

**Present:** Councillor Mrs P Phillips (Chair)  
Councillor Ms K Gehrmann (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Mrs J Bland  
Councillor W Hamilton  
Councillor D Hinke  
Councillor Ms L Meachin  
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith  
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (ex-officio)  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Gawrysiak (ex-officio)

**In attendance:** Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk  
Mrs N Taylor – Committee Administrator / Minute Taker

**Also Present:** 1 Member of the Press  
Councillor M Akehurst

16. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

17. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

18. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

None received.

19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 15 May 2012 were received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

20. **PROGRESS**

Members received a report on progress and after the following observations noted the information contained therein.

Town Hall Pavement Lights Technical information submitted. Works will commence once technical approval has been received by Simpson Associates.

Road Inspections Reports from Councillors Hillier and Evans are still outstanding and the Chairman requests that they be completed and returned to the office as soon as possible.

Members were informed that there was a limited amount of funding being made available from the Localities Budget for repair / replacement of granite setts. It was noted that there is not enough funding available to cover the whole town so applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

Councillors are asked to revisit their allocated areas and if they have any missing / broken setts, report them to Councillor D Nimmo-Smith.

A Member questioned if the District Council was going to be carrying out any more weed removal in the area and was informed that, unfortunately there was a set budget to remove weeds across the district and this had now been spent. Henley Town Council has earmarked funding for weed spraying although one member expressed a view that residents should be encouraged to pull up weeds by hand.

Old Fire Station Gallery and Barn Users Group The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the group is scheduled for 11am on Monday 2 July 2012. Two quotations for the repainting of the Fire Station doors have been received with a third due on Thursday. Hopefully this work will take place in August when the Gallery has no bookings.

Signage and Physical Town Promotion Project All outstanding boards are due to be delivered and installed on Monday 2 July 2012.

Bus Shelter on Reading Road Completed questionnaires to be collated and the result passed to Oxfordshire County Council.

Market Place Bollards Design now completed and submitted and awaiting costing, once costing are received works will commence ASAP (bollard design to match existing).

Patisserie Valerie Mobile Ice-Cream Cart No information forthcoming. Remove from progress.

Decriminalisation of Parking Members had before them a letter from Mr J Backley, South Oxfordshire District Council explaining that although in many districts across the country the decriminalisation of parking (Civil Parking Enforcement CPE) has been a success, South Oxfordshire have decided not to take on these powers. This is partly due to estimated financial costs of running the CPE and also the loss of revenue, as on-street and off-street parking fines would have to be the same, as set by Government, meaning a loss of income from off-street fines, as the majority of fines issued under CPE will be at £50 reduced to £25 (at the moment the excess charge notices are £70 reduced to £35).

Councillor Mrs P Phillips left the meeting at 7.58pm and then re-entered the meeting at 8.00pm

Members had a full and in-depth discussion on whether this item should be progressed or not and whether Council accepts the decision of SODC, or if Members would like to take the issue further. It was **RESOLVED**

that a further letter be sent to Mr D Buckle seeking clarification on whether the decision not to undertake CPE was a Council Policy, and if so to provide justification as to why this decision has been taken when there are clearly so many positives outlined in Mr Backley's letter for introducing CPE throughout the district; and

that the letter should also state that Henley on Thames does have a significant problem with illegal parking, and that Thames Valley Police are in favour of CPE taking place; and

that as SODC have reported the running costs are £30K per year with a one off set up cost of £100K, we would like a break-down of these costs given that SODC already employ two parking attendants in the town.

**21. BUDGET**

Members received the budget report to 31 May 2012.

A Councillor suggested that the Henley Royal Regatta should be asked to contribute more towards the late night bus service, but was advised that they already gave a very generous donation.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be noted

**22. HEROES RETURN / OLYMPIC WORKING GROUP**

Members received the notes of the Olympic Torch / Heroes Return meetings held on 26 April 2012, 18 May 2012 and 11 June 2012.

Following a comment from a Councillor that the Town Council had not made enough of the Queen's visit a lengthy and heated debate took place.

A procedural motion was put that Committee now move on to discuss the Agenda Item. The motion, having been put to the vote was carried.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith advised that he was in attendance at the meeting on 11 June 2012.

The Chairman thanked everybody that had been involved in the Hero's Return and the Olympic meeting, for the hours that they had put in and the work involved.

It was noted that more bunting for the town would be ordered and that the town will be awash with colour for the Torch Relay.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the notes should be received and noted.

**23. NETTLEBED ART SOCIETY**

Members received a request from the Nettlebed Art Society to place three small signs (35 x 25 cm) on the wide grass verge at the Henley end of the Fair Mile promoting an Art Show at Nettlebed School.

It was **RESOLVED**

that permission should not be granted. A suggestion should be made to the Society that they place the signs further beyond the Fairmile and cemetery.

**24. VOLUNTEER FAIR**

Following the success of the first Volunteer Fair held on the Market Place on Saturday 9 July 2011, Members considered organising a second Fair on Saturday 6 October 2012.

A Councillor advised that he had just compiled an up to date list of volunteer organisations which he would forward to the Town Hall.

It was **RESOLVED**

that support be given for the Town Council to organise a second Volunteer Fair on Saturday 6 October 2012.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

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Chairman