

Present: Mayor, Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss L Hillier
Councillor D Hinke
Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor Ms L Meachin
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor D Silvester
Councillor Mrs J Wood

In Attendance: Mr M W Kennedy - Town Clerk
Mrs P Price-Davies - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator
Mr C Austin - Town Sergeant

Also Present: 1 member of the press
6 members of the public

The Town Clerk read out the fire evacuation procedure and reminded Councillors and members of the public of the Code of Practice relating to Public Participation as stated on the agenda. He also drew members of the public's attention to the laminated rules placed on each seat in the public gallery.

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Akehurst, Councillor D Clenshaw, Councillor Miss K L Hinton and Councillor Mrs P Phillips. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Mrs J Bland and Mrs E Hodgkin.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

59. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12 November 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7.46pm – Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin entered the meeting.

60. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr D Whittingham, The Malthouse

Mr Whittingham reported that the issue of the parking space at the rear of WHSmith had been resolved. He congratulated the Council on the work they had achieved throughout the year and wished all members of HTC a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

61. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

Members had before them reports from District Councillors Mrs J Bland, Mrs J Wood and Mrs E Hodgkin. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

Matters arising from the reports:

Councillor Mrs J Wood reported that David Buckle, Chief Executive at SODC had confirmed that SODC would not be addressing the issue of reducing business rates as the Chancellor's Autumn Statement had offered 'good terms' for new businesses.

A member corrected the reference in Councillor Mrs J Wood's statement regarding the power of the Government to raid reserves of local Councils and it was agreed that this was only applicable to principal Councils.

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin gave a verbal update on the Scrutiny meeting that she had just attended at SODC. She congratulated the Town Clerk on the presentation he had given on behalf of HTC regarding Market towns and the role of Henley's Town Centre Manager. It was confirmed that the hours of the Town Centre Manager position was to remain unchanged and that the level and sources of funding would continue with £5k of match funding from SODC and £10k coming from HTC.

Councillor Mrs J Bland was not present but in her report she referred to the CIF Fund and a member asked her to find out why the CIF fund was no longer reported in the SODC financial statement for 2012-13.

County Councillor Report

Members had before them a report from County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith referred to his report which he had emailed to Councillors previously and gave a verbal update on the following issues:

Budgets: He confirmed that OCC currently had no intention of changing the current On-Street Car Parking fees.

Henley Bowling Club: He confirmed that the club had thanked OCC for the grant towards the insulation of their building which had obviously had a positive impact on their facility.

Rainbow Children's Centres: He confirmed that OCC were not closing any of the Rainbow Children's Centres and that they were scheduled to be reviewed again in 2016/17. As approximately £3 million was invested in both the Henley and Sonning Common facilities they were obliged to ensure that the operation was value for money.

Disabled Parking Bays: He confirmed that although there were proposals to take away three disabled Parking Bays in the Town Centre he would be supporting that they remain.

Britain Cycle Race: He reported that although the race was starting in Bath and finishing in Hertfordshire, the route had not yet been established, it had to go through Oxfordshire and he called for input from Members on the Oxfordshire section of the route.

HGV Traffic: He confirmed that OCC were addressing the issue of the reduction of HGVs coming through Henley but it was agreed that a restriction was not feasible as it would prove difficult to impose.

62. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- (i) Members had before them a report from Councillor D M Silvester on the Annual Chilterns Conservation Board Forum which was held on 15 November 2013 (attached to the agenda), which was noted.

- (ii) Members had before them a report from Councillors D M Silvester and Mrs J Wood on the NALC Larger Councils Conference and Exhibition which was held on 27 November 2013 (attached to the agenda), which was noted.

8.17pm - Councillor Mrs J Bland entered the meeting.

63. MAYOR'S REPORT

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from:

- (i) The period 25 September – 5 November 2013 and;
(ii) The period 6 November – 10 December 2013.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

The Mayor drew Council's attention to a painting that had been presented to him on behalf of the town of Bled as part of the twinning initiative as a gift to the residents of Henley. He also informed all members of the upcoming exhibition of cardboard houses that had been decorated by local schoolchildren that was being held at the Fire Station Gallery on Saturday 21st December, from 11am to 2pm.

A member enquired about this year's Town Medal nominations and the Mayor agreed to seek clarification on the situation and would report back to the Council.

64. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- (i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 19 November & 10 December 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 19 November and 17 December 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted, save to the following extent:

Arising from the report:

Minute No.112)– Application P13/S3599/HH – 19 YORK ROAD

The Chair of the Planning Committee reported to Council on this application, explaining that the Committee had misunderstood the issue of demolishing one of the two chimneys on this property. Following clarification that only the rear chimney stack was to be removed, he requested the Council reconsiders the recommendation on this application to one of approval. It was **RESOLVED**

that the application P13/S3599/HH – 19 York Road, be approved and that SODC be informed accordingly.

