

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs G Dodds
Councillor A Follett (Vice Chairman)
Mrs G Follett
Mrs C Langler
Mr R Reed
Mrs M Taylor
Mrs R Cassidy
Mr G Bartle (in attendance)

Also Present: Miss J Smith - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator

The Mayor, Mrs E Hodgkin introduced and welcomed Mrs Ruth Cassidy to the Sub Committee as a resident of Henley.

534. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood; Councillor Mrs R Myer; Mr A Hawkins; Mr S Khan and Mrs T Palmer

535. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

536. MINUTES

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom / Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 29 October 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Mayor, Councillor Mrs Hodgkin as a true record.

539. PROGRESS

A Progress Report was noted and tabled at the meeting.

Garden with disabled access at Mill Meadows – Minute Nos: 411, 431, 490 and 508

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that she had spoken with Mr S Khan on the 13.1.10. He had received a quote from Mr Dix which Mr Khan felt was too expensive and did not quite meet the initial specification previously given to him. Mr Khan said he was looking at getting other options as he would like to get this project started before May 2010.

Weeds – Minute Nos: 475, 480, 490, 508, 13/8/09 and 524

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that HTC will continue with weed killing on HTC land and that the Gardening Buddies will also address areas where they can. However the recent weather may have done the town a favour with all the salt that had been spread.

Northend/Sydney House – Minute 475

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin confirmed that the ownership issues were still ongoing.

Station Park Sculpture – Minute Nos: 490; 508 and 520

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that that she had spoken with Mr S Khan on the 13.1.10 and that he would have a design by next week for the Mayor to take to a future Full Council meeting. The design would incorporate children and river as the theme.

Battle of Britain 70th Flowerbed Display – Minute No 527

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that following discussions with Mr M Shelldrake it was proving difficult to find a suitable place to put a raised flowerbed in the town. Councillor Mrs G Dodds suggested that Station Park could be used for a 3D framework of a Spitfire, similar to the train that was on the site several years ago. It would need to be removable so that when a sculpture had been agreed this could then be put in Station Park and the Spitfire removed to another location. Councillor A Follett agreed to contact Mr M Shelldrake to investigate the options and costs and report back to the next meeting.

Floral display at the Fairmile entrance of the town/Greys Road shops – Minute No 527

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin referred to Mr Reed's proposal of placing more floral displays at the Fairmile/Northfield end of the town. Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin confirmed that more hanging baskets could be placed down this area but sponsorship would need to be obtained for the maintenance of these. It was agreed that letters would be sent to the businesses at Northfield End and the start of the Fairmile asking for sponsorship of more hanging baskets.

Councillor Mrs G Dodds asked as the Queen's Jubilee would be held in June 2012 that the Committee could consider planting trees along the Fairmile to honour this occasion. She asked that this be put on the Progress Report to discuss the options with the tree wardens.

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin also asked that Town Hall planter options be added to a future agenda as the barrel tubs were disintegrating with the weather and the wear and tear of being moved from the apron of the Town Hall steps when events are held.

540. BUDGET UPDATE

An update of the Henley-in-Bloom budget as at 24 September 2009 was tabled and noted at the meeting. The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that new sponsorships would need to be sought in 2010 as in 2009 the expenditure exceeded the income for the year. In addition, she also confirmed that SODC would not be providing the £1000 funding as this had been given for the past three years to Henley Town Council (HTC).

541. 2010 THAMES AND CHILTERN REGIONAL COMPETITION

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked members if Henley should take part in this year's event. Everyone agreed as it provides a focus for all the efforts and events that take place during the year. Competition entry fees are approximately £100.

542. GARDENING BUDDIES

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin gave a verbal update stating that there are now around 25 Gardening Buddies and that she would circulate the Thursday and Saturday 2010 dates commencing in March. She also confirmed that Toad Hall would be donating seeds again for 2010. Councillor A Follett confirmed that he would contact Mr M Shelldrake to discuss quantities and types of seeds.

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin asked that a meeting is also set up with Windowflowers, HTC horticultural amenities services contractor, to discuss the 2010 season's plantings and in particular to discuss the plants in the beds in Mill Meadows.

