

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton (Mayor)
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Dave Eggleton
Councillor Sara Abey (substituting for Councillor Julian Brookes)
Mr Tuc Ahmad
Mrs Caroline Langler
Mr Phil Simms

In Attendance: Janet Wheeler – Town Clerk
Gareth Bartle – Parks Manager
Elizabeth Lemaire – Park Warden
Becky Walker – Committee Administrator

Also Present: No members of the public
1 member of the Press

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Julian Brookes (Councillor Sara Abey substituting), Marisa Francini and Councillor Lorraine Hillier.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee (HiB) held on 29 March 2017 were received, approved and adopted and were signed as a true record.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Sub Committee noted the Henley in Bloom Sub Committee was established at the Recreation and Amenities Committee on 16 May 2017 and additional members may be appointed at Full Council on Tuesday 13 June 2017.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

The Committee received and noted the budget to date.

7. REVIEW OF FLORAL/HORTICULTURAL DISPLAYS

- i The Chairman provided an update regarding the review of the floral/ horticultural displays in the town and referred to a tabled report. The following comments were made:-
- the Bridge Planter is under construction
 - Red Lion Pavement bed – Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have given permission for the Town Council to maintain. The Recreation and Amenities Committee have agreed to fund this until March 2018 and consideration will be given to its inclusion in the Horticultural Contract long term during the budget setting process
 - Northfield End – see below
 - Red Lion Lawn - Window troughs on railings – Windowflowers advised plants would not thrive at this location as it is in heavy shade. Also the troughs would block the view of people sitting at the tables and chairs and the planting/troughs could be subject to vandalism as there is a history of this here. No further action.
 - Market Place – the Parks Manager advised that there maybe technical reasons why a tree may not survive eg low water table.
 - Wooden tubs in front of the Town Hall – have been planted and these should be reviewed in the autumn.
Note: Windowflowers to suggest alternative planters which are more “urban” and would not mark the pavement (rust spots) for consideration by this Committee.
 - Planters and planting adjacent to town entrance signs – see minute 8
- ii. Members received a report which was presented to the Recreation and Amenities Committee on 17 May 2017 from a group of Bell Street and Northfield End residents (NEG) regarding improvements to the area and the Chairman updated members of a subsequent meeting with residents as follows:-
- residents offered to mow Northfield End Green if they would like it mown more often than is scheduled in the Parks Service mowing schedule
 - NEG would like the 2 square planters brought into the Horticultural Contact. The Recreation and Amenities Committee have agreed to fund this until March 2018 and consideration will be given to their inclusion in the Horticultural Contract long term during the budget setting process in the autumn
 - NEG agreed the existing planters were suitable and NEG noted that they were not big enough for a central planting feature as suggested in their report

- NEG were keen to have trees planted in the area however were aware liaison from the County Council was required and with the utility companies, residents etc. Also that any planting must not obscure signage or visions splays
- NEG would like the highway signage to be reviewed with Oxfordshire County so the area is less cluttered

Note: an email has been sent to the Highways Department to ask if it is possible to move the blue roundabout sign to the central reservation, move the parking restriction sign from the tall pole (and remove the pole) to the small wooden posts at each end and to place artwork or decoration on the back of the large directional sign

- possible installation of art work – NEG to investigate and report back to the Chairman
- NEG requested the gulleys be cleared as large puddles are forming on the road next to Northfield End Green when it rains.

Note: this has been reported on “Fix My Street”.

- members noted the wooden posts around the grassed area are required to prevent vehicles parking or cutting the corner
- residents would like to plant bulbs and the Chairman advised the group should liaise with Gardening Buddies re types of bulbs etc and report back to the Chairman

- iii. Members received and considered the recommendation below which was referred to the Henley in Bloom Committee from the Town and Community Committee:-

that the Bell Street triangle of land, the Georgian paving in Bell Street and the land outside Northfield House should be passed to the Bloom Committee to deal with along with their other projects once the purchase of the triangle of land on Bell Street is complete

Members welcome the opportunity to review the planting etc on the Triangle at Northfield End once it is transferred to the Town Council and would liaise with the NEG group discussed above.

