

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Dave Eggleton
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Will Hamilton (substituting for
The Mayor, Councillor Julian Brookes)
Mrs Caroline Langler

In Attendance: Gareth Bartle – Parks Manager
Becky Walker – Committee Administrator

Also Present: Councillor Sara Abey
1 member of the Press

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Tuc Ahmad, Councillor Julian Brookes (Councillor Will Hamilton substituting), Marisa Francini, Councillor Lorraine Hillier and Phil Simms.

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute number 78 - Hanging Baskets – takes part in the hanging basket scheme.

74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

75. MINUTES

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee (HiB) held on 18 November 2016 were received, approved and adopted and were signed as a true record.

76. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members noted the resignation of Michaela Clarke due to time limitations with the increasing workload of the Henley Herald. The Chairman advised that Mrs Clarke had confirmed her continued commitment to covering Henley in Bloom in the Henley Herald and to sponsor the “On the Spot” award as part of the Gardens of Henley. The Committee **RESOLVED**

**that a letter of thanks be sent to Michaela Clarke for her support of
Henley in Bloom**

77. BUDGET UPDATE

The Sub Committee received, considered and noted the budget to date.

The Deputy Mayor suggested approaches be made to new companies in town re sponsorship of Henley in Bloom.

The Chairman advised that the owners of Spoon, the new deli and coffee shop in Duke Street, would like to sponsor 2 planters outside of their shop. As this area is highway the Town Council would need to take ownership of the planters and Spoon would sponsor them. The Oxfordshire County Council's Area Steward has approved the style of planters and location in principle.

Members received an image of the proposed planters which are rustic in design. Members were pleased to support the introduction of planters in Duke Street which may help combat the high levels of air pollution.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that Henley in Bloom support the siting of planters outside Spoon in Duke Street and ask the Town Council to take ownership of the planters subject to:-

- **the cost of installation and maintenance being covered by sponsorship from the neighbouring shops**
- **the Highway Authority's permission and conditions being met**

78. SPONSORED HANGING BASKETS FOR 2017

Members considered the charges for the sponsored hanging baskets for 2017. Members noted the cost price for 2017 from Windowflowers Ltd are the same as for 2016 as follows:- a summer sponsored basket is £45.50 and winter/spring is £39.50.

Members agreed the price of hanging baskets to residents businesses etc should remain the same as for 2016 and **RESOLVED**

that the charges to retailers, businesses and residents for the sponsored baskets for 2017 be:-

- **summer £60 inc vat (£50 plus vat)**
- **winter £55 inc vat (£45.93 plus vat)**
- **discounts available for orders over 10**

79. WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

i. HENLEY BROWNIES

Members noted the Henley Brownies (Thursday group) will be planting the tubs at Gillotts Corner on Thursday 11 May 2017 at 6 pm with Gardening Buddies.

ii. HENLEY SCOUTS

Members considered a project which Henley in Bloom can undertake with the Henley Cubs (Monday) as part of the World Challenge Award. It was suggested the Henley Wildlife Group be approached to see if they have a suitable project – possibly on the Chalk Bank

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that the Henley Wildlife Group be approached to ask if they have a suitable project

iii. CHELSEA FRINGE IN HENLEY

Members received an update regarding the Chelsea Fringe and Henley in Bloom's Floral Flotilla and the proposal to hold a "fun, floral and inclusive

community picnic” alongside the event which will take place at Mill Meadows on Sunday 4 June 2017 between 2 and 4 pm.

The proposal includes:-

- encouraging members of the public to bring a picnic and enjoy the Flotilla and the band which will be playing on the bandstand
- invite community groups
- provide a gazebo in case of poor weather
- stalls selling sandwiches, cakes and drinks which will be florally decorated

The Town Clerk has given permission for the Community Picnic to be held at Mill Meadows.

