

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

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

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

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds welcomed Councillor Mrs P Buckett as a new member of the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor I Reissmann and Councillor Miss L Pye (Councillor A J Follett substituting).

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

71. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

72. MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 2 February 2010 were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds.
- ii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 18 February 2010.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 18 February 2010 be received, approved and adopted.

73. PROGRESS REPORT

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

Greys Road Car Park Toilets – the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds expressed her disappointment that the South Oxfordshire District Council's budget for toilet refurbishment had been set at £100,000 rather than £200,000 and that there may not be adequate funds to refurbish the Greys Road Car Park Toilet as Thame's toilets are the priority, however the District Councillors for Henley have agreed to monitor the situation and promote the refurbishment of the toilets should funds remain.

Gillotts Field/Chalk Bank – the Committee received and welcomed the art work for the Henley Wildlife Group's Information Boards and hoped the board at Gillotts Field would be in place in time for the Beating the Bounds celebration (to be held on 25 April 2010).

74. BUDGET

The Committee received and complemented the Town Clerk on the budget report for January 2010.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin queried how the figures re Total Expenditure on page 2 were calculated – clarification to be sought from the Council's accountant.

Post meeting note: The Total Expenditure on Page 2 represents the difference between the sum of those services that have a net expense eg Pavilion, Flowers, Sports Centre etc and the sum of those services that have a net income eg River and Cemetery.

75. REFURBISHMENT OF TOILETS AT THE LEICHLINGEN PAVILION

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds welcomed Mr Robert Rigby, Architect and invited him to join the meeting.

Mr Rigby gave a brief presentation outlining the project to date and highlighting the decisions which need to be made by the Council in order for the project to progress.

Mr Rigby clarified that the refurbishment of the Pavilion has been divided into two phases:-

Phase 1 – The refurbishment and upgrade of the sanitary accommodation and general maintenance/repair of the building weathering fabric and the reconfiguration of the external pedestrian and disabled access. (*To be implemented during 2010*).

Phase 2 – External works and landscaping. (*The programme for this element to be deferred to a later date*).

Mr Rigby explained that in order for Phase 1 to progress a number of decisions would need to be made by the Council, namely whether there would be a charge for the toilets and if so how it would be collected and whether the toilets would be managed. The design of the layout and the choice/cost of the fittings will be dependant on these decisions.

The Committee accepted that previous costings may now be out of date and that new costings would need to be sought incorporating the decisions made re the above options.

Two methods of obtaining costs were considered as follows:-

- a) to instruct a Quantity Surveyor to prepare a fully costed scheme
- b) to instruct the Architect to prepare working drawings and seek competitive quotations by going out to tender.

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that in principle the toilets are charged as follows:-

- coin operated entry system on outside cubicles (24hr)/Radar Key on outside disabled cubicle
- main toilets to have a person in attendance and to be charged possibly on an honour system

that the Architect prepares working drawings in order to go out to tender to obtain costs.

that the drawings be presented to the Recreation and Amenities Committee for approval along with a pre contract programme and target dates.

76, WATERMANS ALLOTMENTS – FENCING

The Committee received a report regarding types of fencing available in order to prevent deer from entering the Watermans Allotments. The report illustrated three types of fencing, as recommended by the Forestry Commission as follows:-

- Stapelok post and light HT wire mesh (figure 1)
- Lightweight hexagonal mesh netting (figure 2)
- High tensile plastic mesh netting (figure 3)

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin appreciated the need for the new fencing however was concerned about its visual appearance and was of the opinion that hawthorn should be grown up the fence to help the fence blend into the surroundings.

The Town Clerk advised that the fencing would be a legitimate charge to capital expenditure and if the fencing project was incorporated into the provision of additional allotments the funds could come from the £20,000 allocated in the capital programme budget (2010/11) for allotment provision.

The Committee noted that the exact location of the proposed fence is yet to be decided. Partly as the extension of the allotments into Watermans Spinney is being investigated (this matter is to be discussed at an informal meeting with the District Council's Forestry Officer) and also whether the fencing should be on two sides (southern and western) or three sides (southern, western and northern).

