

Present: Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Phillips (presiding)  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin  
Councillor M Akehurst  
Councillor D Clenshaw  
Councillor Miss S Evans  
Councillor S J Gawrysiak  
Councillor Miss K L Gehrman  
Councillor W Hamilton  
Councillor Miss L M Hillier  
Councillor D Hinke  
Councillor Ms L Meachin  
Councillor D R Nimmo Smith  
Councillor I Reissmann  
Councillor D M Silvester

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

Also Present: 1 member of the press  
19 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.

94. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Wood.

95. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

96. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10 April 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman, as a true record.

97. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Mr R Atkin, Elizabeth Road*

Mr Atkin referred to the damaged bollards in the town centre and asked when they would be repaired. He suggested that bell shaped bollards should be considered as a replacement as they withstand the force of impact. County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith assured the Council that Mr K Stenning from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) was looking into this issue.

*Mr K J Arlett, Elizabeth Road*

Mr Arlett referred to Minute 123 of the Finance & Strategy Management Committee held on 24 April 2012 and the reference to public sector pay freeze. He questioned why some Henley Town Council Staff had been given a pay increase. The Mayor confirmed that all salary increases had been awarded in line with the national pay scales.

*Dr B Wood, Blandy Road*

Dr Wood congratulated Henley Town Council (HTC) on the success of the Neighbourhood Planning meeting that was held on 30 April 2012. As the Chairman of United, he sought confirmation of how they are to register their unanimous views concerning the Core Strategy. Dr Wood believed that it was imperative to the success of the Neighbourhood Plan that the residents of Henley are involved in the consultation and registration of the process and that it is not just regarded as a HTC plan.

The Mayor reported that it had been an informative and constructive meeting and congratulated the Officers for circulating the minutes from this meeting so quickly. She expressed her delight that the message had got through that it was not a Henley Town Council plan, but that the residents of Henley would be given the opportunity to participate in the process. She confirmed that sixty people had registered an interest following the meeting.

Dr Wood re-iterated his insistence that there should be a consultation with HTC and the Committee members of United.

*Mr K J Arlett, Elizabeth Road*

Mr Arlett requested that all the Councillors inspected the general upkeep of both the Market Square and the Upper Market Place and requested that they emailed him with their observations.

Councillor Miss L Hillier expressed general concern over the state of the streets leading up to the town from the river and felt that it needed addressing.

District Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin confirmed that Henley in Bloom would be weeding throughout the town and this initiative would also be carried out in the residential areas.

98. **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Members had before them reports (attached to the agenda) from District Councillors Mrs J Bland and Mrs E Hodgkin. There were no matters arising from these reports and it was **RESOLVED** that the reports be received and noted.

**County Councillors' Reports**

County Councillor Dr P Skolar referred to his report which he had emailed to Councillors previously. He gave the following verbal report:

***Election of a new leader:*** Councillor Mr Ian Hudspeth had been elected as the new leader for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith referred to his report which he had emailed to Councillors previously. He gave the following verbal report:

***Trading Standards concern over email scams:*** He requested that the Town Clerk publicise that the Trading Standards had concerns over 'phishing emails' and scams and requested that any evidence of these should be reported to Henley Library.

***Street Parties:*** The County Officer had confirmed that requests for street closures for the Jubilee Street parties received to date were: St. Andrews Road, Walton Avenue, Queen Street, Bell Vue Road, Blandy Road, Niagara Road, Elizabeth Road.

***Pedestrian Crossing at the Tesco entrance:*** OCC had inspected the crossing and had written a report on their findings. The following suggestions were made:

- Improve existing road markings; and
- Erect new hazard warnings signs.

Members expressed concern over the source of these funds and requested confirmation as to whether they were to be taken from section 106 funds or the Highways budget.

A member raised the issue of the cleaning of the road signs around the town, especially the ones on the A4155 from Shiplake to Henley. It was noted that this issue had been raised at previous meetings with both County Councillors Dr P Skolar and D Nimmo-Smith.

A member brought up the issue of Henley Primary Schools being oversubscribed. County Councillor Dr P Skolar assured the Council that this occurred every year and that the reason for it was that these children were moving into the area at Primary School age which meant there was no record of their existence prior to their application. This situation would inevitably carry on to entry at Secondary School level.

County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith insisted that there were enough school places for all primary aged children in Henley and that the real issue was the parent's choice of school.

The Mayor enquired as to when the extending of Badgemore Primary School was going to begin. It was confirmed that the funding for these plans were approved last year which meant that the funds were available this financial year. The members assumed that the work was imminent. The Mayor reported that the Headteacher was not aware of this situation and she requested that County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith should investigate this matter further and report back to the Council.

