

Present: Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (Chairman)
Councillor A Follett (Vice Chairman)
Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood
Mrs C Langler
Mrs G Follett
Mrs R Reed
Mrs M Taylor
Mr G Bartle, Park Services (in attendance)
Mr K Bishop, Park Services (in attendance)

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

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors Mrs G Dodds, Mrs R Myer, Mr S Khan and Mr A Hawkins.

28. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

29. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Henley in Bloom / Civic Pride Meeting held on 16 September 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Mayor, Councillor Mrs Hodgkin as a true record.

30. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

31. PROGRESS

A Progress Report was noted and tabled at the meeting.

Garden with disabled access at Mill Meadows – Minute Nos: 411, 431, 490, 508, 539, 564, 576, 587

As this was likely to be a costly project it was agreed that there were no funds available at this time to undertake the work and that the project should be revisited in a year's time.

Northfield End / Sydney House

Members were apprised of the developments via Councillor A Follett following recommendations made at the Finance Strategy Management Committee on the 14 December 2010. It was highlighted that the reason this item was on this Sub Committee's progress report was that on settlement of the dispute regarding ownerships issues decisions could then be made on tidying/planting.

Station Park Sculpture – Minute Nos: 490; 508, 520, 539, 564, 576, 7, 19

This item was discussed later in the meeting under minute 35.

YMCA Project Phase 2 – Minutes: 546, 564, 576, 589, 7, 19

Members were advised that funding, volunteers and materials had been sourced for Phase 2 of the project and that Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin would be contacting YMCA to discuss future dates when the Gardening Buddies could help to progress the second phase of this project.

32. BUDGET UPDATE

Members had before them an update of the Henley in Bloom (HIB) budget as at 20 December 2010. It was noted that 79 summer and 40 autumn/winter hanging baskets had been sold. The Chairman confirmed that 2011 flowerbed sponsorship would come from: Henley Standard and ManningUK. It was confirmed that a letter should be written to KVB Design and Tomalins/E T Sheppard to confirm sponsorship donations in 2011. A member suggested approaching Toad Hall to see if they would sponsor the Gravel Hill bed in 2011. In addition, the Mayor agreed to write a letter to the editor of the Henley Standard asking local businesses for donations/sponsorships towards Henley in Bloom projects.

Action: Mayor to write a letter to the editor of the Henley Standard asking local businesses for donations/sponsorship of Henley in Bloom projects.

33. GARDENING BUDDIES

Members were advised that a new timetable of Gardening Buddies dates would be circulated shortly commencing with dates from the beginning of March. It was suggested that focus should be given to the area outside the Youth Centre and that plants would be provided by Toad Hall. It was agreed that help should be sought from youth centre members. Following a suggestion at a previous meeting, the idea to have Gardening Buddy flags to show the areas where volunteers had worked should be revisited.

Action: Councillor E Hodgkin to circulate 2011 Gardening Buddy dates and to explore options of Gardening Buddy flags or similar.

34. 2010 THAMES AND CHILTERN JUDGING / ENTRY INTO 2011 COMPETITION

Members had before them the 2010 comments made from the judges on Henley. The following items were discussed and noted from these judging sheets:

- Focus this year to be made on the areas where the judges had scored lower marks on the judging sheet: 'horticultural sustainability of plants'; 'conservation and biodiversity – wildlife areas, natural habitat'; 'local heritage – management and development of local heritage and/or identity, inclusive of natural heritage.' Members suggested that more input should be included in the portfolio from the Wildlife Group and it was agreed to include a sub portfolio from the Wildlife Group with the HIB portfolio.
- Focus this year to be made on the one acre set aside for the HiT Tilebarn Wood and the one acre for the Sue Ryder Care Woodland Memorial on the Council's 40 acre field. It was felt The Fairmile should focus in next's year's tour with more emphasis focused on local heritage. Sir Frank Crisp and George Harrison were given as two possible examples.
- More involvement to be included from local schools. It was agreed that a communication should be sent to the local schools on the forthcoming Henley in Blooms projects and initiatives and how they could be involved.
- It was felt that it was disappointing that no feedback had been given on the portfolio and DVD submitted in 2010 and it was agreed that Thames and Chiltern should be asked for feedback. It was agreed that the portfolio in 2011 should be design/produced in the same order as the judging sheet.
- Hi Q Tyres should again be encouraged this year to plant flowers in tyres on the garage forecourt.
- It was agreed that more colours should be included in the flowers for the beds in the town, flowers for the town's hanging baskets and sponsored baskets. To mark the Royal Wedding in April it was suggested that red, white and blue flowers should be used this year, however, after some discussion it was felt that these colours would be more applicable for 2012 planting for the Queen's Jubilee and Olympics.

