

Present: Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Phillips (presiding)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor S J Gawrysiak
Councillor Miss K L Gehrman
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor D Hinke
Councillor D R Nimmo Smith
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor D M Silvester
Councillor Mrs J Wood

In Attendance: Mr M W Kennedy – Town Clerk
Miss J Smith – Minute Taker / Committee Administrator
Mr C Austin - Town Sergeant

Also Present: 1 member of the press
28 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.

67. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Bland, M Akehurst and Ms L Meachin.

68. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Miss L M Hillier, Finance Strategy & Management, minute 98 (i) West Street Stores – prejudicial.

A member requested that due to the large number of members of the public in the public gallery who were present to hear the outcome of agenda item (11) – *Stopping Up Order, Bell Street* and proposed that this item be brought forward on the agenda to be discussed after agenda item 4 Public Participation. It was

RESOLVED that agenda item 11 – Stopping Up Order, Bell Street be brought forward on the agenda and discussed after agenda item (4) Public Participation.

69. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 January 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman, as a true record.

Arising from the Minutes:

Minute 58 – Public Participation

A member asked that minute 58 is changed to read: 'Councillor Miss L Hillier raised an issue regarding a complaint about bicycles obstructing the highway outside her coffee shop in Friday Street. No further action was taken regarding the allegation.'

Minute 59 – District Councillor Reports

Councillor Mrs J Wood stated for the record that she stood by her report and the facts reported were exactly as said at the meeting.

70. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett referred to minute 98 of the Town and Community regarding free parking in the town centre car parks from 3pm on Saturday afternoons. He was surprised to read the comments in the Henley Standard that after a review in February the car parks were less busy on Saturday afternoons and free parking at this time of the day would attract more shoppers. He suggested the Council asked for figures of the use of the car parks at other times of the year. He also asked why other towns in Oxfordshire have the first hour free and why Henley did not.

It was confirmed that Henley Town Council (HTC) had in fact requested free parking for Saturday mornings. South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) had apparently spoken with Waitrose who had suggested free parking in the afternoon as this would encourage more shoppers. It was noted that free parking from 9.00am-10.00am is available in the car parks Monday to Friday.

Ms A Chumas, Bell Street

Ms Chumas spoke on the Stopping Up Order, Bell Street and proceeded to read a statement, a copy of which is attached to the office copy of the minutes.

Mr J Goumal, Bell Street

Mr Goumal spoke on the Stopping Up Order, Bell Street and proceeded to read a statement, a copy of which is attached to the office copy of the minutes.

Mr D Prest, Bell Street

Mr Prest requested the Council's assurance that there would be no cost to the rate payer.

It was confirmed no assurance could be given.

Mr D Whittingham, The Malt House

Mr Whittingham referred to the grassed triangle of land and asked who owned this land. He suggested that before there is any cost to the rate payer that perhaps more research needed to take place regarding ownership of this area of land.

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett asked how long ago did the Council make the decision regarding the Stopping Up Order as under the Council's Standing Orders (11 – Rescission of Previous Resolutions) once a decision has been resolved it can not be changed within six months.

It was confirmed that the decision to put forward the HTC's formal objection was taken on 20 December 2011. However, it was pointed out the circumstances have changed since December and this issue had been raised initially under a previous administration.

Mr C Russell, Bell Street

Mr Russell reminded Councillors that there had been well over 100 residents who disagreed with the Stopping Up Order because of significant safety issues regarding cars driving over the pavement inches away from some of the houses front doors.

Mr T Foxall, Glanville Consultants, Didcot

Mr Foxall explained he was representing Chesterton Commercial (Oxon) Ltd. He confirmed that he had only seen 36 letters of objections not 100 as mentioned by Mr Russell. He highlighted that the decision for a shared area (pedestrians and vehicles) had come from Oxfordshire County Council and if there had been any safety issues they would not have made this decision.

Councillor Mrs J Wood

Councillor Mrs J Wood, on behalf of a resident who was unable to attend the meeting, asked how is the Council intends to inform people on the Core Strategy.

71. **STOPPING UP ORDER, BELL STREET**

A member referred to the proposal outlined on the agenda (item 11) and the fact that another letter from Glanville Consultants dated 23 February 2012 had since been received offering the grassed triangle of land to HTC. After a lengthy discussion, regarding the safety issues in this area, it was decided that more time was needed to consider the proposals in the letter of the 23 February 2012. It was proposed that the following response to be sent to the Department for Transport regarding the Stopping Up Order at Bell Street that:

- This Council notes the letter from Glanville Consultants dated 24 January 2012 on behalf of Chesterton Commercial in response to the Town Council's letter opposing the Stopping Up Order for 94-102 Bell Street;
- This Council does not accept the responses in the letter to its objections;
- This Council reiterates its objection to the Order to preserve the area as an amenity for all members of the public; and
- This item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting of Finance Strategy & Management so that a more detailed response can be considered; and that the offer to donate the grassed triangle of land located adjacent to the area of highway proposed in the letter from Glanville Consultants dated 23 February 2012 in exchange for HTC withdrawing its current objection to the Stopping Up application be considered at the next Finance, Strategy and Management on 20 March 2012.

A recorded voted was requested.