Action: Committee Administrator to set up meeting with Windowflowers.

543. SPONSORSHIP

An updated list of 2009 Sponsors and potential sponsors was noted and tabled at the meeting.

Mayor, Councillor E Hodgkin advised that maintenance costs for the Henley Standard roundabout were £2000, with the Henley Standard providing £500 as sponsorship there was a £1500 shortfall and that Jacksons had approached HTC asking for joint

sponsorship of the roundabout. Mr Reed confirmed that the Henley Standard were still very keen to sponsor the roundabout and that he would discuss the possibility of increasing the sponsorship with Mr N Ratcliffe, Higgs Group for the forthcoming year.

Mayor, Councillor E Hodgkin advised that Mr S Gale, Southern Plant and Tool Hire had agreed to sponsor the Front and Back Gardens Competition event again in 2010 and asked Mr C Langler if she would approach Southern Plant and Tool Hire to see if this sponsorship could be increased to £300 for 2010.

She informed members that no responses had been received in reply to any of the recent letters asking for sponsorship and did members have any ideas for other potential sponsors, especially for the Gravel Hill bed. Councillor A Follett agreed to approach Ward Consultancy plc to see if they would be interested in sponsoring this bed for £500.

Councillor Mrs G Dodds suggested approaching Markit in the Reading Road to see if they would provide sponsorship for any of the town's flowerbeds.

Action: Committee Administrator to write to the Director of Markit, Reading Road to see if they would provide sponsorship for any of the town's flowerbeds.

544. TROUGHS FOR UPPER MARKET PLACE

Members had before them a quote from HTC's horticultural amenities services contractor, for supplying and installing eight 1000m planted troughs to be fixed to the railings at Upper Market Place.

It was agreed that the maintenance costs for eight troughs were very high and that the residents should be approached to see if they would be prepared to water these troughs. Councillor A Follett recommended that initially only four troughs are bought at a cost of £500 and that the seasonal planting is done by the contractor; residents in Upper Market are approached regarding watering and/or a donation and that Gardening Buddies maintain these troughs.

It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that

- (i) four troughs are purchased at a cost of £500 in addition to seasonal planting carried out by the contractor;
- (ii) residents in Upper Market are approached regarding watering/and or a donation; and,
- (iii) Gardening Buddies are to provide routine maintenance of the troughs.

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin agreed that she would advise the Chairman of the Housing Trust of the Committee's intention and ask for their support in watering these troughs.

545. HENLEY FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS – WEEK OF 16 MAY 2010

Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that the Henley Festival Flowers of meeting that took place prior to this meeting had gone very well and that notes from the meeting would be circulated.

546. 20010/11 EVENTS

- **Hit Litter Campaign:** date to be brought forward to 13 March 2010 instead of May. To include the Cleanest Schools Competition.
- **Plant Sale and Swap:** – 22 May 2010. Mr Reed agreed the use of the Higgs Group van for the event.
- **Front and Back Gardens Competition:** team organising this event: Mrs C Langler; Mrs T Palmer and Mrs R Cassidy. It was agreed that a vegetable garden category should be added to this year's competition and that Mr T Batty be asked to be one of the judges. It was noted that the leaflet /entry form for the competition needed to incorporate the new category.

- ***Pubs and Restaurant Competition:*** Mr R Reed to ask Landlords of the Anchor and Saracens Head to be part of the judging panel for this year's event as these two pubs have been previous winners of the competition.
- ***Gardeners Question Time:*** now incorporated into Henley Festival of Flowers week – 20 May 2010. Allotment Association to be advised and hope they are able to provide the panel.
- ***YMCA Project:*** Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin to revisit YMCA and discuss the project.

Councillor A Follett asked that the Hanging Basket sponsorship scheme be discussed at the next meeting and that a representative from the Henley Partnership be invited to attend to discuss the Partnership's involvement.

547. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The following date and times were proposed for the next meetings:

Henley Festival of Flowers Working Group - Thursday, 18 February at 9:30am in the Committee Room of the Town Hall

Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee – Thursday, 18 February at 10:30am in the Committee Room of the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 11:45am.

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Chairman