

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton
The Vice Chairman, Councillor Dave Eggleton
The Mayor, Councillor J Brookes
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Mrs M Clarke
Mrs Caroline Langler

In Attendance: Gareth Bartle – Parks Manager
Becky Walker – Minute Taker

Also Present: 1 member of the press

The Mayor, Councillor J Brookes took the Chair.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Mayor, Councillor J Brookes called for nominations for the election of Chairman for the municipal year 2016 – 17.

Councillor Miss L Hillier proposed and Councillor D Eggleton seconded that Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton be nominated..

There being no further nominations and following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton be elected Chairman of the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee for 2016 – 17.

Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton took the Chair.

The Chairman advised that Councillor S Smith had stepped down from the Sub Committee and that a vote of thanks for his participation last year be extended to him.

It was **RESOLVED**

that thanks be extended to Councillor S Smith for his work last year on the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton called for nominations for the Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2016 – 17. Councillor Miss L Hillier proposed and the Chairman seconded that Councillor D Eggleton be nominated.

There being no further nominations and following a vote it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor D Eggleton be elected Vice-Chairman of the Henley in Bloom Sub Committee for 2016 - 17

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr P Simms and Ms K Kobik.

Members sent their best wishes to Mr P Simms who is getting married this weekend.

The Chairman advised that Ms K Kobik finds it difficult to attend daytime meetings due to work commitments and it was **RESOLVED**

that the Chairman contact Ms K Kobik to ask if she would like to participate in the work of Bloom in a more informal context rather than a member of the Sub Committee

Post meeting note: The Chairman has contacted that Ms Kobik who has advised that she would like to remain involved in an informal capacity rather than as a formal Sub Committee member. The Chairman has taken over the social media role.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

None.

6. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Sub Committee received and noted the Terms of Reference as approved by the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

7. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 6 April 2016 were received, approved and adopted and were signed as a true record by the Chairman.

8. **FRONT AND BACK GARDENS COMPETITIONS/PUBS AND RESTAURANTS**

Members received an update on the Front and Back Gardens competitions and the Pubs and Restaurants from the Chairman as follows:-

- the leaflets have been distributed to previous and potential entries
- this is the first year Pubs and Restaurants have been asked to enter the competition and to date 3 entries have been received. It was suggested members visit and encourage pubs and restaurants to enter.
- it was suggested Brakspear Headquarters maybe able to distribute the entry forms to their pubs and encourage their pubs to enter

A member commented how stained the pavement outside Cau in Hart Street is. Mrs M Clarke advised she would speak to the manager regarding this.

The Chairman advised she would judge in place of Councillor Simon Smith.

Post meeting note: The date of the Awards Ceremony has been changed to Thursday 8 September 2016.

9. **SCHOOLS IN BLOOM**

- i. The Chairman summarised the 2016 Schools in Bloom to date as follows:-
- the Chairman contacted each of the 6 primary schools in Henley to invite them to participate in the:-
 - “Bee and Butterfly Year” including a caterpillar to butterfly growing kit
 - “Cut Flowers Initiative” including packs of 5 species of native flower seeds, compost, seed tray and pots
 - 4 of the schools accepted the offer of a talk at an assembly which Committee members and a representative from the Parks Service attended. The talk explained the who and what Henley in Bloom do, the 2016 Schools in Bloom initiatives, the work and importance of pollinators, examples of bee/bug hotels and how to make them and promoted British grown cut flowers versus imported flowers
 - the Henley in Bloom Schools Fund which enables schools to apply for specific projects with a horticultural theme was promoted

A member also arranged for donations of second hand tools to schools.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that the update re Schools in Bloom be updated

- ii. The Chairman proposed holding a “mini” photo/art competition with a horticultural theme to encourage schools to take photos of their Schools in Bloom projects. The Chairman would seek donations for prizes.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that schools be invited to enter a “mini” photo/art competition be held with a horticultural theme

10. **FREEMANS MEADOW AND MAKINS RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENTS**

The Sub Committee received and noted a resolution from the Parks Sub Committee (Minute 41 – 22.4.16) regarding proposed improvements to Freemans Meadow and Makins Recreation Ground which asked for Henley in Bloom’s input into the planting of trees, wildflowers, shrubs etc.