After consideration members **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom support the Chelsea Fringe’s proposal to hold a community picnic alongside the Floral Flotilla

The Parks Manager advised that the Chelsea Fringe is also planning a pop-up Zen Garden at Millennium Court for which the Town Clerk has given permission. The Garden is being designed by the Head Gardener of Friar Park and will be open to the public during the day. In addition an oriental peace themed garden will be exhibited in Millennium Court on Monday 22 May 2017 in conjunction with the Be Well Centre.

iv. **ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Chairman provided an update regarding the Henley Allotment Association and Henley in Bloom Gardeners’ Question Time held on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at the Town Hall which was a great success. Panellists included:-

- Colin Evans – Gardening Guru of BBC Radio Berkshire
- Clare Foster – Garden Editor of House and Garden Magazine
- Martyn Sheldrake – Manager of Toad Hall Garden Centre
- Andrew Hawkins – Allotmentee for over 40 years
- Tamsin Borlase –Bosley Patch Market Garden

v. **HENLEY WILDLIFE GROUP AND GARDENING BUDDIES**

Members noted that the Henley Wildlife Group and Gardening Buddies have organised a work party at Trinity Churchyard wildlife area on Tuesday 11 April 9.30 am and volunteers are welcome.

vi. **WALKERS ARE WELCOME (WaW)** – the Chairman updated members on this project which aims to make Henley a welcome destination for those who enjoy walking. The Chairman advised that WaW shares the same ethos as Henley in Bloom in a number of ways eg encouraging the community to enjoy open green spaces and wildlife, educating re the countryside by developing walks/leaflets, caring for footpaths and the environment, promote health and well-being etc.

The Chairman advised WaW require funds to assist with the start-up and the initial application fee to gain the national accreditation and the WaW Steering Committee has asked if Henley in Bloom will donate £250.

After consideration members **RESOLVED**

that Walkers are Welcome are allocated £250 from the Henley in Bloom budget to help fund their start-up costs re Henley gaining the national accreditation

80. BARK AND BLOOM

Members received a report regarding the proposed 2018 Bark and Bloom calendar which aims to raise money for charity and will feature rescue dogs adorned with real fauna and flora designed by Jo Wise – an artisan florist.

Members were asked to consider taking out a 1/3 page advert for £275 however in discussion felt this money could be used more effectively on other Bloom projects.

81. SCHOOLS IN BLOOM

i. Members considered transferring the £200 already allocated to Trinity School for their mural (minute 82 - 6.4.16) towards plants for a new planting scheme along a 60 m stretch at the front of the school following a request from the school. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that the £200 already allocated from the Schools in Bloom fund for the Trinity School mural be transferred to contribute towards the plants for the new planting scheme at the front of the school

ii. Members received an update from the Chairman regarding this year's Schools in Bloom challenge to see who can grow the biggest pumpkin and the tallest sunflower. Ms M Francini has kindly chosen the ideal seeds for this challenge and will provide handy tips on how to achieve the best results based on advice from the Allotment Association.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that up to £150 be allocated to Schools in Bloom projects 2017

Post meeting note: Marisa Francini suggested offering schools a guided tour of the allotments.

Members noted the Chairman will visit the Primary Schools to distribute the seeds and associated equipment.

iii. Members considered a request from Badgemore School for help in purchasing welly racks so that all the pupils have wellies available at school at all times and that they can be stored in an orderly fashion.

Members noted the focus at Badgemore is based on outdoor learning and the Forest School continues to grow with 3 additional members of staff being trained as Forest School practitioners. The pupils continue to flourish and this encourages the school to find ways to lower any barriers to getting outside in the right dress and shoes. The total cost to provide wellie racks for all pupils would be £250.

After consideration the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that £250 be allocated from the HiB Schools in Bloom budget to be given to Badgemore School to purchase welly racks

82. PHOTOS FOR HENLEY IN BLOOM

Members considered ways to build up a portfolio of photos of Henley, with a floral or horticultural aspect, to help promote Henley in Bloom and to include in the portfolio which forms part of the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom entry.

