

Present: Councillor Mrs G Dodds (Vice Chairman, presiding)
Councillor A J Follett (Substitute for Councillor Dr B G Wood)
Councillor Mrs R Myer
Councillor S R Smith
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (Ex-Officio)
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood (ex-officio)

In attendance: Mike Kennedy – Town Clerk
Adrienne Gliddon – Committee Administrator / Minute Taker

Also present: 1 Member of the Press

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T B Buckett MBE, Miss L Pye, I Reissmann and Dr B G Wood.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are hereby reminded that, under the provisions of Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (The Code of Conduct), a member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the authority at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent. A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgment of the public interest. A member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting is being held whenever it becomes apparent that the matter is being considered at that meeting, unless he has obtained a dispensation from the standards committee of the responsible authority; and not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter. For the purposes of this Part (of the Act), "meeting" means any meeting of the authority; or any of the authority's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees.

None received.

34. MINUTES

- i. The Minutes of the Recreation & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 1 September 2009 were received, approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds.
- ii. The Committee considered the minutes of the Christmas Decorations Sub Committee meeting held on 7 September 2009 and the following item was discussed:

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND

that the minutes of the Christmas Decorations Sub Committee meeting held on 7 September 2009 be received, approved and adopted

35. PROGRESS REPORT

Councillors received and considered the Progress Report and made the following comments:

Fairmile Cemetery – sale of chapel. Councillors noted that the matter would be reviewed by Full Council in the confidential section of the meeting on 3 November 2009. It was agreed that it was important that all Councillors have the opportunity to read the paper prior to the meeting. It was

RESOLVED that in addition to being included in the agenda papers, an electronic copy is sent to all Councillors forthwith, and a read receipt requested.

Action: Committee Administrator to email a copy of the report regarding the First Chapel at the Cemetery to all Councillors, requesting an electronic receipt.

Sports Centre. The Town Clerk reported that all work is on schedule with regard to the new managers. He confirmed that there is still work outstanding from the previous managers. Income is due from them in respect of bookings taken from April to June and until the matter is brought to a satisfactory conclusion, no further monies will be paid to them. Councillor Mrs G Dodds expressed concern that the matter may not be straightforward.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, asked how the new managers were working out. The Town Clerk advised that all was working smoothly. Councillors present confirmed that no complaints had been received by them.

Gillotts Field. Councillor Mrs G Dodds stated that the registration of Gillotts Field as a Town Green had been a huge success. The Town Clerk advised that the full documentation had not yet been received.

Councillor A J Follett requested that the full documentation be included on a future agenda of this Committee in order that Councillors may read and be aware of any obligations to the Council included in the documentation.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, agreed and suggested that a 'Beating the Bounds' celebration is held on the appropriate Thursday in May 2010, with members of Harpsden Council included in the list of invitees and a plaque giving an explanation to the public of the date of designation as a Town Green, unveiled. The Town Clerk advised that the Wildlife Group had sent him details of their proposed plaque and had suggested that additional words be added to show that it was designated as a Town Green in 2009..

Henley Hockey Club the Town Clerk confirmed that the Hockey Club's lease is currently being altered via a Deed of Variation.

36. BUDGET

Councillors received and noted the budget report for September 2009. It was noted that there had been a substantial increase in income from car parking in Mill Meadows.

Councillor A J Follett raised a query regarding the grant Awarded by OCC to Stepping Stones nursery.

The Town Clerk advised that he had met with the nursery manager who had informed him that the grant had been awarded to meet government guidelines to enable children to go to the toilet unaided. The grant would fund the provision of a toilet on the top floor of the Pavilion where the nursery is located. Currently children have to be escorted by a member of staff to the downstairs toilet.

Concern was expressed by Councillors that the contractors who carry out the work are made aware of the method of waste removal at the Pavilion and that the Town Council is given the opportunity to approve the proposed work.

The Town Clerk advised that the Council's management regime in respect of waste removal should be improved with annual testing and quarterly inspections carried out.

Councillor Mrs R Myer asked what happened to waste in the event of the Meadows being flooded.

Councillor A J Follett replied that water is pumped into a clargester to prevent spillage into the river.

Councillor S Smith suggested that the statement in Budget report that 'income is in brackets' was misleading as items shown under the Variance column which were not income are also shown in brackets. It was agreed that this statement could be ambiguous and that it would be preferable for the statement to be removed in future.

37. MILL MEADOWS/RIVER SUB COMMITTEE

Councillors noted that the date of the next meeting of the Mill Meadows/River Sub Committee had been amended from Wednesday 23 September to Friday 9 October 2009 at 9.30 am in the Committee Room, Henley Town Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Chairman