

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood, Deputy Mayor
Councillor M Akehurst, Mayor, (ex-officio)
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor D Silvester
Councillor I Reissmann

In attendance: Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk
Ms J Brazil – Committee Administrator/Minute Taker

Also Present: 1 member of the press
2 member of the public

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Councillors D Clenshaw, Miss K L Hinton and Miss S Evans.

14. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

15. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None received.

16. MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 22 April 2014 were approved and 3 June 2014, as amended by Full Council on 17 June 2014, were approved and then signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood as a true record.
- ii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Jubilee Park User Group held on 11 June 2014

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the Jubilee Park User Group held on 11 June 2014, be received, approved and adopted.

- iii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Christmas Decorations and Events Sub Committee held on 1 July 2014.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the Christmas Decorations and Events Sub Committee held on 1 July 2014, be received, approved and adopted.

- iv. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 1 July 2014. The following comments were made:-

Minute 14 iii – Reading Road Roundabout – A member suggested the proposed site for the leaping Deer sculpture donated by Mr & Mrs Hill could be positioned at the new Townlands Hospital development, whilst another member felt that the Reading Road location was not appropriate. After a lengthy debate it was agreed that the position of the sculpture would only be decided after consultation with OCC highways, members of the public and Mr and Mrs Hill. All logistical issues would need to be considered and after preliminary discussions the debate would come back to this committee, not Henley in Bloom Sub Committee, for further consultation.

Minute 17 – It's Your Neighbourhood – The Committee agreed this was an excellent project and the progress made was commendable. Thanks and appreciation were recorded to the Gainsborough Residents Association for their work. A member enquired on the progression of the play area refurbishment and noted that both SOHA and Gainsborough residents were working together to improve the estate. It was noted that SOHA would be holding a Fun Day and Summer BBQ for the residents as they did last year and the Mayor had been invited to attend.

Minute 18 – Allotment Association – The Council had received a full report on new signage which had been agreed. A member noted the Watermans Allotment sign needed to be addressed and would be incorporated as part of the Council's new branding policy. In noting that the sub-committee had agreed to fund up to 50% of the cost of producing the plaque, it was suggested that SOHA might consider funding the remaining 50%,

Action: Committee Administrator to write to SOHA to enquire on funding.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 1 July 2014, be received, approved and adopted.

Councillor Mrs J Bland entered the meeting at 7.45pm

17. BUDGET

The Committee received, considered and noted the management accounts to May 2014.

18. PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received and considered the progress report and made the following comments:-

Makins Recreation Ground – Pram Walk – It was confirmed SOHA will be undertaking the repairs to the wall in due course. Members agreed the entire Makins Recreation area should be considered as a whole to enable joined up governance. As such, the Pram Walk and associated areas should continue to be reported to the

Recreation and Amenities Committee, enabling continuity and cohesion between all stakeholders involved within the locality of this recreation area. SOHA have advised HTC they are awaiting the results of the feasibility study and will update HTC when the report is received.

Councillors were asked to note any issues on Makins in their Estate Inspection Reports and budget implications will come before this Committee. The Town Clerk suggested that not all of the play equipment at Makins was suitable for painting and repair and may need replacing. He confirmed he would compile a holistic report which would go before Committee in due course.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the Committee Administrator writes to SOHA to receive a further update on Makins Recreation Ground - Pram Walk and future use of the garage site.

Makins Recreation Ground – Skatepark – The Committee received a verbal report that the planning application for the Skatepark project had been successful and noted the decision was available on the SODC website.

Toilet Refurbishment – Mill Meadows – The Committee noted the completion of the refurbishment of the Mill Meadows Toilets and members were pleased they had been successfully opened to the public on 21 June 2014 and officially opened by the Mayor on the 23 June 2014.

Toddler Playground refurbishment – Mill Meadows – The Committee noted the Playground installation was due for completion on Friday 11 July 2014 and the official opening would take place on Saturday 19 July 2014 at 10.30am

Bat Survey – The Council noted Mrs S Rankin is in the process of making full arrangements for the survey to be undertaken.

Dedication of a Footpath at 40 Acre Field – The Committee noted that the official paper work had been received and would be put to Full Council on 29 July 2014 for signing and sealing with an official opening to be organised for the autumn.

Allotment Rents– The Committee noted the allotment rents had been set for two years until 2016 and there was no need to consider the level of charges for this year.

Herbicide Application – A member raised concerns over the use of herbicides around the town and the impact this has on the bee population. It was reported that neonicotinoids had been banned by the European Commission (EC). After a long discussion it was noted the herbicide applications were in line with the decision made by HTC of two applications per year and it was understood the Herbicides used were in line with those accepted by EC regulations.

Riverbank Repairs – The Town Clerk advised the Committee that Riverbank works had been delayed due to the flooding early in 2014 and were due to start imminently, along with the sheet-piling works at Mill/Marsh Meadows in September 2014.

19. USE OF MILL MEADOWS CAR PARK BY HENLEY TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

The Committee received a report regarding a request from Henley Town Football Club for renewal of permission to cone off 22 car parking spaces on match day Saturdays between the second week of August and the last week of April each year for use by players and supporters of the Henley Town Football Club.

After a long discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the Committee grants Henley Town Football Club permission to cone off 22 car parking spaces between the hours of 1pm – 5pm on match day Saturdays between the second week of August and the last week of April for one year from 2014 – 2015. After which the Club must organise and be fully responsible for the removal of the cones on each separate occasion.

20. OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT

The Committee received a report regarding the purchase of outdoor gym equipment by the Town Council. Members discussed the idea and a number of possible locations for the equipment and made the following comments:-

- such equipment would work well with the newly refurbished Toddler playground.
- a capital budget of £10,000 is earmarked in 2014/2015 for this scheme.
- there should be a public consultation on the equipment and location similar to that of the Toddler playground.
- that a working party be set up to work on this project and report back to this meeting with its initial findings.

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that a working group be set up and report back to the next meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee to take this scheme forward. The terms of reference of the group would be to discuss the idea; submit site locations; budgets; visit other authorities; propose a timetable for the project and produce clear proposals for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee. The Working Group will consist of four members including the Mayor Councillor M Akehurst, Councillor Mrs J Bland, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, and another Councillor to be appointed by Full Council.

21. FREEMANS MEADOW

The Committee noted that permission has been granted by the Town Clerk for a Family Fun event to be held on either Friday 22 or Saturday 23 August 2014 by Nomad Project. It is planned to have a climbing wall organised and run by a professional group who have been used previously, a bouncy castle, face painting, football tournament and barbecue. Risk assessments etc will be undertaken and neighbours will be notified. The Committee agreed this was a positive community use of the area and hoped more community projects would take place there in the future.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be noted.

22. MAKINS RECREATION GROUND

The Committee noted that permission has been given by the Town Clerk for a SOHA Family Activity Day to take place on Makins Recreation Ground on Tuesday 5 August 2014. The event will include a climbing wall, adventure plus running team games and a barbecue. SOHA staff will be setting up a mobile “drop in” surgery. The Gainsborough Residents Association will be setting up an information stand. All Town Councillors are invited to attend.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm

jb

Chairman