The Chairman advised a local photographer, Annabel Vere, had offered to take photos for Henley in Bloom and the Chairman agreed to liaise with Annabel and provide a list of opportunities and members agreed this would be a great asset.

During discussion the following suggestions were made:-

- ask competition entrants to photo their gardens during spring and summer (front only)
- encourage residents to send in photos. This could be promoted via social media, the Henley Standard and Herald
- create a specific Facebook page however would need a volunteer to manage the page

83. CELEBRATION BEDS

Members considered a theme for this year's Celebration Beds. The Gardening Buddies had suggested the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter (born 1866) however members were concerned that this did not have a link with Henley.

A member suggested the theme should be bees and to highlight their current plight. The design could include bee friendly plants. Local businesses could be involved eg Brakspear and local honey providers. The interpretation board could focus on ways to help bees.

Members considered the provision of an interpretation board and **RESOLVED**

that up to £250 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for the provision of an interpretation board for the Celebration Beds

84. GARDENS OF HENLEY 2017

Members received an update from Chairman regarding progress on the new style "Gardens of Henley 2017".

It was noted that only gardens that can be viewed by the public can be included in the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom tour.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that the Chairman, Caroline Langler and Councillor Dave Eggleton progress this initiative

85. THAMES AND CHILTERNs IN BLOOM

- i. Members considered Henley entering Thames and Chilterns in Bloom in 2017 and the entry fee of £100.

After consideration the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that Henley enter the 2017 Thame and Chilterns in Bloom and the entry fee of £100 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget

- ii. Members considered the funding of the vehicle hire, printing and binding of the portfolio, welcome tea and coffee, Judges' lunch, refreshments for the 2017 entry of Thames and Chilterns in Bloom and **RESOLVED**

that £450 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget to cover the costs of the judging day including the welcome tea/coffee and coffee, lunch, refreshments for the bus, vehicle hire and the printing and binding of the portfolio

- iii. Members received an update from the Chairman re Henley hosting a second Thames and Chilterns in Bloom seminar and noted the event is funded by Thames and Chilterns in Bloom. Members were supportive of holding a second seminar as it promotes Henley and helps create a network with other Bloom groups. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom host the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom seminar at the Town Hall in the autumn of 2017

- iv. The Sub Committee received and noted the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom newsletter.

86. REVIEW OF FLORAL/HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS

The Sub Committee received an update from the Chairman regarding the floral and horticultural review as follows:-

- the Town Council has agreed the purchase of a custom made planter next to the bridge (next to Leander)
- discussion took place re the base of the trees outside ET Sheppard/ Tomalins on Reading Road and whether to place porous resin there or to raise the granite block surround to enable planting. The latter was felt to have more aesthetic value.
- Singers Park – it is planned to raise the granite block surround at the base of the trees at Singers Park to enable planting
- it was suggested the porous resin product may be suitable for the trees in Market Place rather than the metal grills under which debris can collect – it was noted this would be a Town and Community Committee consideration

87. GARDENING BUDDIES UPDATE

- i. Members noted the on-going work being undertaken by Gardening Buddies Including the replanting of the Rotary Beds at Mill Meadows, the Lions Bed, Reading Road and the Station Flower bed. Members acknowledged the amount of work Gardening Buddies carried out and the money this saved the Council.
- ii. Members considered the cost of summer/bedding plants for the planters and areas looked after by Gardening Buddies (eg not in the horticultural contract) and after discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that £250 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for the purchase of plants for the planters and areas around the town looked after by Gardening Buddies and an additional £50 for the purchase of hand trowels, knee pads etc.

- iii. Members also considered allocating funds for the gorilla gardening undertaken by Caroline Langer eg the planting of the wheel barrows and **RESOLVED**

that up to £100 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for the plants for gorilla gardening projects in the town eg wheelbarrows

88. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 1 June 2017 at 9.30 am.

Chairman

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