

- Present: The Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood
The Mayor – Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor Miss K L Hinton
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor D Silvester
- In attendance: Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk
Mrs B Walker – Committee Administrator/Minute Taker
- Also Present: 3 members of the public
1 member of the press

17. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Akehurst and Councillor Mrs J Bland.

18. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

19. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Mr R Atkin – Elizabeth Road – requested to speak regarding the Jubilee Walk however as this item was not on the agenda the Committee **RESOLVED**

that standing orders be suspended to allow Mr R Atkin to speak regarding the Jubilee Walk.

Mr Atkin suggested renaming the Jubilee Walk the Fair Walk so as not to upset any member of the Royal Family should they ever visit Henley, in light of the route being redesigned, due to concerns raised by the Highway Authority, and the route no longer included passing the stone recording the Coronation tree planting.

It was **RESOLVED**

that standing orders be re-instated.

Mr R Atkin left the public gallery at 7.41 pm.

Mr A Yeates – Meadow Road – Minute 27 i – Adventure Playground

Mr Yeates provided a resume of the situation to date as a neighbour of the Adventure Playground and highlighted the increase in popularity and visitor numbers to Mill Meadows as a factor in the ongoing noise concerns. Mr Yeates further explained

that when it appeared no new action would be taken by the Town Council; residents decided to take legal advice to clarify their position.

Mrs S Yeates – Meadow Road – Minute 27 i – Adventure Playground

Mrs Yeates advised that she and Mrs Curwin had met with the Town Clerk where a number of points were highlighted including the frequency, duration of noise and the proximity of the Adventure Playground to their house. Mrs Yeates suggested the most practical and least costly way to avoid further legal action was to remove the tyre swing as this piece of equipment causes regular bouts of noise. Mrs Yeates hoped a compromise could be reached to avoid further legal action.

Mr and Mrs Yeates left the public gallery at 7.50 pm

20. MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 11 June 2013 were approved and then signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood as a true record.
- ii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meetings of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 28 June and the 12 July 2013. A member queried whether the Sub Committee had delegated powers to approve the Frog Ball and it was confirmed they had.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the meetings of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 28 June and 12 July 2013 be received, approved and adopted.

- iii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee held on 9 July 2013.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee held on 9 July 2013 be received, approved and adopted.

- iv. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee held on 20 June 2013 and the following comments were made:-
Minute 15 ii – Use of Mill Meadows – Pop-Up Cinema – a member who attended the Pop-up cinema relayed what a lovely, relaxing evening it had been. It was suggested a live steaming of an opera would be very popular and that this suggestion be forwarded to the Regal Picturehouse.

Minute 16 – Catering at Events on Mill Meadows – a member queried the wording of the recommendation as it may restrict organisers on their choice of food suppliers at events. After further discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

that the recommendation of minute 16 remains as follows “that the tenants of the Piazza Café could have first refusal as the supplier of ice cream at large organised events” and that the situation be monitored and reviewed after one year.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee held on 20 June 2013 be received, approved and adopted.

- iv. The Committee received and considered the notes of the Jubilee Park User Group held on 19 June 2013 and the following comments were made:-
- is Better arranging any courses at Jubilee Park during the summer holidays? – an update to be provided to the next meeting.
 - the Town Clerk confirmed a letter from the Town Council would accompany the letters from AFC Henley and the Henley Hockey Club to the Tesco Head Office re-iterating concerns regarding the safety of the pedestrian crossing.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the notes of the Jubilee Park User Group held on 19 June 2013 be received, approved and adopted.

21. PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received, considered and noted the progress report and made the following comments:-

Poplar Trees – the Town Clerk gave a verbal update following the resolution from the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee meeting of 16 July 2013 which gave delegated powers to progress matters for reasons of expediency as follows:-

- 3 quotes have been obtained for the felling of the remaining poplars and the contractor who will carry out the work is Tree World Services
- the work will commence on 30 July 2013 and will be completed by 2 August 2013
- 4 men will be on duty
- all information, including the method statement, will be forwarded to the River and Rowing Museum
- re-planting will take place this autumn

22. BUDGET

The Committee received, considered and noted the outturn of the budget report to June 2013.