The Chairman advised that she and Councillor D Eggleton both sat on the Parks Sub Committee and would keep this Sub Committee updated. Members were asked to advise the Chairman if they had any ideas regarding the improvements who would forward them to the Parks Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom would welcome being involved with the proposed improvements to Freemans Meadow and Makins Recreation Ground and that Councillor Kellie Hinton be the nominated Henley in Bloom’s representative on this project

11. **SPONSORED HANGING BASKETS**

- i. Members noted 233 sponsored hanging baskets had been sold which is a record breaking number for the fourth year. A major factor in the increasing sales is the invaluable support from the Henley Standard with their “Buy a Basket” campaign.

Members noted First Great Western had not purchased baskets for the **train station** but it was hoped they would.

- ii. Members considered whether Henley in Bloom would like to pay for the two hanging baskets at the Fire Station, West Street and six on lamp posts at the bottom of Greys Road (as in previous years).

The Chairman advised Gardening Buddies have completed the redesign and planting of the **Fire Station bed** with the assistance of the Parks Service and the Community Payback, which is a vast improvement. Mr M Sheldrake of Toad Hall assisted with design and planting scheme and Henley in Bloom funded the plants.

After discussion the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that 2 baskets at the Fire Station, West Street and 6 in Greys Road be paid for by Henley in Bloom from the Henley in Bloom budget (at £45.50 per basket)

Post meeting note: the 6 baskets at the bottom of Greys Road have been added to the horticultural contract.

A member asked what Henley in Bloom could do to encourage **chain stores** to buy baskets and the following comments were made:-

- in the past shops who have had baskets are publicly praised
- photos have been taken of chain store shops with baskets in other towns with a request that they do the same for Henley
- HiB have purchased baskets for one year to encourage hire of future years eg Pizza Express – who have ordered this year
- written to key people at Head Office to encourage the purchase of baskets

A member suggested she write a letter to encourage chain stores to purchase hanging baskets which members agreed would be worthwhile.

A member suggested new, cloth bunting should be purchased for the town and members considered a contribution from Henley in Bloom towards the costs as this promoted heritage, art and civic pride. Members preferred cloth bunting rather than plastic and hoped the area could be extended eg to include Friday Street, Hart Street, Reading Road and New Street.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that up to £1000 from the Henley in Bloom budget be given towards the purchase of cloth (rather than plastic) bunting for the town should the budget for bunting not be adequate

that the area be extended to include Friday Street, Reading Road and New Street

Post Meeting note; new plastic bunting has been ordered to be installed in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations. A grant has been submitted to SODC to fund the new bunting in Market Place. Plastic bunting has been chosen as it is more durable than cloth, which over the long summer period would deteriorate and suffer from mildew.

12. EVENTS - HIT LITTER AND CHELSEA FRINGE IN HENLEY

- i. The Chairman provided an update re this year's litter campaign (Saturday 16 April 2016) as follows:-
 - the event was very successful (and wet) with a large amount of rubbish collected
 - thanks to be extended to the Parks Service who collected rubbish from the various places around the town
 - the soup was very welcome – a letter of thanks to be sent to Doug Richards
 - there was a good turn out from the community including a number of new participants including Tesco Stores and PCSO Claire Hewitt.
 - Biffa/SODC once again provided litter pickers, hi-vis jackets, safety information etc and a letter of thanks to be extended to them

