

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Dave Eggleton
The Mayor, Councillor Julian Brookes
Mrs Caroline Langler

In Attendance: Janet Wheeler – Town Clerk
Gareth Bartle – Parks Manager
Karl Bishop – Senior Park Warden
Becky Walker – Minute Taker

Also Present: 1 member of the press

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Miss Lorraine Hillier, Phil Simms, Michaela Clarke and Tuc Ahmad.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee (HiB) held on 22 June 2016 were received, approved and adopted and were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

34. CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS

The Chairman advised that following Tuc Ahmad's attendance at the last meeting he has indicated that he is keen to join the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee. The Chairman felt that his interest in working with schools and his scientific background would be a great asset to the Sub Committee.

After discussion the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

**that Tuc Ahmad be co-opted on to the Henley in Bloom and Civic
Pride Sub Committee**

35. THAMES AND CHILTERN IN BLOOM

The Chairman advised that the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judging on Thursday 14 July 2016 had gone well. The Chairman recognised that this year's tour varied from previous years and did not include some of the traditional elements however felt this was valid as it freed up time to visit a school (Badgemore Primary School) and provided the opportunity to highlight their achievements and their work with HiB.

The Chairman informed members that the portfolio is available to view on the Henley in Bloom page of the Town Council's website and a hard copy is available to view in the Council Offices.

The Chairman thanked the Henley Standard and the Henley Herald for their continued support and coverage of the day.

Members noted the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Awards would be held on Thursday 15 September 2016 in St Mary's Church, Amersham.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that the update on the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judging day be noted

36. GARDENING BUDDIES

The Sub Committee received an update from Gardening Buddies re proposed projects for 2016/17 and considered their funding as follows:-

- purchase of 1000 tete a tete daffodil bulbs which will complete the phased bulb planting for the Reading Road
- purchase perennials, shrubs etc to transform the town side entrance of junction of Newtown Road and Reading Road
- continued improvements to the area outside the Fire Station, West Street including removal of small area of grass adjacent and the extension of the bed
- revitalisation of the Rotary Beds at Mill Meadows in discussion with the Rotary Club
- purchase of white tulips to plant in the Gardening Buddies bed to replace the lavender which had not survived the winter frosts

The Chairman proposed up to £500 be allocated to cover the costs of the projects and advised there were adequate funds in the Henley in Bloom budget and that sponsorship would be sought where appropriate.

Members acknowledged their gratitude for the work of Elizabeth Hodgkin and the Gardening Buddies who plant and care for a large number of areas/planters around the town. The Sub Committee also acknowledged that the projects undertaken by Gardening Buddies were extremely cost effective and also supported the "Bloom" principals of getting the community involved in horticultural projects.

Following further discussion the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that up to £500 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for projects to be undertaken by Gardening Buddies in 2016/17 as listed as above

37. HENLEY IN BLOOM GARDENS OF HENLEY AWARDS

The Sub Committee considered the allocation of funds from the Henley in Bloom budget for the Awards Ceremony for the Henley in Bloom Gardens of Henley Awards and Pubs & Restaurant Competitions to be held on Thursday 8 September 2016 in the Town Hall.

Members noted the amount allocated last year was £650 – this amount covers the cost of the production of the certificates on quality paper, refreshments and nibbles, prizes (Toad Hall Garden Centre gift vouchers for first, second and third place in

each category) and engraving of the cups. Southern Plant Hire provides £350 in sponsorship towards this competition.

Members considered providing certificates only and no prizes/vouchers however acknowledged that the Toad Hall vouchers (rather than national garden vouchers) encouraged visitors to Henley's local garden centre but were also valued and appreciated by the entrants.

The Chairman confirmed Vince Hill had kindly agreed to once again attend the evening and suggested he provide the welcome address speech for the evening..

After further discussion the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that up to £700 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for the Henley in Bloom Gardening and Pubs/Restaurants Awards Ceremony including producing certificates, engraving of cups, refreshments and prizes

The Chairman informed members of a new award suggested by Michaela Clarke entitled the **"On the Spot Award"** which would recognise gardens which although had not entered the Gardening Competitions but were of an outstanding level. This Award, which would be sponsored by the Henley Herald, aims to recognise beautiful gardens which can be viewed from the highway and may encourage future entries to the competition.

Members considered inviting residents to nominate gardens to enter as some people may lack confidence in entering their own gardens however members noted that this had caused problems in the past and felt new ways to encourage entrants should be investigated.

After discussion the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that an "On the Spot" Award (sponsored by the Henley Herald) be introduced to the HiB Gardening Awards to acknowledge outstanding gardens in the town who have not entered the Gardens of Henley competition

The Chairman asked members for suggestions for this year's "Elizabeth Hodgkin Community Award" which is awarded to those who go above and beyond for the Bloom cause.

38. FLORAL DISPLAYS IN THE TOWN

The Chairman informed members that Windowflowers had been awarded the Town Council's horticultural contract until 31 October 2019. The Chairman advised that the Recreation and Amenities Committee, at its meeting on 12 July 2016, had asked Henley in Bloom to review the floral displays in the town including the town entrances, to identify areas for improvement and make proposals on how this can be carried forward including working with designers and budget proposals.

The Chairman asked members for any suggestions and agreed to compile and write the report to be presented to the Recreations and Amenities Committee.

During discussions the following suggestions were made to be included in the research:-

- ask schools for their suggestions and include them in any planting opportunities
- ask Gardening Buddies for their suggestions
- include an historical aspect to the designs either in planting or materials (eg brick and flint)
- work through the specification, which lists all the planting areas included in the horticultural contract, review and make suggestions re any improvements if required
- in addition members to be asked to identify any areas not in the horticultural contract which could be improved eg “grot spots”
- consider having a theme/co-ordinated planting across the town or in areas of the town
- involve local garden designers and plant suppliers - professional and amateur - in the plans
- encourage local designers/suppliers to become more involved in the wider work of Henley In Bloom eg helping to judge the garden competitions, assist with projects
- incorporate pollution reducing planting
- liaise with the Transport Strategy Group who are also looking into air quality, planting trees in the town etc
- to allow adequate time to investigate and write the report – to be presented to the Recreation and Amenities meeting to be held on 25 October 2016

The Chairman also asked members to consider next year’s theme for the Celebration Beds.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom review the floral displays within the horticultural contract and also identify any areas in the town which would benefit from improvement (including the town entrances) – the results to be presented to the Recreation and Amenities Committee and to include initial proposals on how to move this project forward, ways to involve designers and budget proposals

39. BUDGET UPDATE

The Sub Committee received and considered the budget to date. The Chairman advised that she intends to investigate new sponsorship opportunities in the autumn and would liaise with the new Town Manager once in post.

A member suggested a poppy themed Remembrance display involving schools maybe be a fund raising opportunity. Councillor Dave Eggleton to investigate and report back to this Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that the budget be noted

40. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting to be Wednesday 28 September 2016 at 9.30 am.

The meeting closed at 10.50 am.
bw

Chairman