

Present: The Chairman, Councillor S Smith
Vice Chairman, Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor Miss L Hillier (Mayor)
Mrs M Clarke
Mr D Eggleton
Ms M Francini
Ms K Kobik
Mrs C Langler
Mr P Simms

In attendance: Mr G Bartle – Parks Services Manager
Mrs B Walker – Minute Taker/Committee Administrator

The Mayor, Councillor Miss L Hillier took the Chair.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Mayor, Councillor Miss L Hillier called for nominations for the election of Chairman for the municipal year 2015 – 16 and advised only the three Councillors appointed to the Sub Committee at the Recreation and Amenities Committee could vote.

Councillor Miss K Hinton proposed herself – no seconder.

The Mayor, Councillor Miss L Hillier proposed Councillor S Smith who seconded the nomination.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor S Smith be elected Chairman of the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee for 2015 – 16

Councillor S Smith took the Chair.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman, Councillor S Smith called for nominations for the Vice-Chairman. The Mayor, Councillor Miss L Hillier proposed Councillor Miss K Hinton and the Chairman seconded the nomination.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor Miss K Hinton be elected Vice-Chairman of the Henley in Bloom Sub Committee for 2015 - 16

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members received the Terms of Reference and the Chairman proposed that the number of Councillors referred to in point 1 be changed to “up to 4”, which would

enable Councillor D Eggleton to sit on the Committee as a Councillor. The quorum to remain at 2.

Councillor D Eggleton joined the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the Terms of Reference be noted subject to the words “up to 4” being added to point 1 of the Terms of Reference and it to therefore read

“Membership – The Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee will consist of co-opted members and *up to 4* Councillors.”

5. CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS

Members considered the co-option of members. It was noted Mr S Khan had not attended a meeting for a number of months and no longer lived in the area.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the following be co-opted on to the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee:-

Mrs M Clarke	- Henley Herald
Ms M Francini	- Allotment Association
Ms K Kobik	- Primary Times/Schools Liaison
Mrs C Langler	- Henley in Transition
Mr P Simms	- Henley Standard

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

8. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Henley in Bloom / Civic Pride Sub Committee meeting held on 24 March 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

9. BUDGET UPDATE

Members received and noted the budget report to 11 June 2015.

The Chairman noted £7,000 had been allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget towards the Entente Florale costs and suggested it would be helpful to have information regarding this type of proposed budget allocation included in the report and that this suggestion be forwarded to the Accountant.

10. ENTENTE FLORALE

- i. The Vice-Chairman provided an update on the arrangements for Entente Florale Europe which have been progressing with the agreement of the Town Clerk as follows:-
 - a pdf version of the portfolio has been sent to the judges and the printed version will follow
 - mock judging has taken place where 3 Entente judges and 4 regional Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judges were taken on a condensed

version of the tour and presentation - valuable feedback was given following the tour

- the main parts of the itinerary have been drawn up as follows:-
 - the judges arrive on Saturday 18 July 2015 at Heathrow
 - the judges will stay at Greenlands (Henley Business School) and will have dinner there on Saturday evening
 - it is hoped to offer the opportunity of viewing the Illuminated Parade organised by the Henley Traditional Boat Festival
 - the 6 hour judging will take place on Sunday 19 July 2015
 - Lunch (provided by Waitrose) will take place in the Kings Arms Barn (judges only)
 - audio equipment will be ordered, transport hired and refreshments for the bus organised
 - the journey back to Greenlands by a traditional boat organised by the organisers of the Festival
 - a gala dinner at the Traditional Boat Festival
 - Monday – as this is the last leg of the judging tour the final deliberations by the judges will take place in Henley (at the Town Hall) and other judges may join the group
 - Judges return to Heathrow

Members noted the arrangements to date.

- ii. Members considered the re-appointment of the Entente Florale Working Group and **RESOLVED**

that the Entente Florale Working Group be re-appointed with the following membership:-

**Councillor S Smith
Councillor Miss K Hinton
Ms M Francini
Mrs C Langler
Mr G Bartle**

11. BRITAIN IN BLOOM AND THAMES AND CHILTERN IN BLOOM

Members considered allocating money for the judges' lunch for the Britain in Bloom and the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom lunches and other costs for instance the cost of printing the portfolio, refreshments for the bus etc.

The Vice-Chairman confirmed that she was happy to give the presentation and guide both tours.

It was **RESOLVED**

that up to £700 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget regarding the cost of the lunch, printing of portfolio, refreshments etc for the Britain in Bloom and Thames and Chilterns in Bloom judging days

12. HANGING BASKETS

Members considered Henley in Bloom funding the cost of providing 8 hanging baskets on the bottom section of the Greys Road. These have been funded by Henley in Bloom for the last 2 years and have proved popular with residents and has encouraged privately sponsored baskets in this area.

