

**Present:** The Mayor Councillor Miss K Hinton  
Councillor Miss L Hillier (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Sara Abey  
Councillor K Arlett  
Councillor Julian Brookes  
Councillor Donna Crook  
Councillor D Eggleton  
Councillor S Evans  
Councillor S Gawrysiak  
Councillor Will Hamilton  
Councillor G Lambert  
Councillor Sarah Miller  
Councillor D Nimmo Smith  
Councillor Jane Smewing

**Also Present:** 46 Members of the Public  
2 Members of the Press  
Mrs J Wheeler, Town Clerk  
Mrs N Taylor, Minute Taker  
Ms H Barnett, Town Manager  
Councillor Joan Bland – District Councillor

**1. WELCOME**

The Mayor of Henley on Thames, Councillor Miss K Hinton welcomed organisations and members of the public to the Annual Town Meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

None received.

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 6 April 2017 were received, approved and signed by the Mayor as a true record.

**4. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor, Councillor Miss K Hinton advised the meeting that during her Mayoral year she had held the first outdoor Civic Service on the bandstand, an end of term party for the four primary schools, the Mayors Christmas Card Competition, shop front competition judging, Henley in Bloom Seminar, Christmas Festival and Henley's Got Talent, and in the next few weeks she will be hosting her Civic Dinner 'Bollywood' style, the annual spring clean and the May Fayre.

The Mayor thanked all the Town Council Officers for their hard work and assistance over the past year especially the Town Manager, the Town Clerk, Mayors PA and the Park Service team.

## 6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

Hillary Lombard – Community First Oxfordshire informed the meeting that the organisation had recently changed its name from what it has been known as over the past 100 years 'Oxfordshire Rural Community Council'. Community First Oxfordshire will continue to provide the services of a rural community council, and will also be supporting Oxfordshire's communities in all locations on health, housing, transport and community enterprise issues. The organisations mission is 'to help communities help themselves'.

Some of the issues Community First Oxfordshire can help with are:

- Community Action
- Community Halls / enterprises
- Neighbourhood Plans (commission led)
- Community led housing schemes
- Community transport
- Octo badges (free parking at hospitals)

Hillary explained that she had recently held two workshops for over 100 people and discovered that the main issues facing organisations searching for volunteer were as listed below:

- Discreet task and finish groups
- Direct and personal approach with specific tasks
- Easy to access taster sessions
- Social Media / tutorials
- Embrace technology
- Specific and clear instruction as to what is required in roles
- Opportunity to enhance CV and leadership skills
- Mentor volunteers
- Welcome pack explaining new developments
- Thank volunteers
- Different forms of communication for different audiences
- Engage young people – be approachable
- Food
- Taster events
- Listen to other people's perspectives
- Review current process
- Limit time
- Let people do what they want to do
- No hierarchy of involvement – everyone is necessary.

Committee reports were received from the Finance Strategy and Management Planning, Recreation and Amenities and Town and Community Committees, along with an update from the Townlands Steering Group. 23 written reports from town groups and community organisations were also received (copies of which are attached to the office copy of these minutes and are available on the Council website [www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk)) and 8 reports as noted below.

60+ Social Club, AFC Henley, Café Scientifique, Chelsea Fringe in Henley, Christ Church Memory Café, d:two Family Centre, Eyot Centre, Gainsborough Residents Association, Henley Choral Society, Henley Cricket Club, Henley Falaise Twinning Association, Henley Archaeological and Historical Group, Henley in Bloom, Henley in Transition, Henley Leichlingen Twinning Association, Henley Lions, Henley Town and

Visitors Regatta, Henley Wildlife Group, Kenton Theatre, Nomad, Riverside Counselling Service, Royal British Legion, Sue Ryder,

Paul Harrison – Rotary Club of Henley Bridge informed the meeting that:

- The club meets at Badgemore on a Wednesday twice month for breakfast
- Are involved with the Henley Half Marathon (1,500 entrants)
- Provided £21,000 to provide new kitchen and garden equipment for the Ways and Means Trust
- Funding for a new Canoe for the Eyot Centre
- Life Education classes at Valley Road School
- Style Acre housing trip
- Shelter box units for area hit by natural disasters.

The club have an event on the Market Place on 26 May and it is the aim that every member of the club will this year plant a tree.

The club supports the international project to eradicate Polio worldwide – a Rotary International initiative part funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Recorded cases of Polio have now fallen from 35 down to 5.

There are two Interact groups, 12-18 year olds and 18 -30 year olds.

Mr John Hooper – Henley Town Football Club thanked the Henley Town Council for its continued support and informed the meeting that the club now had new local players and people involved and everything was moving in the right direction. The venue he stated is available for hire. The club is the only senior football club in the town.

Charles Whittaker – U3A advised the meeting that U3A provided learning opportunities for the elderly which keep the mind exercised and expanding. He thanked Henley Town Council for their support which he stated will help to reach more people. Courses on offer include History, Science, Discussion groups, and in the near future a wine appreciation group.

Sally Daniels – Henley Bowling Club stated that on 16 June 2018 the club will be celebrating 90 years and everyone will be dressing up in unusual outfits.

On 20 May there will be a grand open day where people can come and try a game and also have a drink and a cream tea.

Mrs Daniels thanked Henley Town Council for their support over the years and advised that more members were required from ages 16 – 90. It was noted that there are currently two 92 year olds who play at the club.

David Skinner - Henley Sailing Club informed the meeting that they would be hosting an open day on Saturday 12 May 2018. The Club house is located on the Wargrave Road.

Alfie Hay – Henley Youth Festival stated that the Festival is now 25 years old and was set up so that young people could show what they can do and also to provide workshops to expand knowledge and skills.

Councillor David Nimmo Smith – CAB thanked the Town Council and SODC for their support and advised that more professional volunteers are required.

Vanessa Money-Kyrle – Meteor Club stated that volunteers were required and advised that the club meets every Thursday morning and the members take part in a variety of activities including going to the pub, theatre and picnics on the bandstand.

- John Green – Henley Royal British Legion spoke to his report.
- Dave Dickie – Café Scientifique spoke to his report.
- Dave Dickie – Henley in Transition spoke to Dave McEwan's report.
- John Nelson – Henley Cricket Club spoke to his report.
- David Skinner – Henley Lions spoke to his report.
- Richard Parham – Eyot Centre spoke to his report.

It was **RESOLVED**

**that the reports from Community organisations be received and noted.**

Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak informed the meeting that there are three traffic calming / crossing schemes at Gravel Hill being discussed at present. There have unfortunately been some delays but an informal consultation will be taking place with all those affected by the scheme within the next five weeks.

**6. RESOLUTION**

No written resolutions were received from electors of the town.

**7. CLOSING REMARKS**

The Mayor, Councillor Miss K Hinton informed the meeting that she had greatly enjoyed her time as Mayor which was rapidly coming to an end; she stated that it had been an honour and a privilege to be the Mayor of the best town in the Country and introduce the Mayor Elect Councillor Glen Lambert.

Councillor Miss K Hinton thanked the members of the community present for attending the meeting and invited everyone to join her for refreshments and to meet with other colleagues supporting the town, for informal networking.

**8. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Mayor

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