Members discussed the Georgian paving aspect and felt this was not within the remit of Henley in Bloom and should be referred back to the Town and Community Committee and **RESOLVED**

that the possible re-instatement of the Georgian paving adjacent to the Triangle at Northfield End be referred back to the Town and Community Committee

8. **MARLOW ROAD PLANTER**

The Sub Committee considered the replacement of the Marlow Road planter which was destroyed by a vehicle. Action is being taken to retrieve the full amount to cover the cost of a like for like replacement either from the owner or by insurance.

The Chairman advised the planter could be replaced like for like or it this may be an opportunity to look at other options. A brick and flint design planter had been previously suggested and it was felt this material was fitting and would pay homage to the town's heritage. Members agreed further investigation should be made and costs sought. It was acknowledged this option maybe too expensive but also noted Henley should be proud of their entrances and these provide the first impressions of the town.. The funding of the planters would be an item for the Recreation and Amenities Committee budget.

A member queried why a planter is required – it was noted that planters provide height and a more visible display, plants also thrive better and are easier to maintain.

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that further costs be sought for brick and flint planters to be located at the Marlow Road, Fairmile and Reading Road entrances and these be brought back to this Committee

9. HANGING BASKETS

- i. The Sub Committee noted 234 sponsored summer hanging baskets have been ordered this year.

The Chairman thanked the Henley Standard for their massive support for this initiative which grows year on year.

- ii. The Sub Committee considered whether Henley in Bloom should pay for 2 baskets to be placed on the CAB building in Market Place and 2 baskets at the Fire Station next to the Garden Buddies bed at a total cost of £178 (eg £44.50 per basket – discounted rate).

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom pay for 2 baskets each on the CAB building in Market Place and the Fire Station in West Street next to the Gardening Buddies bed

10. THAMES AND CHILTERNs IN BLOOM

- i. Members noted the date of the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judging is Thursday 20 July 2017 in the morning.

The Chairman advised an update for the Chairman on the proposed itinerary:-

- this year the theme is **Bee-autiful Henley** and celebrates the work of the bee and other pollinators
- **Bee Movie** - the tour this year will have a unique start with the presentation being given on a cinema screen at the Regal Picturehouse. This venue is appropriate as it showcases the partnership working between Henley in Bloom and the Regal in providing an educational package to promote awareness of the bee and pollinators.

All year 2 children at the State primary schools in Henley are invited to a free showing of the Bee Movie. A talk by a bee-keeper will be given before the movie highlighting the work of bees and its importance and an educational pack will be given to each pupil

including a booklet on the bee with puzzles and fun facts and bee badges kindly donated by the Regal.

The Chairman thanked Melissa Macfarlane, Manager at the Regal, for working with Henley in Bloom and enabling this exciting project to progress.

The year 2 pupils have been asked to make 3D bees which will be displayed and will be flying around the stairs in the Regal.

- work is progressing on the tour
- lunch will be either be held outside in Millennium Court or the Barn (depending on the weather) for which the Station House next door are catering.

Members noted the update.

- ii. Members noted the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Seminar will take place on Thursday 2 November 2017 at the Town Hall and members are asked to diary date this event.

This is the second year this event is being held in Henley. The event was very well attended and received last year and included talks by Phil Simms – Chief Reporter of the Henley Standard and the Town Manager, Henley Barnett.

The Chairman advised investigation would be made into additional speakers including:- the winner of the Environmental Science Award (run by Henley in Transition) – the Headteacher of Sonning Common Primary School; the new Park Warden (Conservation); possibly the Town Council's sexton and hopefully a representative from the Henley Standard.

