

Present: Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (Chairman)
Councillor Miss K L Gehrman (Vice Chairman)
Mayor, Councillor Mrs P Phillips
Councillor D M Silvester
Councillor Mrs J Wood
Mr A J Follett
Mrs G Follett
Mr A Hawkins
Mrs C Langer
Mrs R Reed
Mrs M Taylor
Mr M Jex

Also Present: Miss J Smith - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Mr S Khan.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Henley in Bloom / Civic Pride Meeting held on the 7 July 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

16. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

17. PROGRESS

A Progress Report was noted and tabled at the meeting.

Station Park Sculpture – Minutes: 490, 508, 520, 539, 576, 7, 19, 35, 43

It was confirmed that a new 8ft bench would be replaced in this area and a litter bin. A date was noted when the Gardening Buddies would plant some crocus bulbs under the trees and a request made to Chiltern Business Centre for volunteers as they had previously agreed to help.

Pride in Your Place Competition

It was noted the judging of two streets had taken place on the 22 September with the sponsors of the competition: Davis Tate, Henley Standard and the Chairman. It was agreed that Mrs M Taylor would produce coasters for the winning road. It was **RESOLVED** that Mrs M Taylor would produce coasters with the 'Pride in Your Place' logo and costs to come from Henley in Bloom budget.

Post meeting note: Costs to produce 70 coasters, one for each house in Park Road total £46.00

It was noted agreement from South Oxfordshire District Council had been received and a plaque recognising the winning road would be produced and erected on the street name post by Henley Sign People at a cost of £50. It was

RESOLVED that a plaque recognising the winning road would be produced and installed on the street name post by Henley Sign People at a cost of £50.

18. **BUDGET UPDATE**

The Committee received and noted the budget report as at the 21 September 2011.

19. **GARDENING BUDDIES**

The Chairman advised a new list of Gardening Buddies dates had been circulated. It was confirmed 4000 bulbs would be purchased from Toad Hall to plant in different areas around the town: Station Park, Northfield End and the Fairmile. It was **RESOLVED** that 4000 bulbs would be purchased from Toad Hall to plant in different areas around the town by the Gardening Buddies at a cost of £387.20 plus VAT.

Mention was made to the posts at Upton Close being needed to stop parking on verges. It was agreed that this could be undertaken by the Community Service Help managed by the Park Services in conjunction with Highways. This item is being addressed under Town and Community Committee.

Action: Park Services to look at adding to work programme for the Community Service Help.

It was noted the area next to the Fire Station previously agreed to be worked on by the Gardening Buddies be added to the Gardening Buddies' schedule of work and to the Progress Report.

20. **THAMES AND CHILTERN JUDGING AWARDS PRESENTATION – 21.9.11**

The Chairman confirmed the town had received a Silver Gilt and best in category at the recent Awards presentation. Members had before them the judges' comments from the marking sheets. It was noted that points had been lost on the categories: **Horticultural Achievement – Business Areas and Premises – retail and shopping areas, leisure sites transport terminals, car parks, farms, rural businesses, pubs, post offices, tourist areas/attractions, offices, estate agents, etc;** and **Local Heritage – management and development of local heritage and/or identity, inclusive of natural heritage.** After some discussion, it was agreed more focus would need to be made on these areas next year but that it would also be very worthwhile to invite the judge(s) to come and discuss the areas where they had felt improvements could be made.

Post meeting note: Agreement made for Mr B Stanesby to meet with a few members and Parks Services to discuss the marking sheets and areas where improvement could be made for next year. Date to be confirmed.

The issue of weeds in the town was raised and it was agreed to use some of the Henley in Bloom budget to conduct two weed kills in March/April and late June in 2012.

Action: Committee Administrator to liaise with Park Services and to obtain quotes to carry out two weed kills in the town in March/April and June 2012.

21. **FRONT AND BACK GARDENS/RESTAURANTS AND BOOZERS IN BLOOM/PRIDE IN YOUR PLACE COMPETITION AWARDS PRESENTATION – 6.10.11**

The arrangements for the awards presentation evening were discussed and noted. Mr A Follett agreed to purchase the drinks and nibbles with these monies being reimbursed by the Henley in Bloom budget. It was

RESOLVED that Mr A Follett be reimbursed with the drinks and nibbles purchased for this event.

Post meeting note: Costs for drinks and nibbles £55.87.

The Chairman discussed the prizes and confirmed that Toad Hall vouchers would be purchased for the Gold, Silver Gilt and Silver winners plus some additional gifts for

sponsors, special guest Mr and Mrs Vince Hill. Hotel du Vin had kindly sponsored the Gardening Buddy of the Year Award and had donated a bottle of champagne. It was

RESOLVED that Toad Hall vouchers and gifts be purchased from the Henley in Bloom budget for this event at a cost of £276.86.

Mrs M Taylor had produced magnificent personalised photographic certificates and reimbursement for printing/photographic paper was agreed at a cost of £17.00. It was

RESOLVED that Mrs M Taylor be reimbursed with printing/photographic paper at a cost of £17.00.

22. SPONSORSHIP

Members noted the updated sponsorship list. It was confirmed that meetings had been arranged with Milton Gordon, Hart Street and Active Security in Henley for 17.10.11 and 13.10.11 respectively.

It was noted a request for sponsorship be made to Mr Mike Burrows from Fast Food System. Mrs J Wood agreed to follow up with Mr D Hodgkinson of Hoffmanns.

Action: Chairman to write to Mr M Burrows, Fast Food Systems.

23. 2012 EVENTS

(i) Planting for the town/Mill Meadows flowerbeds:

It was noted that a decision on colours would need to be made for the planting of the town's flowerbeds for the Jubilee and 2012 Olympics. A meeting is to be arranged with Windowflowers.

(ii) Woodland Trust Free Tree Scheme in conjunction with Royal Horticultural Society

Members had before them details regarding the February 2012 free tree pack scheme and it was agreed that trees should be obtained from the scheme and planting agreed by Parks Services. Mr A Follett confirmed the Lions of Henley would be planting 200 free trees from the Woodland Trust on the 26.11.11 in conjunction with Henley in Transition and asked if members would like to volunteer to help.

Action: Committee Administrator to liaise with Mr G Bartle, Park Services regarding the amount/location and type of trees for the planting in early 2012.

Post meeting note: Mr G Bartle advised there were not enough suitable locations for 400 trees and suggested contacting Mr M Dodds for Henley in Transition.

(iii) 2012 HIT Litter Campaign

The date of the 2012 HIT Litter Campaign was noted as the 3.3.12. It was agreed that more publicity was needed to promote this event next year and Henley College students should be approached in addition to the other organisations who already volunteer.

(iv) 2012 Competitions

It was agreed that competitions for 2012 would be discussed at the next meeting in January 2012.

Action: Committee Administrator to add as agenda item for the next meeting.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following date and time was proposed for the next meeting: **Thursday, 19 January 2012 at 10.00am** in the Committee Room of the Town Hall.

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that the Oxfordshire roses which were moved from the Mill Meadows circular beds should be replanted at Mill Meadows.

Action: Committee Administrator to liaise with Park Services.

The meeting closed at 11.20am.

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Chairman