

Present: Councillor J Brookes (Mayor)  
Councillor Will Hamilton (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Sara Abey  
Councillor Miss H. Chandler-Wilde  
Councillor S Evans  
Councillor S Gawrysiak  
Councillor Miss L M Hillier  
Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton (until 20.45)  
Councillor Sarah Miller  
Councillor D Nimmo Smith  
Councillor I Reissmann  
Councillor Jane Smewing

In Attendance: Mrs J Wheeler - Town Clerk  
P Price-Davies - Committee Administrator

14 members of the public  
1 member of the media

The Mayor called for one minute's silence in respect of all those that had lost their lives in the recent terrorist atrocities.

**137. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Akehurst, D Eggleton, S Smith and D Thomas.

**138. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor D Nimmo Smith stated that he was a Member of Henley Rugby Club and took no part in the discussion of items 15 and 16 on the agenda.

**139. THE MAYOR'S RELIEF AND CONVALESCENT FUND**

Councillor Miss L Hillier presented her Relief and Convalescent Fund report. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received, approved and adopted.

Councillor Miss L Hillier presented cheques to the three charities that she supported during her Civic year 2015/16: Oxfordshire Mind; Teenage Wilderness Trust; Thames Valley Animal Welfare.

**140. MINUTES**

- (i) The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **14 June 2016** were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, with the addition of the following text, FC item 126: "*Several members queried the discussions held with the Rugby Club as it was apparent at the meeting of FS&M on 24 May that Rugby Club officials and members had been presented with the details of the loan for approval before Cllrs had been informed. As a result the meeting had difficulty revising these terms. The Chair of FS&M agreed to keep Cllrs informed in advance in future.*"

- (ii) The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on **28 June 2016** were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, with the addition of the following text: “A member spoke about the suggestion that 353-357 Reading Road site can be used for 80%, 90% or 100% affordable housing. Many people had been involved with the Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan (JHHNP) which stipulated 40% affordable and 60% market housing. Due to challenges on other sites in Henley, now the suggestion was made to have a higher percentage of affordable housing. The prospect of 100% affordable housing on one site disgusted the member, and rejected the prospect of shoving people on a site on the outskirts of Henley. This would be a show of contempt. The member vowed to fight anywhere near 80%, 90% 100% affordable housing as this would ghettoise people who needed help.”

#### **141. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

##### Mr Clarke, Cromwell Road

Mr Clarke spoke of his concern regarding the development of housing sites at Deanfield Road due to water levels located there and Highlands Farm due to gas mains across the site. He also put forward his suggestion that the Deanfield Road site should be developed as a car park instead of housing.

##### Mrs P Philips, St.Mark's Road

Mrs Philips urged Members to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan was adhered to, reminding Council that residents had voted and approved it and it was her opinion that the developers, McCarthy and Stone had exploited a loophole in the planning legislation that would allow them to build C2 Care Assisted housing on the former Jet Garage site on the Reading Road.

##### Mrs L Meachin, Gainsborough Road

Mrs Meachin urged SODC to reject the planning application from McCarthy and Stone development of C2 Assisted Care Housing on the former Jet Garage site on the Reading Road. She stated her opinion that this site should be used for Affordable Housing which was what Henley residents needed. She called for a vote of no confidence in SODC if they accepted this planning application.

##### Mr D Hinke, Elizabeth Road

Mr Hinke stated the case of the Thames Farm development site at Shiplake which went through a series of reviews with various planning decisions being overturned. He felt that the handling and outcomes of this case should give Henley residents hope that they would get the result they wanted for the provision of affordable housing in keeping with their vision for the Neighbourhood Plan.

##### Mrs L Morton, Quadrant Town Planning

Mrs Morton spoke in support of the access request for Huckleberry Farm on behalf of her client. She pointed out that planning consent has already been granted and it had been approved by Highways but reinforced the fact that this wouldn't set a precedent.

##### Mrs L Meachin, Gainsborough Road

Mrs Meachin stated that the Air Quality levels in Henley was the responsibility of SODC and that Henley Town Council were still waiting for financial support from them.

