

Present: Mayor, Councillor S J Gawrysiak
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M S Akehurst
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor D Hinke
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor D R Nimmo Smith
Councillor Mrs P A Phillips
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor D Silvester
Councillor J Wood

In Attendance: Mr M W Kennedy - Town Clerk
Mrs P Price-Davies - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator
Mr C Austin - Town Sergeant

Also Present: 13 members of the public
1 member of the press

The Mayor spoke of the funeral of former Mayor, Mr Tony Lane that he and other Members of the Council had attended earlier in the day and as a mark of respect to Mr Lane as a long serving Councillor of Henley, the Council observed one minute silence.

The Town Clerk read out the fire evacuation procedure and reminded Councillors and members of the public of the Code of Practice relating to Public Participation as stated on the agenda. He also drew members of the public's attention to the laminated rules placed on each seat in the public gallery.

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss K L Hinton and Ms L A Meachin.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

*Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin – Trustee of the Town & Visitors Regatta
Finance, Strategy & Management Minutes, Minute No. 98. Grants.*

*Councillor D Nimmo Smith – Personal
Planning Committee Minutes, Minute No.154. P14/SO332/FUL – 95a St Marks Road*

87. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 18 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save to the following extent:

Minute No. 74 – Public Participation

A Member requested that the in last sentence on the second paragraph the word 'financial' be replaced with the word 'commercial'. It was **RESOLVED**

that the minutes be amended to reflect this additional wording.

88. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr B Wood, Blandy Road

Dr Wood thanked the Mayor for his attendance at the funeral of Mr Tony Lane earlier in the day. He expressed his opinion that Henley Town Council should consider a fitting tribute to Mr Lane who had served on the Council for 38 years, he felt that this was an appropriate request and should be considered by a Committee. Although he was aware that a Town Medal could not be awarded posthumously he felt some other public recognition of his service to Henley could be considered.

The Mayor responded to Dr Wood, stating that in principle he believed this to be a reasonable request and one that should be considered by the Town and Community Committee.

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett disagreed with Dr Wood's earlier comment, as he believed that the Town Medal could be awarded posthumously. He inquired of the Mayor as to why he had not received a reply to his email regarding his nomination of Mrs Jean Barret for this year's Town Medal Award. The Mayor apologised for not responding to his letter but as the selection process was confidential he was not obliged to discuss the reasoning publicly. A Member informed Mr Arlett that Council were currently reviewing their nomination procedure for the Town Medal.

Mrs G Dodds, Greys Road

Mrs Dodds requested an update on the Kings Arms Barn Signage and was assured by the Town Clerk that planning permission had been granted and that the signs were currently being manufactured.

Mr D Whittingham, The Malthouse

Mr Whittingham spoke of his disappointment that in the recent edition of the SODC Outlook magazine there was no mention of Henley. He also asked Council to be mindful of the fact that they were obliged to address the Public Gallery during Full Council meetings.

Miss L Hillier, Riverside

Miss Hillier stated her disappointment that certain key people had been omitted from the recent photograph in the Henley Standard regarding the confirmation of the Townlands Development. She felt that it was important for all key contributors to be acknowledged and invited to a photo shoot regarding this important, non-political development.

Mr D Dickie, St. Katherine's Road

Mr Dickie spoke on behalf of Henley in Transition, regarding the Air Quality issue in Henley he urged Council to endorse the recommendation from Town and Community Committee to write a letter to Oxfordshire County Council supporting the Weight Restriction Traffic Order without hesitation.

Dr B Wood, Blandy Road

Dr Wood spoke of the 6% increase to the Henley Council Tax since 2011/12, which was higher than current inflation rates. He called for the Council to address this issue, to put strategic measures in place to ensure that the residents of Henley were receiving the best value for their Council Tax.

Mr D Silvester, Luker Avenue

Mr Silvester spoke in support of Henley Town Football Club, airing his view that the recent decision for their grant application to Henley Town Council to be declined as a disappointment as he considered it an important community facility.

89. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

Members had before them a report from Councillors Mrs J Bland and Mrs J Wood. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

Councillor Mrs J Wood, responded to Mr Dickie's comments during the Public Participation Session and gave assurance that she would report them to SODC.