The Chairman congratulated the Chair of the Planning Committee on the level of detail and knowledge that was applied to the scrutiny of all the planning applications.

- (ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on 26 November 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 26 November 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 58 – Rainbow Centres

Members were pleased to learn that the funding from OCC towards the Rainbow Centres was continuing but it was agreed that HTC should be kept abreast of any future funding cuts to these facilities. It was **RESOLVED**

that in view of OCC continuing to fund the Rainbow Centres there was no longer a need to invite Ian Hudsbeth, the Cabinet Minister at OCC to attend a meeting to discuss the implications of budget cuts relating to the Rainbow Centres.

Minute No.59 – CCTV

Members requested a verbal report from the meeting with the Thames Valley Police which was held on 28 November 2013 regarding the funding contribution towards the CCTV in the town. The Town Clerk agreed to submit a full report to the next meeting of the Town and Community Committee.

- (iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 3 December 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 3 December 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted except for Minute No.72 – Budget 2014-15 which was due to be discussed separately under Agenda Item 9 at Full Council.

Arising from the report:

Minute No.76)ii) – 357 Reading Road

A discussion ensued regarding the appointment of three members of the Council to support the Town Clerk in any initial discussions regarding 357 Reading Road as a potential site for housing development within the Neighbourhood Plan. It was **RESOLVED**

that Councillors I Reissmann, Mrs J Bland and Mrs E Hodgkin be appointed to hold talks with third parties relating to the potential disposal of land or otherwise as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 10 December 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 10 December 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No.55)iii) – Christmas Decorations and Events Sub-Committee

Arising from the minutes the Mayor extended congratulations to Julie Perigo and The Living Advent Calendar following the announcement of the Prime Minister's Big Society Award.

Minute No.56 – Henley Rugby Club

Arising from the minutes Council considered the appointment of three Councillors to hold talks with the Rugby Club officials on the matters set out in the minutes. It was **RESOLVED**

that Councillors Mrs S Evans, D Hinke and I Reissmann be appointed to hold talks with the Rugby Club officials on the matters set out in the minutes including the Car Park lease.

- (v) The Minutes of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on the 22 November 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on 22 November and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(vi) The Minutes of the meeting of the Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee held on the 22 November 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee held on 22 November and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Members had before them a report from Councillor I Reissmann (Chair of TSG) on a meeting of the Townlands Steering Group subgroup on the Townlands Hospital Redevelopment Project held on 17 December 2013. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the current project status of the Townlands Development., he presented a summary of actions that had been identified by the Townlands Steering Group subgroup, following further discussions, It was **RESOLVED**

that the summary section of the report be adopted;

- **The plan as presented by Harold Caldwell gives credibility to verbal assurances that NHS PS is committed to the project**
- **The project is being actively developed with a clear target date for sign off.**
- **Engagement with the community is established and will continue through the TSG and other avenues**
- **Risks and uncertainties remain and there remains the need for continued scrutiny, monitoring and support from the community.**

65. 2014-2015 BUDGET

Members had before them a report from the Accountant on minor changes to the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2014-15, previously approved by Finance, Strategy and Management. As a result of a meeting the Accountant had attended the previous week, further changes were necessary to make provision for the additional employers superannuation contributions. A Member addressed the Council on the proposed budget and suggested that in the light of the current economic uncertainty within the Country as a whole, it was unwise to accept the budget before the Council. An extensive discussion took place on the budget concerning the level of scrutiny, the opportunity afforded to Committees to have an input, the ability to produce savings, the precept and 'value for money' being provided for local taxpayers.

The original proposal from Finance, Strategy and Management on 3 December 2013 as amended was recommended for approval. A recorded vote was requested.

For

Cllr S Gawrysiak
Cllr E Hodgkin
Cllr D Hinke
Cllr Ms L Meachin
Cllr I Reissmann
Cllr D Silvester
Cllr Mrs J Wood

Against

Cllr Mrs J Bland
Cllr S Evans
Cllr W Hamilton
Cllr Miss L Hillier
Cllr D Nimmo-Smith

it was **RESOLVED** that

- (i) the attached revenue and capital 2014-2015 budget report as amended at the meeting be received, approved and adopted; and
- (ii) the budget figures as amended be received, approved and adopted; and
- (iii) that a Precept of £481,693 be levied on South Oxfordshire District Council for 2014–2015.

66. PROTOCOL FOR CIVIC INVITATIONS

Members discussed the protocol for accepting invitations where a civic presence is specifically requested when neither the Mayor or Deputy Mayor are able to attend, the subjectivity of the Mayor making such a decision was debated. It was

PROPOSED

that The Mayor would appoint an appropriate representative if both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor were unable to accept an invitation.

The Mayor wished Councillors, officers and members of the public a Merry Christmas and invited everyone to join him for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

ppd

Mayor