Council and KVB Design, Kings Arms Barn be signed and sealed by the Mayor.

The leases for the fairground rides and the kiosk at Mill Meadows were still with the Council's solicitor and would be made available for signature immediately on receipt. It was **RESOLVED**

that the leases for the Fairground rides and Kiosk at Mill Meadows be signed and sealed by the Mayor on receipt.

39. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

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

MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2013.

40. CONFIDENTIAL

NOTICE OF MOTION TO RESCIND A PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

Members received and considered a 5 Member Notice of Motion received by the Town Clerk on 24 September 2013 relating to Council's decision of 6 August 2013, Full Council Min. No 28 relating to the Adventure Playground at Mill Meadows. The Motion stated that the decisions be rescinded and re-debated and be referred back to the Recreational and Amenities Committee for further consideration.

A lengthy debate ensued and following a motion that the matter be now put to the vote, the motion

that the 5 Member Notice of Motion received by the Town Clerk on 24 September 2013 to rescind and re-debate Council's decision of 6 August 2013, Min. No 28 relating to the Adventure Playground at Mill Meadows and that it should be rescinded, re-debated and be referred back to the Recreational and Amenities Committee for further consideration, was put to the vote.

A recorded vote was requested.

Recorded vote

For

Cllr Mrs J Bland
Cllr Miss S Evans
Cllr W Hamilton
Cllr Miss L Hillier
Cllr D Nimmo-Smith

Against

Cllr M Akehurst
Cllr D Clenshaw
Cllr S Gawrysiak
Cllr Mrs E Hodgkin
Cllr Ms L Meachin
Cllr I Reissmann
Cllr Mrs J Wood

The motion was lost, whereupon the original motion was put to the vote and was **RESOLVED**

that the original decision of Full Council on the 6 August 2013 stands i.e. that the minutes of the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee held on 16th July 2013 relating to the Adventure Playground be accepted and that no further action in the matter be taken at this time.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

ppd

Mayor