A member referred to the pedestrian crossing at King's Road and the issues over traffic and speeding. County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith confirmed that there had been plans for two pedestrian crossings to be erected and he did not understand why there was only one. He will discuss this matter with Officers and will report back to the Council.

A member expressed concern over safety issues as a result of the Townlands development within Henley and especially the Mount View exit. As this was a safety issue requirement they were adamant that the funds to carry out the necessary work should come from County Council's Highways budget. County Councillor Dr P Skolar stated that it was perfectly fair that these funds came from Section 106 funding as this was a safety issue.

99. **FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members had before them the minutes of the meeting of the Thames Representatives, copies having been tabled.

100. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from 5 April 2012 to 1 May 2012 inclusive, copy attached to the agenda. It was

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and noted.

The Mayor expressed her thanks and appreciation for the year she had spent in the role.

101. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

(i) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 17 April 2012 were before the Council. It was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 17 April 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 May 2012 were before the Council. It was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 May 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 17 April 2012 were before the Council. It was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 17 April 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

*Arising from the report:*

Minute 130 – Decriminalisation of Parking

A member enquired as to whether the letter to David Buckle regarding SODC's views on the decriminalisation of the parking in town had actually been despatched. It was

**RESOLVED** that if this correspondence had not yet been sent then the remarks from the Traffic Advisory Committee and the Air Quality Report on Decriminalisation be incorporated into this letter.

Minute 132 – D2 Go Two Cafe

A member confirmed that it had been decided that this was a potentially dangerous proposal and that it was also considered too expensive for the Applicant.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 24 April 2012 were before the Council. It was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 24 April 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

*Arising from the report:*

Minute 128 – Creation of Grants Sub-Committee

The Finance Strategy & Management Committee had recommended that instead of creating a separate Grants Sub-committee, meetings of the Committee should either start earlier or that a separate meeting be held to ensure that grant applications were comprehensively reviewed. A member proposed that meetings should start earlier instead of calling a separate meeting to allow sufficient time to go through each application. Following a lengthy debate, the motion was put to the vote that was lost whereupon it was

**RESOLVED** that the Committee recommendation as set out above be adopted, the decision as to whether to start the meeting earlier or to call a separate meeting be left to the Town Clerk's discretion.

- (v) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 1 May 2012 were before the Council. It was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 1 May 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

*Arising from the report:*

Minute 91 – Jubilee Park, Car Wash Proposal

Members had before them a letter from the applicant with additional information. It was

**RESOLVED** that this matter be referred back to the Recreation and Amenities Committee so that all the information could be adequately assessed.

- (vi) Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee

Members had before them a copy of the report from the Townlands Steering Group Chairman, Councillor Reissmann which was noted. The Council was apprised of the latest developments.

The Chairman of the TSG confirmed the appointment of the preferred bidder as Amber Solutions for Care, the result of this confirmation is that the Application for Planning Permission can now go-ahead. Plans are currently been drawn up which will be available in June. There are currently arrangements being put in place to make the proposed plans available to the public in the form of an exhibition on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012 which is to be held on the Townlands site. Members made it clear that the Henley Town Hall would be a much more appropriate and accessible venue for the exhibition. It was

**RESOLVED** that the exhibition for the redevelopment of the Townlands site should be held at the Town Hall, and that a letter be written and sent confirming this decision to Amber Solutions.

In response to a member's request that if there was a meeting held with Amber Solutions for Care, then all the Councillors should be invited, it was agreed that a special meeting of the Council be called for this purpose.

## 102 **REPORTS OF TOWN MEETINGS**

- i) The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 12 April 2012 were before the Council. It was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 12 April 2012 be received, approved and noted.

- ii) The minutes of the Town Conference on Neighbourhood Planning held on 30 April 2012, copies having been tabled were before the Council. Following a report of the meeting, it was

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that Henley Town Council agrees that it should lead and facilitate a Neighbourhood Plan;
- (ii) that Henley Town Council will work with the residents of the Town to agree the aims and scope of this Plan and set up the necessary working groups to achieve these aims;
- (iii) that Henley Town Council invites our neighbouring Parishes to join this initiative, particularly Harpsden, who have 4 sites within their boundary;
- (iv) that the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Planning Committee will, with the assistance of SODC and a consultant if necessary, report back to this Council with the necessary procedures and format to start the neighbourhood planning process; and
- (v) that a letter be sent to SODC telling them of our intention to start a Neighbourhood Plan and ask that any housing developments due to come to planning soon, are delayed until we have had a chance to develop our own plans.

## 103 **THANKS**

Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Mayor, Councillor Mrs P Philips, for her Chairmanship of the Council during her Mayoral year and was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P Philips thanked the Councillors for their support during her mayoral year and invited them and members of the public to join her for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour,

*The meeting closed at 9.05pm*