11. GARDENS OF HENLEY 2017

- i. Caroline Langler provided an update regarding the "Gardens of Henley 2017" as follows:-
- 10 plus entries received to date. Members noted it would be beneficial to have new entrants and members were asked to encourage residents to enter. Swiss Farm was suggested as an area with potential entrants.
 - Judges for 2017 are Caroline Langler, Councillor Dave Eggleton, Councillor Sara Abey and possibly Park Warden Elizabeth Lemaire
 - the judging date is Saturday 24 June 2017 – meet at the Town Hall at 1 pm

Members noted the Gardens of Henley Awards Evening will be held on Thursday 21 September 2017 at 7 pm in the Town Hall and were asked to diary date this event.

- ii. The an update from the Chairman regarding Pubs and Restaurants in Bloom 2017 as follows:-
- members discussed the merits of asking pubs and restaurants to enter versus judging all pubs and restaurants. It was noted the latter

does involve a lot of work for the judges however does ensure more entrants.

- pubs and restaurants to be judged late July or early August

12. WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

i. WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

The Chairman informed members that this year's summer Window Display Competition, which is run by Carolyn Molyneux of Delegate Office and Conference Services, will be "Celebrating the Bee" and highlighting their important role. The mascot of the competition will be knitted bees which will be displayed in windows around the town.

The Chairman expressed her thanks to Carolyn Molyneux for organising this year's competition and for supporting Henley in Bloom.

ii. CHELSEA FRINGE IN HENLEY

The Chairman informed members that the closing event of the Chelsea Fringe in Henley 2017, the Floral Flotilla, held on Saturday 4 June 2017 was hugely successful and was combined with a community picnic, a marquee for the Thames Valley Orchid Society and the Roy Bailey Big Band on the bandstand.

The Chairman also advised that over 21 decorated boats took part and Tim Richardson, who started the Chelsea Fringe, chose to attend this event on the closing day.

The Chairman also advised that local photographer, Annabel Vere, took a number of very high quality photos of the event which will be used in the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom presentation.

The Chairman thanked Hobbs of Henley for providing a boat which was decorated by Henley in Bloom and skippered by the Mayor and for Victoria Newton and Jane McFarlane Duckworth for all their hard work.

iii. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Marisa Francini to give an update to the next meeting or by email.

iv. GARDENING BUDDIES

The Chairman advised the Gardening Buddies have been extremely busy – works include planting of the Celebration Beds themed on bees with a central feature of a bee hive (not a real one), the tubs by the river, the large containers in the Sensory Garden and the Rotary Beds.

Members considered the sign for the beds which includes a photo of Gardening Buddy Liz Hodgkin taken by local photographer Annabel Vere. Members suggested a number of amendments be made to the wording and layout.

The Chairman showed photos of Gardening Buddies planting the Gillotts Corner tubs with the Brownies on 11 May 2017.

The Chairman also advised the Cubs had undertaken a work day with the Henley Wildlife Group on the Chalk Bank on Sunday 11 June 2017 which was organised by Henley in Bloom.

13. PROGRESS REPORT

Members received and noted the progress report and made the following comments:-

- the planters outside Spoon are now in situ and look wonderful. *Work completed – remove from progress*
- Celebration Beds – members noted the beds have been planted. The Chairman asked members to start thinking about themes for next year and to email the Chairman. *Work completed - remove from progress.*
- the Chairman praised the photographs of Annabel Vere of the Floral Flotilla and the planting of the Celebration Beds and which are of a very high quality. Annabel has given permission for Bloom to use the photos in return for credits. A members suggested Bloom should start using Instagram and the Chairman agreed to investigate this option and noted it would have the advantage of engaging with younger people. *Remove from progress.*
- Gardening Buddies and the Brownies have planted the tubs at Gillotts Corner – *Work completed – remove from progress.*

14. HENLEY IN BLOOM BANNERS

Members considered purchasing replacement Henley in Bloom banners for the flagpoles in Market Place (purple background, “H” logo and Henley in Bloom words) as the current ones are ripped at a cost was approx. £200 - £250 per banner.

Members felt this was expensive and felt other options should be investigated eg sail standalone banners.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed the date of the next meeting to be arranged by email.

Chairman

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