Members were in agreement that they had been assured from SODC that Henley had received its complete allocation of houses (up to 450) as outlined in the Core Strategy and were aware that if this figure was to be increased as a result of the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Then lobbying would be inevitable as the general consensus was that the Henley area could not absorb any additional allocation.

County Councillor Report

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

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

County Councillor D Nimmo Smith referred to his report which had been circulated to Councillors previously and gave a verbal update on the following issues:

He spoke of the recent installation of the four new bus shelters on the Reading Road.

He announced that the first same sex wedding ceremony had taken place at Henley Town Hall at the weekend.

Post meeting note: This ceremony was postponed.

90. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There was nothing to report.

91. MAYOR'S REPORT

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from the period **13 February– 26 March 2014**. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

The Mayor informed Council that he and Councillor Mrs P Phillips had attended a meeting with Grundon and Biffa on the 28th February 2014 to discuss the daily collection of trade waste in the Town Centre. He reported that they had agreed to make earlier refuse collections between 6 – 6.30pm each evening and this new operation would commence in three weeks.

He congratulated Councillor Mrs P Phillips on organising the recent inaugural Create Festival which he considered to be a success.

92. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 25 February & 18 March 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 25 February & 18 March 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted, save for the correct sequential numbering of the minutes to be applied.

Arising from the report:

Minute No.11 – Progress Report

A Member sought definite confirmation from OCC Highways Department that the bollards outside 39 West Street would not be replaced once the block paving works was completed.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on 4 March 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 4 March 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No.97 – Traffic Advisory

Members considered the recommendation of the Town and Community Committee to support the idea of a third Thames crossing and the wording of the letter to be sent to Oxfordshire County Council advising them that the Henley Town Council supports the idea of a Weight Restriction Traffic Order on the Henley Bridge. A Member proposed the wording of the second paragraph being deleted and replaced with:

“Henley Town Council supports the implementation of a Weight Restriction Traffic Regulation Order in Henley Town centre on the grounds of congestion, danger to pedestrians, noise, air quality, and damage to buildings from vibration—each of which is sufficient reason as specified in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984; and

that a letter is sent to OCC requesting that they initiate the action required to implement such an Order”.

A debate ensued regarding the consequences of the suggested Traffic Order over the flow of traffic within the Henley area. The motion having been proposed and seconded was put to the vote:

This Council supports the idea of a third Thames crossing providing that it has no detrimental effect on Henley, and

Henley Town Council supports the implementation of a Weight Restriction Traffic Regulation Order in Henley Town centre on the grounds of congestion, danger to pedestrians, noise, air quality, and damage to buildings from vibration—each of which is sufficient reason as specified in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

and that a letter is sent to OCC requesting that they initiate the action required to implement such an Order”.

The motion was carried.

Councillor D Nimmo Smith asked that his abstention be recorded in the minutes.

Minute No.100 – Swan Credit Union

Members were in agreement that the creation of this Community Bank would be regarded as a welcomed asset to some of the residents of Henley and it was good to see the Council supporting this positive initiative.

- (iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 11 March 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 11 March 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No.97 – Finance

A Member called for justification as to why the Council Tax was increasing for the third consecutive year whilst SODC were managing to reduce theirs. It was his opinion that savings could be made by the Council and that a restructuring of the meetings and a further scrutinisation of the accounts was imperative. The Chairman responded, inviting the member to scrutinise the accounts, identify where he thought money has been wasted and suggest any potential savings that could be identified.

Minute No.98 – Grants

The Town Clerk spoke of recent correspondence he had received from Henley Town Football Club and how in the light of the Council declining their recent application for a grant, they would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Council to discuss their position. It was **RESOLVED**

that Councillors W Hamilton, D Silvester, Mrs J Wood and Mrs E Hodgkin be appointed to meet with Henley Football Club to discuss their position and report back to Finance, Strategy and Management Committee.