The Mayor stated that this area was currently being examined.

**142. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS**

Members had before them reports from District Councillors S Gawrysiak and J Bland. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the reports be received and noted.**

*Matters arising from the reports*

Councillor J Bland informed Council on SODC's new Revenue Grant Scheme that was offering financial support for up to four years to both charities and voluntary organisations.

She also spoke about the Air Quality issue in Henley town centre, confirming that there was financial support available from SODC to provide a way forward.

Councillor Miss L Hillier drew attention to the Public Consultation currently being undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council on recycling, as part of securing Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) sites across Oxfordshire. She urged everyone to participate, noting that the Consultation closes on 11 August 2016.

Councillor S Gawrysiak reiterated the fact that once the Transport Working Group had come up with solutions and a way forward to address the issue of Air Pollution within Henley, he and the other District Councillors would take these ideas to SODC.

He also aired his opinion that SODC should refuse the planning application from McCarthy and Stone development of C2 Assisted Care Housing on the former Jet Garage site on the Reading Road. He felt that this should not be a decision that Officers should be allowed to make and instead it should be made by Councillors.

**143. VARIATION TO ORDER OF BUSINESS**

In accordance with Standing Orders 5(a) (vi), it was **RESOLVED**

**that in view of a member of the public present the order of business on the agenda was altered so that Item No.11 - Access request over the Fairmile be taken after Agenda item 6.**

**144. ACCESS REQUEST OVER THE FAIRMILE**

Members had before them the report by the Town Clerk on the Access Request over the Fairmile for Huckleberry Farm. Following clarification on the historic access to this site, it was **RESOLVED**

**to grant an easement of access over the Fairmile verges for a fee indicated by an independent valuation and that a covenant or some sort of restriction on the easement be applied so that if the land were to be used for any other purpose other than agricultural or a**

**vineyard that the easement would be void. HTC requires confirmation that this is the only access to the site and that the landowner pays HTC'S legal costs.**

A member stated that this permission must not be considered to set a precedent but replaces an original easement.

**145. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Members had before them a report from County Councillor Nimmo Smith. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the report be received and noted.**

*Matters arising from the report:*

He spoke on the decision of OCC to introduce 20 mph zones throughout the County and he felt that public consultation should take place on this proposal before it was to be progressed as HTC would have to contribute towards the potential cost which was estimated to be £40k.

He informed Members of the new hybrid bus the X80 which was being trialled by Thames Travel between High Wycombe and Reading.

A Member sought clarification on the level of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) available to Henley Town Council and questioned when HTC would be consulted on the proposals for a Unitary Council. Councillor D Nimmo Smith informed him that detailed information would be available in due course.

A Member thanked Councillor Paul Harrison for all his input at recent HTC meetings in outlining the support that SODC were providing to reduce the Air Pollution within Henley Town Centre.

**146. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports from Outside Bodies.

**147. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS**

Members had before them the list of Mayoral Civic engagements from the Mayor for the period **9 June – 19 July 2016. It was RESOLVED**

**that the list of Mayoral Civic Engagements for the period 9 June – 19 July 2016 be received and noted.**

*Matters arising from the Mayoral Civic Engagements*

The Mayor announced that approximately £800 had been raised at the Mayor's Barn Dance Event which was held on the 17 July 2016. He also confirmed that he was holding his Civic Dinner on Saturday 25 March 2017 and requested those in attendance to save the date.

*Councillor Miss K Hinton left the meeting at 20:45 hrs.*

**148. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

(i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 21 June and 12 July 2016 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 21 June and 12 July and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.**

Arising from the Minutes:

It was confirmed that the amended plans for the development of the Highlands Farm site would be on the next Planning Committee agenda due to be held on 2 August 2016.

- (ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on 21 June 2016 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 21 June 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.**

Arising from the Minutes:

Minute No. 164 – Townlands Hospital

Councillor Ian Reissmann confirmed that the CCG had declared the top floor of the building surplus to requirements and that the TSG were due to formally respond to the community's wish for the hospital to be renamed.