- ii. The Parks Manager provided an update regarding the **Floral Flotilla** at Mill Meadows held on Saturday 21 May 2016 as follows:-
 - the event was a low-key, friendly event which went well despite the weather
 - Henley in Bloom entered a decorated boat provided by the Deputy Mayor and was supported by Brakspear who provided banners to display on the boat. The cost of the floral displays was £30
 - the Parks Manager also entered a decorated boat
 - this was organised by the Chelsea Fringe in Henley and was supported by Henley in Bloom and this is important role of the Committee to support such community driven initiatives

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the £30 spent on floral displays for the Henley in Bloom be taken from the Henley in Bloom budget

- iii. The Chairman reminded members of the Chelsea Fringe in Henley's **Cut Flower Market**, which is supported by Henley in Bloom and is to be held in the Market Place alongside the Plant Sale on Saturday 28 May 2016 and asked for volunteers to help on the day.

The Chairman advised she would like to run an activity stall alongside the Plant Sale to encourage children to plant some of the cut flower seeds using recycled plant pots and take them home to watch them grow and attract bees and butterflies. Also to gather contact details of those who participate. Also to have a contact sheet to be able to keep in touch with participants.

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

that £20 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for the purchase of equipment for the activity stall at the Cut Flower Market on 28 May 2016

The Chairman proposed holding a **Henley in Bloom Activity Day** in the Market Place for families on a Saturday in June before the summer holidays for approx. 4 hours. The proposal includes:-

- asking community groups who are involved with Henley in Bloom to have a stalls to celebrate their works, art and heritage eg Henley in Transition, Henley Archaeological and Historical Society, Walkers are Welcome, Henley Allotments Association to promote their works
- stalls to include craft stalls, planting and air quality, raising awareness of pollinators with fun activities etc
- hold a raffle with donated prizes
- cake stall, local honey
- local music
- creating a Henley in Bloom community canvas to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday to send to the Queen

The Mayor, Councillor J Brookes left the meeting at 10.37 am

Members fully supported the proposal and **RESOLVED**

that £150 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for a Henley in Bloom Activity Day

13. THAMES AND CHILTERN IN BLOOM

- i. The Chairman advised she and the Parks Manager were working on this year's tour and asked members for any suggestions they feel should be included. Members were advised the judging tour is a rigid 2 hours.

Members suggested including Honeys of Henley and Hidden Henley whereby areas not normally visible are viewed.

- ii. Members noted the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judging day is Thursday 14 July 2016. The judges are Peter Thompson and Norman Parker who are both very experienced judges.

14. BUDGET UPDATE

Members received and noted a healthy budget to date.

15. GARDENING BUDDIES UPDATE

Members received an update from Gardening Buddies and recent work/planting including:-

- the circular bed of the Mill Lane Car Park and the horse trough at Marsh Meadows
- the Celebration Beds have been planted in a theme to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday by Gardening Buddies, the Community Payback and the Parks Service (white and red geraniums)
- the 4 tubs at Mill Meadows (red and white geraniums)
- the work at the Fire Station bed, West Street is now complete
- tidying of the Gardening Buddies bed
- Northfield End tubs, outside the Fire Station Gallery, Gillotts Corner and outside Wootton Manor shops

The Sub Committee considered a request for £200 for plants for the planters and
RESOLVED

**that up to £200 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget
for plants for Gardening Buddies to purchase plants around the town**

Members discussed improving grot spots around the town and commented how wonderful the small bed by the train station looks. Improving areas such as this fits in well with the Royal Horticultural Society's theme "Greening Grey Britain" and
RESOLVED

**that up to £100 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget
for plants to improve grot spots to be co-ordinated by Mrs C Langler**

Floral Train – an agenda item was not placed on this agenda as the Chairman is liaising with a potential sponsor and a further update will be brought to this Sub Committee.

16. SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

The Chairman advised new sponsorship opportunities need to be explored and asked members to make suggestions of possible contacts.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 8 June 2016 at 9.30 am.

Post meeting note: this meeting was postponed and members will be advised of the amended date.

bw

Chairman