Action: Mrs M Taylor to make contact with Mrs S Rankin from Wildlife Group.

Action: Committee Administrator to produce an email to go to schools on forthcoming projects and initiatives.

Action: Committee Administrator to contact Mrs S Swift for feedback on 2010 HIB portfolio and DVD.

The Chairman asked members if Henley should take part in this year's event. Everyone agreed to participation in the regional competition as it provided a focus for all the efforts and events that take place during the year. Competition entry fees are approximately £100.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that Henley enters the Thames and Chiltern Regional Britain in Bloom competition in 2011 at an approximate entry cost of £100.

35. STATION PARK SCULPTURE

No update on the project had been received from Mr Khan and the proposed competition to design a sculpture for Station Park with participation from local schools (see Progress Report for further details on the scope of the project).

The Chairman suggested that following her attendance at a recent exhibition she had seen temporary globe type structures or similar that could be planted and placed on this area, similar to the train structure that was put in this area around 4/5 years ago. It was agreed that a similar temporary structure to the train would be ideal for this area and Mr Bartle advised that he would contact the suppliers of the previous train (a Bideford company) to see if the plan for the framework of the train design could be obtained and then the structure could be potentially produced and constructed locally.

Action: Mr Bartle to contact suppliers of the previous train to see if the plan for the framework of the train design could be obtained.

36. SPONSORSHIP

An updated list of 2010/11 sponsors and potential sponsors was noted.

The Mayor offered to write to Mr J Walker of A B Walker to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the Gravel Hill bed. It was suggested that Hofmanns of Henley are approached regarding sponsorship

Action: Mayor to write to Mr J Walker of A B Walker re sponsorship of the Gravel Hill flowerbed.

Action: Committee Administrator to write to Hofmanns of Henley re sponsorship opportunities.

37. 20010/11 EVENTS

Henley Festival of Flowers (HFF) Week

The Chairman advised that she felt that running the Henley Festival of Flowers week again in May would be a hard project to resource, in respect of the manpower, this year in light of the forthcoming elections. It was, therefore, agreed that a HIB week takes place during week commencing 23 May 2011 but this initiative only include: the Plant and Sale Swap and 'Plants on the Move' (Saturday 28 May). It was noted that flower arranging events had already been discussed/booked with the Henley Flower Club on Monday 23 May 2011, therefore, it was agreed that just one event (afternoon on 23 May 2011) should take place. Members agreed that HFF initiative should be revisited in 2012 for the Queens Jubilee.

Action: Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin to confirm Sub Committee proposal regarding the Sub Committee's decision re the HFF and the flower arranging events during this week with the new flower club president, Mrs Aurie Anderson.

Other Projects:

Royal Wedding Commemorative Flowerbeds, Mill Meadows

Members discussed the moving of the rose bushes that are currently in the round beds adjacent to the roundels to two new half moon beds around the Obelisk. It was agreed that the boat like structures currently in these circular beds be removed allowing flower displays to be planted in the shape of the Prince William and Catherine Middleton initials ('W' and 'C') with potential planted raised crown structures being placed in the middle of the beds. Mr Bartle confirmed that the initial installation/maintenance of flowerbeds and removal of roses could be undertaken and maintained by Parks Services with the planting of bedding plants for the commemorative beds being undertaken by the Gardening Buddies. Mr Taylor asked to be contacted when the beds are being moved/replanted in order that she could take before and after photographs for the 2011 HIB portfolio.

Post meeting note: A meeting has been set up on 20 January 2011 at 09:30am with Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, Mr G Bartle and Mrs B Walker (Recreation and Amenities Committee Administrator) to discuss the design/plan for the flowerbeds.

Competition: 'Pride in your Street' (name of competition to be confirmed)

A suggestion was put forward that a competition could be run to encourage the residents to weed and take pride in the roads/streets in Henley with promotion of this competition being supported through the Henley Standard. It was agreed that a working group be set up to discuss this initiative. The following members volunteered to be part of this group: Councillors Mrs E Hodgkin, A Follett, Mr R Reed and Mr G Bartle.

It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that a working group be set up with the following members volunteering to be involved: Councillors Mrs E Hodgkin, A Follett, Mr R Reed, and Mr G Bartle.

38. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following date and time was proposed for the next meeting:
Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee – **Thursday, 3 March 2011 at 11:00am** in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 11:00am.

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Chairman