The Mayor suggested, having spoken with representatives from local flowershops, that they may like to provide the hanging baskets if this did not conflict with the conditions of the contract with the Horticultural Contractor.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- Windowflowers not only provide, but more importantly they water and feed the baskets, which the flower shops may not be able to do. Windowflowers have the equipment and manpower to water the baskets (over 200 sponsored and over 120 Town Council funded baskets) which are often high up.
- It is unwise to change the provider of the hanging baskets this year due to entering the Bloom and Entente Florale Europe campaigns
- the uniformity and colour scheme of the baskets may not be maintained if flower shops provided these baskets
- a more practical alternative (and easier to water) maybe for flower shops to plant and maintain planters on which they could have a plaque. There are a number of unsponsored planters in town

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom fund 6 (rather than 8) hanging baskets in the lower part of the Greys Road

that the possibility of Henley flower shops planting and maintaining planters (not within the Town Council's horticultural contract) be investigated

13. "GROT SPOTS"

Mrs C Langler updated members regarding areas around the town which would benefit from improvements and the following areas were identified:-

- the corner of Newtown Road and Reading Road
- the bases of the trees outside Tomalins look untidy due to stones not being contained
- small area in front of the Esso Garage on the Reading Road
- area outside Henley Gate by the Reading Road roundabout
- along the frontage of Upton Close – the Parks Manager advised there is a spare bench and bin which could be placed in this area which has recently been cleared by the Parks Service which may help to block cars parking here

Mrs C Langler advised the owner of Hallmark House had provided £125 for plants for the bed (shrubs and perennials) by the Station. Windowflowers have quoted £70 for watering over the summer. Members congratulated Mrs C Langler for her work and persistence on this project and for securing funding.

The Chairman advised that Sainsbury has come to an agreement with the owners of the alleyway between Boots and Sainsbury and their staff would sweep the area daily.

Members were advised that two wheelbarrows had been donated by the Henley Allotments Association to be up-cycled as plant containers for this summer and support was given for this initiative. Upton Close was suggested as a location. Members considered allocating a sum of money to pay for plants (which previously Mrs C Langler had paid for out of her own pocket) for some of these neglected areas, however it was noted aftercare was of the utmost importance so as not to waste

money. Mrs C Langler acknowledged this and that the plants would be sustainable eg perennials and shrubs rather than bedding plants.

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that up to £200 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for plants for areas identified as needing improving and Mrs C Langler to co-ordinate this project (subject to Town Council financial regulations)

A member advised that South Oxfordshire District Council can provide traditional street name plates in certain areas on a limited scale and members were asked to identify particular areas.

14. SCENTELITE

Members received an update from the Vice-Chairman regarding the Henley in Bloom diffusers produced by Scentelite. Take up from local retailers has not been as brisk as was hoped and members questioned whether the rrp price of £20 should be reduced. It was noted the diffusers are good value for money as they are high quality and double the size of standard diffusers. Boatique are the first (non Council) retailer in Henley to stock the diffusers. The possibility of giving the diffusers as a gift to the Entente judges was considered although it was noted they would need to be sent due to airline regulations on carrying liquids. Members were advised that the Visitor Information Manager had agreed to their sale in the Visitor Information Centres.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED**

that 20 Scentelite diffusers be purchased from the Henley in Bloom budget for sale in the Visitor Information Centres

15. HENLEY IN BLOOM BRANDING

Members received a colour copy of the new Henley in Bloom branding which forms part of the re-branding of the Town Council. The colour theme is purple. The original colour was yellow however this proved difficult to read on plaques. Adoption of the new branding was discussed in relation to the blue and yellow logo and it was **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom use the new purple “H” branding (which forms part of the Town Council’s re-branding package) in future and that this feature on the new banners for the Market Place flagpoles (minute 94 refers)

16. PROGRESS REPORT

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

Planter at the Old Fire Station Gallery – this is being progressed.

Post meeting note – the planter has now been painted fire engine red and Gardening Buddies will plant with summer bedding

Stonehouse Property Services – the green wall has kindly been installed free of charge by Stonehouse Property Services and plans are underway for planting by Sprouts (the children’s gardening club) and it is hoped Gardening Buddies will be involved in planting the higher rows.

The Chairman to write a letter of thanks to Stonehouse Property Services.

Project with Stuart Turner – the Vice-Chairman is liaising with the Scouts and Stuart Turner regarding planting

Schools in Bloom – the strawberry plants in grow pouches have been distributed to the primary schools in Henley along with a fun fact sheet and recipe ideas. Nettlebed School had also asked to be included and the Town Clerk agreed to this.

Planting to reduce air pollution - members noted Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had concerns regarding placing trees in planters in Duke Street due to weight considerations. Members were very keen to progress this project particularly due to its health benefits and suggested a site visit with an officer from OCC may find a way forward and Councillor D Nimmo Smith may be able to assist in his role as a County Councillor.

Sponsorship – Blooming Marvellous, the golden ale brewed by Brakspear is on sale during June in local pubs

Gardening Competitions - volunteers were asked for the judging of the front gardens which will take place the week commencing 22 June 2015 – the judging party will consist of Mrs C Langler, the Mayor, the Chairman and Councillor D Eggleton.

The Vice-Chairman advised a back garden competition maybe organised with the help of Ms C Notaras and arrangements are underway for the judging of the Pubs and Restaurants in Bloom Awards.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7 July 2015 at 9 am.

The meeting closed at 10.30 am.

Chairman

bw