23. USE OF MILL MEADOWS – WORLD WAR 1 EXHIBITION

The Committee received and considered a report outlining a proposal for the use of Mill Meadows as an exhibition space to mark the centenary of the First World War – the main details are as follows:-

- the proposal is from Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace 14 – 18, a registered charity who is a partner of the First World War Centenary Programme led by the Imperial War Museum and is endorsed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.
- the exhibition concentrates on how, over time, nature has healed the battlefields creating a link between the modern day and the personal dramas and stories these peaceful landscapes now hide.
- it is intended the “street exhibition” is open day and night to the general public and is entirely free
- the exhibition will be launched in London in August 2014 and is touring major cities until 2018
- it is proposed the exhibition visit Henley for a 4 week period in late June through to early July 2015 to incorporate the Regatta period to maximise footfall to the exhibition.
- the exhibition includes a walk on map which sits on a metal frame with boards across it and a series of photographic panels along with a mobile information centre
- it is intended there be no cost to the Town Council however there is an opportunity for additional panels relating specifically to Henley’s First World War experience to be included which would require funding
- the preferred site would be Falaise Square however the Charter Market makes this impractical. A second suggestion is by the towpath at Mill Meadows

Members discussed the exhibition and felt Henley was privileged to be chosen as most other locations are major cities and fully supported the proposal. Although the date is almost 2 years away it was felt to maximise the potential, planning and promotion should commence as soon as possible.

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the Committee approves the free use of Mill Meadows for a period of up to 4 weeks from the end of June until the end of August 2015 to accommodate the Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace 14 – 18 Exhibition and authorises the Town Clerk to pursue the matter with the promoter in conjunction with the Royal British Legion, and

that the opportunity to add to the exhibition some panels that are specific to Henley’s First World War experience, be explored in more detail by the Royal British Legion and others and that a further report be presented to enable committee to consider this in more detail and, if necessary, make the provision in the estimates.

24. ALLOTMENT RENTS

The Committee received and considered a report regarding allotment rents for 2014/15 and a proposal that these increases be held for 2015/16. The Committee noted the Allotment Association have considered and are in agreement with the proposed charges.

The Committee noted the income from the Allotments is £2,500 and members debated whether a profit should be made from allotments and it was questioned whether this income is “profit” or whether it contributes to the running costs for instance the Parks Service cutting the grass, trimming hedges etc and investment eg the deer fencing, provision of new taps. Members acknowledged the provision of allotments is a statutory obligation for a parish council and the views of allotment holders regarding the provision of facilities should be investigated.

After further discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the allotment charges for 2014/2015 be as follows and these charges are held for 2015/16

2 – 3 poles	£16.00
Concession	£10.50
3.5 – 5 poles	£21.00
Concession	£14.00
7 poles	£30.00
Concession	£20.00
10 poles	£41.00
Concession	£27.00

25. JUBILEE PARK – ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

The Committee received a proposal regarding the hire of a portable Street Snooker kick-wall game for one day in August for use either at Jubilee Park as part of the AFC Henley Summer Football Camp or at Makins Recreational Ground as part of the Soha Community Activity Day (13 August 2013 3.30 – 7.30 pm)

The Committee noted the following:-

- Street Snooker is a new product combining Snooker and Football and is an inclusive game for all ages
- the cost for the hire of the equipment for the day is approximately £1,000 and includes the set-up of the equipment, a training session, a competition and medals and trophies at the end
- the cost is refundable should the Council subsequently place an order for the Street Snooker kick-wall game within 12 months
- there is approximately £3000 remaining from the £5000 allocated for additional sports equipment for Jubilee Park and it was suggested this budget could be used

Members discussed the proposal and made the following comments:-

- Makins Recreation Ground is the favoured site over Jubilee Park
- the use of the Street Snooker kick-wall should be open to everyone and not only residents of the Gainsborough Estate on the occasion of Soha Community Activity Day (13 August 2013) - as it is a considerable amount of

- money for one day's hire a good attendance would need to be ensured and it would need to be publicised widely
- feedback should be sought from those attending in order to establish how much people enjoyed the facility
 - could the Town Clerk negotiate a more favourable price
 - Soha to be asked if they are willing to incorporate the Street Snooker in their Activity Day

The Committee suggested a full review of the facilities at Makins Recreation Ground should be a future agenda item.

After further discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the Town Council hire the portable Street Snooker kick-wall game for use at Makins Recreational Ground on Tuesday 13 August 2013. The facility to be available to all from 10 am and to form part of the Soha Housing Community Activity Day from 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Feedback to be sought from those attending.

26. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE 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 matters which were about to be discussed were considered to be confidential.

MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 JULY 2013.

27. CONFIDENTIAL

i. ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update regarding the Adventure Playground highlighting the following points:-

- a letter had been received from the solicitor acting for Mr and Mrs Yeates regarding the Adventure Playground
- the Legal Group and the Finance Strategy and Management Committee had considered the letter and their recommendation would be considered by Full Council
- the Town Clerk had met with Mrs Yeates and Mrs Curwin to update them of the situation to date

The Committee noted the Town Clerk's verbal report, any further discussion would take place at Full Council on 6 August 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman

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