

Present: Mayor, Councillor G Lambert
Deputy Mayor Councillor K Arlett
Councillor Miss S Abey
Councillor Julian Brookes
Councillor Miss D Crook
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Will Hamilton
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor Sarah Miller
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor L Plant
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Jane Smewing

In attendance: Mrs J Wheeler – Town Clerk
Miss L Hastings – Minute Taker
Mr James Churchill-Coleman – Town Sergeant
Ms C Adams – Planning & Project Manager (Part time)
11 Members of the Public
2 Members of the Press

73. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Miss S Evans. District Councillor Mrs J Bland was also unable to attend.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

75. MINUTES

(i) The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 06 November 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record subject to Minute 60. Cllr Reissmann wished to amend this item by deleting the last five words. It was AGREED that Minute 60 would now read:

It was RESOLVED that the Fairmile Verges Policy be up-held – the words “as a presumption against signage” to be deleted from the resolution.

Councillor Will Hamilton wanted to change the Minutes to state that he had sent questions to Cllr Gawrysiak – however the Town Clerk stated that he only sent notification of his intentions – questions were not received. The Minutes therefore would remain unchanged.

(ii) The Minutes of the Special Full Council meeting held on 27 November 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

76. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Peter Lloyd – Leicester Close spoke on behalf of the Friends of Freeman’s Meadow group. He spoke of the excellent relationship with HTC Parks service and encouraged the Council to press on with the play area improvements.

Mr David Dickie – St Katherine’s Road – Thanked the Council for all the work carried out in 2018 and commented that there is a better tone between the two parties at meetings. He

approved the recommendation to purchase a diesel replacement for the Land Rover and is supportive of a new Saturday service for the Henley Bus.

Mrs Valerie Alasia – Makin's Road – Spoke of some graffiti tags that have appeared on the wall at Royal Mansions. She emphasised the need to remove quickly to stop more.

Councillor Miss L M Hillier advised that she sent a photograph to the Police.

77. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Members had before them reports from two District Councillors – nothing had been received from Cllr Bland. No questions were tabled prior to the meeting.

Councillor Miss L M Hillier advertised her SODC charity event on 26 January 2018 and said that she would be grateful if people supported it.

Councillor S Gawrysiak amended his District report to state that a further £20K was to be spent up-grading the facilities at Gillotts Leisure Centre.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Members had before them a report from County Councillor S Gawrysiak. No questions were tabled prior to the meeting.

Councillor Gawrysiak acknowledged the email from Councillor Nimmo-Smith referring to the OCC budget cut of £1.6M to Mental Health Services. Councillor Gawrysiak will respond to this in the next report. Councillor Gawrysiak confirmed that his £15k grant for 2018 was spent on road repairs to Deanfield Road, Green Lane and Leaver Road.

The drainage problem at Mill Lane was due to repaired on the 16th February. It is a major repair and will last for two weeks but home-owners will be able to access their properties. The programme for 2019 was that £200K would be spent on street lighting with LED's which reduces energy costs. Also there are three sets of road repairs planned including- the Marlow Road crossing @ £41k in April, Nicholas Road and Mount View in July.

78. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES (max 5 min total)

No reports received.

79. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS

The Mayor advised of an event taking place at the Kenton Theatre with money going to the Mayor's Charities. Members received the Civic Engagements from **06 November – 21 December 2018. It was RESOLVED**

that the list of Mayoral Civic Engagements for the period 6 November – 21 December 2018 be received and noted.

Councillor Miss K Hinton congratulated the Mayor on his full diary despite working full time and being a Dad. Councillor W Hamilton commented on an event in which the Deputy Mayor, Councillor K Arlett was not present. Councillor K Arlett thanked the Mayor for letting him attend so many Christmas functions.

80. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committees held on 30 October, 20 November and 11 December 2018 were before the Council.

Planning Committee 11 December 2018: Minute 161 Declarations of Interest. Councillor L M Hillier did not declare an interest.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Planning Committees held on 30 October, 20 November and 11 December 2018 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee held on 27 November 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 65 Henley Town Bus

Councillor W Hamilton advised that he had not seen a marketing plan. The minutes of a meeting of the Henley Bus Working Group held on 20 December 2018 included a marketing approach from Reading Buses and would be circulated this week.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee held on 27 November 2018 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 13 November 2018 were before the Council.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 13 November 2018 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 04 December 2018 were before the Council.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 04 December 2018 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

81. SINGERS PARK HEDGE

This project had been discussed by various Committees and Members considered four different options along with advice from experts including the Henley in Bloom Committee and the Parks Services. Option three was preferred along with an amendment to Councillor Reissman's proposal.

It was RESOLVED

- **That a planting scheme for the hedge is designed to include evergreen shrubs (or beech that retains its leaves over winter) and silver birch. These shrubs should be a minimum of 3.5 foot tall at the time of planting to provide a barrier to traffic.**
- **The scheme to be finalised (with delegated powers to the Town Clerk, Chair of Henley in Bloom and Chair of R and A) before the removal of the hedge.**
- **Continue with the pest control measures which will include working with food retail outlets surrounding this area.**

It was important to get this hedge removed before the nesting season.