Minute No.99 – Financing of the Toddler Play Area

Members discussed the issue of the increased overall costs to the refurbishment of the toddler play area, airing concerns over this significant increase and the monitoring of such a large project with regards to 'Value for Money'. Members were informed that following a review of the current equipment it had become apparent that a total replacement was most cost effective as opposed to merely renewing some of the equipment. Members were in agreement that the current Toddler Playground facilities were in need of a complete replacement rather than just part refurbishment. A Member spoke of his concern that the Council's budget did not include a 'Sinking Fund' to accommodate such increases in expenditure and it was agreed that this issue would be investigated further. A motion that the matter be referred back to Committee was lost whereupon it was **RESOLVED**

that the recommendation as set out in the minutes be adopted.

Minute No.101(vi) – Offer to Purchase HTC Land at Makins

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Solicitors acting for the Keen Partnership regarding the offer to purchase a strip of land at Makins and the responsibility to eradicate Japanese Knotweed, which warranted a response by 8th April 2014. Members were in agreement that in order for this to be ratified within the required timeframe then delegated powers would have to be assigned for the consideration of these minutes. It was **RESOLVED**

that Delegated Powers be assigned to the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Legal Group to progress these matters.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 18 March 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 18 March 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted,

Arising from the report:

Minute No.78 – Progress report

A Member expressed concern at Councillor I Reissmann singlehandedly being responsible for discussing the issue of land useage with SOHA on behalf of the Council as this protocol did not adhere to Standing Orders. It was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor W Hamilton would assist Councillor I Reissmann in contacting SOHA regarding their plans for the old garage area at the top of the Pram Walk and to open discussions as to how the Council may be involved and to report back to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

Minute No.79 – Toddler Playground

A Member updated Council on the situation with the five companies that had tendered for the replacement contract work on the Toddler Playground and the subsequent presentations that had been given by the two successful shortlisted companies. A debate ensued as to the budget, the scale of the replacement ad the selection procedure. Members were in agreement that it was essential and the selection panel should view examples of playgrounds that both the shortlisted companies had been responsible for creating. It was **RESOLVED**

that the membership of the Toddler Playground Working Group should reconvene with delegated powers to appoint and that the membership should be expanded to seven Members.

Members discussed the membership of the Toddler Playground Working Group. It was **RESOLVED**

that Councillors S Gawrysiak, D Nimmo Smith (substitute to be Councillor W Hamilton), Miss K Hinton, Mrs E Hodgkin, Mrs J Bland, Mrs P Philips and Mrs J Wood be appointed to sit on the Toddler Playground Working Group.

- (v) The Minutes of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on the 14 February and 14 March 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on the 14 February and 14 March 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (vi) The Minutes of the meetings of the Townlands Steering Group Committee held on the 22 January and 5 March 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Townlands Steering Group Committee held on the 22 January and 5 March 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 341 - TSG Finances

A Member enquired as to how long it was that the TSG had not been receiving interest on their funds, and was advised that the League of Friends has not gained interest on these funds.

Minute No. 342 - Date of Next meeting

The Chairman informed Council that the next meeting had been postponed until such time as there was further indication of the contract signing date.

93. MAYOR ELECT

The Mayor invited nominations for Mayor Elect 2014/15.

Councillor M Akehurst was nominated by Councillor D Hinke and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wood. It was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor Councillor M Akehurst be considered as the Mayor Elect for 2014/15.

94. DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

The Mayor invited nominations for Deputy Mayor Elect 2014/15.

Councillor Mrs J Wood was nominated by Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin and seconded by Councillor Mrs P Philips.; and
Councillor Miss L Hillier was nominated by Councillor W Hamilton and seconded by Councillor J Bland. Speeches in support of both candidates were made and following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor Mrs J Wood be considered as the Deputy Mayor Elect for 2014/15.

95. RISK ASSESSMENT

Members had before them a copy of the Strategic Risk Assessment Review for 2014 from the Town Clerk. The Council gave due consideration to the Risk Assessment review, which had been reproduced and had been previously circulated and **RESOLVED**

that the Risk Assessment Review for 2014 be received, approved and adopted.

A Member thanked the Town Clerk for all his work in compiling and writing the Risk Assessment.

Arising from the Risk Assessment:

Members sought clarification on Item No. 13 – IT Failure, as it was felt that there was no longer the technological need for a daily tape backup. A Member agreed that he would clarify this technical detail with the Accountant and the Town Clerk would update the document accordingly.

The meeting closed at 9.38 pm.

ppd

Mayor