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that in principle the Stapelok post and light HT wire mesh (figure 1) is the preferred type of fencing (subject to cost).

that hawthorn (or similar plant) should be grown by the fencing.

77. MOORINGS – AFRICAN QUEEN

The Committee received a request for the “African Queen” to moor at Mill Meadows on a Thursday afternoons.

The Committee expressed concern at the lack of information provided in the letter of request regarding for example the start date, the finish date and whether the request was for every Thursday afternoon. It was noted that an available mooring could not be guaranteed on the temporary moorings as they are open to the public. Also the presence of the “African Queen” would mean fewer moorings are available for visitors to Henley, which could result in a loss of revenue during busy periods.

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the request for “African Queen” to moor at Mill Meadows on a Thursday afternoon be refused.

78. GILLOTTS FIELD

The Committee considered how to deter dog fouling at Gillotts Field following the issue being raised at the Full Council meeting on 2 March 2010.

Councillor Mrs J Wood reported that she had visited Gillotts Field during her recent estate inspections and felt the problem of dog fouling in this area was not as bad as she had expected although acknowledged that any dog fouling in areas where children play and people walk was an issue.

The Committee noted that there are dog bins at Gillotts Field and that they appeared to be used and emptied regularly and was of the opinion that the majority of dog owners acted responsibly regarding dog fouling. The Committee was of the opinion that additional signage stating that Gillotts Field was an area where children play and encouraging dog owners to respect this may help alleviate the problem.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin reported that she had received complaints regarding dog fouling in Harpsden Road and Queen Street and hoped the Henley Standard would publicise this and that this may encourage more responsible behaviour by dog owners.

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that signage be placed at Gillotts Field reminding dog owners that children play in the area and asking that the dog bins be used appropriately.

79. 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.

80. HENLEY OUTDOOR SPORTS CENTRE

The Committee received the notes of the Outdoor Sports Centre Working Group held on Friday 26 February 2010 and a report by the Town Clerk on the Outdoor Sports Centre.

The Town Clerk outlined the recommendations put forward by the Outdoor Sports Centre Working Group in relation to the Henley Hockey Club's proposals and following discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the lease of the grassed area to the Hockey Club previously granted by the Council shall include the access paths subject to a right of way for AFC Henley

that the Council's legal fees in drafting the new lease to incorporate the inclusion of changing room 5 and the pathways be met by the Hockey Club

that the changes to the lease shall be for a term to run concurrently with the existing lease to 2055

that an additional rent of £600 be charged having regard to the proportionate increase in floor space (based on the current rate) and that this element be incorporated into rent reviews (next one due September 2010)

The Town Clerk then summarised the recommendations put forward by the Outdoor Sports Centre Working Group regarding Nexus's proposals for the Outdoor Sports Centre and after discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that Nexus's offer to relinquish changing room 5 from their lease with the Council be accepted and that this space be included in the Hockey Club's lease

that the Council permits Nexus to sublet the four changing rooms surplus to requirements for a private sports injuries clinic for up to four years the period of letting to coincide with the lease between the Council and Nexus

that there shall be no risk to the Council and no capital contribution payable towards the scheme

that on the expiration of the lease between Nexus and the Council, a separate lease for the sports injuries clinic be entered into between the Council and whoever is managing the facility

that a reduction in the management fee of £1,200 per year be sought from Nexus should the project to develop four of the changing rooms into a sports injuries clinic proceed from the date of opening

Following the above recommendations the Committee also **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the contract with Nexus be extended by 8 months to 31 March 2015.

81. TEMPORARY MOORINGS

The Committee received two requests regarding boats moored on the temporary moorings at Mill Meadows. The Committee appreciated that an appropriate course of action needed to be identified in a timely fashion but that more information would be required and **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that further information be gathered in a sympathetic manner and that if a third party is used a donation of £25 be offered to the relevant organisation

that The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, Councillor Mrs G Dodds and the Town Clerk be given delegated powers to progress the matter and report to Full Council.

Chairman

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