- (iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on **12 July 2016** were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 12 July 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.**

Arising from the Minutes:

Minute No. 21 – Horticultural Contract

A Member confirmed that Windowflowers had been awarded the Horticultural contract for the period 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2019.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 5 July 2016 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 5 July 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted**

Arising from the Minutes:

The Town Clerk confirmed that that the review of Standing Orders was due to take place in September and she would ensure that the Working Group would be involved in this process.

**149. CCTV CONTRACT**

The extension to this Contract was agreed at the meeting of the Town and Community Committee on 24 November 2015. Many Councillors were keen to review the system to ensure value for money. The Town Clerk had information that would be sent to all Councillors and she was organising a visit to see the CCTV monitoring room in Abingdon. It was **RESOLVED**

**To approve the contract extension for one year and to review the value and effectiveness of the CCTV cameras after the visit to Abingdon control room in November. The item would be brought back to the Town & Community Committee on 29 November 2016.**

**150. CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

The first meeting of this Working Group had been held the previous evening and the notes were due to be completed shortly. The Town Clerk gave a verbal up-date as to the contents of the first meeting. A business plan would need to be made by the autumn for any monies to be included in the HTC budget.

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

**152. MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 26 JULY 2016**

**153. AMENITY AREA AT JUBILEE PARK**

The Town Clerk had issued a full report of the issues facing Jubilee Park and recommendations. It was **RESOLVED**

- **To get quotes to replace Claudia Rowberry's fence as promised in writing from the previous Town Clerk**
- **To get more information on the cost, safety and viability of a grid over the River Harp in place of the suggested fence. The Town Clerk will approach the Environment Agency for advice in the first instance.**
- **To seal the access from the Reading Road but not to completely close it in case of emergency use.**
- **To advise AFC Henley to keep the code to the small gate confidential to anyone outside of the Football Club or the Henley Town Council – to ensure the safety of those playing football.**
- **Talk to the Environment Agency about installing trash pins near the culvert to reduce the risk of branches blocking the water flow.**

The detailed costings would be brought back to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

**154. REQUEST FROM PHYSIOLISTICS CLINIC**

It was **RESOLVED**

**To agree in principle that this is a good idea SUBJECT to a full detailed report on the activities of Henley Rugby Club at the Dry Leas site coming back to the Finance Committee for scrutiny and due diligence.**

**To advise Physiologic to submit their planning application.**

**VOTE: IN FAVOUR = 7 AGAINST = 3**

Cllr S Abey wished to record her objection to this proposal. Cllr D Nimmo Smith did not vote but would have voted against the proposal.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would make it clear to the Rugby Club that this would need to come back to the Finance Committee for due diligence on all aspects of the activities at the Dry Leas site.

**155. HENLEY RUGBY CLUB**

**(i) TO APPROVE AND SIGN** the amended Licence to Assign [This version now correctly assigns the lease to Henley Rugby Football Club Limited (and not Henley Rugby Club) to align with the Charge and Loan agreements].

**It was RESOLVED to approve this Licence to Assign.**

**(ii) TO APPROVE, SIGN AND SEAL** the papers on the Legal Charge and Loan Agreement.

**It was RESOLVED to approve the Legal Charge and the Loan Agreement.**

**VOTE: IN FAVOUR = 9; AGAINST = 2**

**156. HEADS OF TERMS FOR EXCLUSIVITY PERIOD FOR 353-357 READING ROAD**

**TO REVIEW AND APPROVE** the Heads of Terms for the three month exclusivity period for the 353-357 Reading Road site.

**It was RESOLVED to approve the Heads of Terms.**

**157. LETTER FROM MCCARTHY AND STONE**

**TO DISCUSS AND RESPOND** to an offer from McCarthy and Stone. McCarthy and Stone had offered the sum of £800,000 to Henley Town Council in return for their support for a care home on the site of the Jet Petrol station on the Reading Road.

**It was RESOLVED to reiterate that Henley Town Council supports the Neighbourhood Plan and rejects any financial offer to vote against their Plan.**

*The meeting closed at 10.02pm*

*Ppd/jw*

*Mayor*