82. BUDGET REPORT

Final Income and Expenditure Budget 2019-2020 – It was proposed by Councillor Mrs J Smewing and seconded by Councillor I Reissmann that this budget be approved. Vote taken. Motion carried.

Draft Capital Expenditure Budget 2019-2020 – Cllr Nimmo Smith queried the reserves for public tennis courts in Henley – he was advised that there remained £50k in ear-marked reserves. Councillor Hamilton was disappointed with the budget and queried the reliance on CIL monies – however he was reminded that there is a finite time that HTC can use this money before it gets returned to the Developer. The draft Capital Expenditure Budget for 2019 – 2020 was approved.

The Precept Levied on SODC for £550,888 for 2019-2020 – The recommendation is to increase the precept by 3% which equates to an extra £2.78 per Band D property per year. Councillor Hamilton felt that the increase was not necessary and should be the last option. Councillor Hillier said that it was in line with inflation and services needed to be retained. Councillor Reissmann pointed out that precepts in other towns were much higher. Councillor Nimmo Smith felt that Henley's investments should be used in funding capital projects which would increase the income to revenue accounts – he felt that these options should be explored before increasing the precept. A Vote was held.

It was RESOLVED

That the Final Income and Expenditure Budget 2019-20, the Draft Capital and Expenditure Budget 2019-2020 and the Precept of £550,888 for 2019 -2020 be approved and adopted.

83. COLUMBARIUM PROJECT

Members noted that the LEADER scheme had failed to provide funding for this project despite encouraging the Council to believe otherwise. The RFO was looking for a steer on the next steps and presented three options. It was AGREED to continue on a scaled down project – the niches around the walls would be continued but the niches in the middle of the chapel would be to follow depending on the success of the scheme.

It was RESOLVED

that the Columbarium Project continue but on a more cost-effective basis which would require the facility to be scaled down to reduce initial costs.

84. LAND ROVER REPLACEMENT

Members considered a replacement vehicle for the Land Rover. After further discussion a recommendation of replacing the vehicle with a new diesel at no more than £25k would be the best solution. Leasing was considered but felt to be too expensive.

It was RESOLVED

that the Land Rover be replaced with a suitable vehicle for a cost of £25k, selling the old vehicle to recoup some of the costs.

85. LIGHTING THE MAIN HALL

Members had before them the report and quotes from three companies as the final stage of the sound and lighting project.

It was RESOLVED

that Company A – Henley Theatre Services - be asked to install the lighting at a cost of £19,937.52 plus vat.

86. EYOT CENTRE LOAN

The Eyot Centre needed to repay our loan because they had been granted funds by SODC towards riverbank enhancements. The charge on the HTC loan needed to be revoked to allow the Club to make use of the SODC grant. Members were happy to help the Eyot Centre to make further improvements and the re-paid grant would allow HTC to re-invest.

It was RESOLVED

That the Town Council allow the full repayment of the loan to allow the charge to be discharged.

87. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was moved by the Chairman and **RESOLVED**

that the public and the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as publicity

would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

Agenda item 16 was moved to after 18 – to allow the Officer time to attend.

88. **AMENDED BUS TIMETABLE AND NEW SATURDAY SERVICE**

Members were asked to consider an amendment to the week day bus timetable to allow the bus to make early morning trips to Henley Station where commuters can catch the train. Members were also asked to approve a new Saturday morning service on a trial basis. Both timetables needed 10 weeks to implement. Councillor Gawrysiak spoke to say that the passenger numbers was in line with projections for the first six months. The income was also on track. It was acknowledged that the Saturday Service was new and future profits were unknown. Cllr Brookes would have liked to get a business plan in place before going ahead with the Saturday service. However other Councillors felt that the Saturday Service would complement the existing service and this had been requested at the launch. After careful consideration Members approved the amended timetable and the CIL monies stated in Confidential Appendix A to run the new Saturday service subject to a review after the first six months.

It was RESOLVED

That the amendment to the weekday bus timetable and the cost of the Saturday service to be met with money from CIL be approved. The sum is stated in the confidential Appendix A.

Cath Adams was invited to the table.

89. **FAIRMILE ACCESS STRIP**

An agreement in principle has been reached with Thames Properties. The percentage approved is stated in Confidential Appendix B along with a capped percentage for planning and presentation costs. Members now needed to approve a solicitor to oversee the drafting and exchange of the Option Agreement. It was acknowledged that the Heads of Terms of the agreement would also need to be reviewed in detail. The Town Clerk was invited to put her concerns in the Minutes but she would prefer to draft a confidential report which Councillors may wish to discuss.

Three quotes for legal advice on the Options agreement were presented to Council.

It was RESOLVED

That Vail Williams be asked to represent Henley Town Council and that Herrington Carmichael Solicitors would oversee the drafting and exchange of the Option Agreement. The cost of the services provided by Herrington Carmichael is recorded in the confidential Appendix C.

90. **TOWN MEDAL**

Members had before them four nominees for the Town Medal. Each candidate has given great service to the community. After careful discussion two nominees were agreed and a letter will be sent to each one.

It was RESOLVED

That the two nominees be invited to receive the Town Medal for services to the Town and Community. The two nominees are recorded in the confidential Appendix D.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

lh/jw

Chairman