For	Against	Abstention
Cllr D Clenshaw	Cllr Miss S Evans	
Cllr S Gawrysiak	Cllr W Hamilton	
Cllr Miss K Gehrman	Cllr Miss L Hillier	
Cllr Mrs E Hodgkin	Cllr D Nimmo-Smith	
Cllr D Hinke	Cllr D Silvester	
Cllr Mrs P Phillips		
Cllr I Reissmann		
Cllr Mrs J Wood		

The Motion was carried whereupon, it was

RESOLVED that the following response be sent to Department for Transport regarding the Stopping Up Order at Bell Street that:

- This Council notes the letter from Glanville Consultants dated 24 January 2012 on behalf of Chesterton Commercial in response to the Town Council's letter opposing the Stopping Up Order for 94-102 Bell Street;
- This Council does not accept the responses in the letter to its objections;
- This Council reiterates its objection to the Order to preserve the area as an amenity for all members of the public; and
- This item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting of Finance Strategy & Management so that a more detailed response can be considered; and that the offer to donate the grassed triangle of land located adjacent to the area of highway proposed in the letter from Glanville Consultants dated 23 February 2012 in exchange for HTC withdrawing its current objection to the Stopping Up application be considered at the next Finance, Strategy and Management on 20 March 2012.

72. **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Members had before them reports (attached to the agenda) from District Councillors Mrs E Hodgkin, Mrs J Bland, Mrs J Wood and W Hall and from County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith. It was

RESOLVED that the reports be received and noted.

Matter arising from reports:

District Councillors Reports

District Councillor Mrs J Wood referred to her report and the item regarding the opposition budget that was defeated. The opposition had proposed that the saving of 6p/week be given back to Band D residents and that the Community Investment Fund be increased to £750k; and two youth workers be appointed to provide advice/training for the whole of the district. The motion was lost. However, although the motion regarding the budget was lost, since her motion regarding SODC supporting Apprenticeships at the December meeting of SODC Full Council had been almost unanimously voted against, apprenticeships would now be offered, in-house, at SODC.

District Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised she had attended a meeting regarding the Boundary Commission on 28 February 2012, where it had been proposed that the number of District Councillors be reduced from 48 to 36. A decision would be made in March after a consultation, plus a decision regarding the wards would take place after a public consultation. She confirmed a meeting would be held on 29 February 2012 in Didcot on these issues for parish council representatives to attend.

County Councillors' Reports

County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith gave apologies for County Councillor Dr P Skolar. **Area Stewards:** funding would be increased.

Gillotts School – Academy Status: confirmed Gillotts would receive academy status on 1 March 2012 and would then own the land that the school and the sports centre is on which would mean the joint user agreement for the sport centre would have to be renegotiated at a future date.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB): attended a meeting where it was confirmed that SODC are providing £46,700 this year and working together to share management costs in the district. It was noted that CAB were grateful for the use of the HTC land to house their office in Henley.

Concessionary Bus Fares: confirmed passes can be obtained from libraries as well as online and that there were currently 110,000 passes issued in the district.

Buses: Henley Area Review would be carried out in March (including the service to Townlands).

A member asked if the damaged bollards in the town centre could be repaired. County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith agreed to chase the issue with OCC.

A member asked if the road signs in and around Henley could be cleaned as they were filthy.

County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith agreed to take this issue up with OCC.

73. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members had before them copies of the following reports from outside bodies (attached to the agenda) which were noted:

- (i) A report from the Parish Transport Representatives meeting held on 24 January 2012 (attached).
- (ii) A report from the Leichlingen Twinning Association meeting held on 8 February 2012 (attached).

A member confirmed that he had recently attended a meeting of the Henley Educational Trust, a very well run charity that provides educational support to families as well as supporting other local organisations e.g. NOMAD. He confirmed they were looking to sponsor a medal or similar to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

74. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- (i) Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from 12 January 2012 to 20 February 2012 inclusive, copy attached to the agenda. It was

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

(iii) The Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Boundary Commissions briefing session for parishes which was to be held on the 29 February 2012 at 3pm and 6.30pm in Didcot. It was noted that both she and the Town Clerk were unable to attend.
- Mayor's Flipping Pancake Race: reported there had been a record turnout and £373 had been raised to go towards her chosen charities.
- The Councillor Surgery scheduled on 3 March would be cancelled due to the number of Councillors volunteering for the HIT Litter Campaign.

75. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

(i) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 January 2012 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 January 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute 172 – Localism Bill & Local Community Plan

A member requested that as this was an important issue the decision should be made by Full Council. It was confirmed that full details would not be known until the end of April 2012. The volunteer (outlined in this minute) who had expressed an interest to progress the Community Planning in Henley was currently undertaking research and would be reporting back to the Planning Committee. It was confirmed that once more information is gathered it would be brought back to Full Council for a decision.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14 February 2012 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14 February 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 31 January 2012 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 31 January 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute 99 – Town Centre Manager

It was noted that interviews for the Town Centre Manager position would be held on 7 March 2012.

(iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 7 February 2012 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 7 February 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute 87- Public Participation Session

It was requested this minute includes the following:

'Ms A Chumas was requested to supply a copy of her prepared statement a copy of which to be attached to the office copy of the minutes and that she provided copies of her statement to her immediate neighbours and those named in her report.'

Action: Finance Strategy and Management Committee Administrator to circulate copies of Ms A Chumas statement to all Councillors.

Minute 90(ii) Investment Performance

It was proposed and approved that this minute be changed to the following: 'The Town Clerk confirmed that they (Investment Managers) were invited to attend every 12 months, but if circumstances require it more frequent invitations are to be made. In addition, six monthly written reports are to be provided.' It was

RESOLVED that the minute be changed to the following: 'The Town Clerk confirmed that the Investment Managers be invited to attend every 12 months, but if circumstances require it more frequent invitations are to be made. In addition, six monthly written reports are to be provided

Councillor Miss L Hillier left the meeting.

Minute 98(i) – Legal Update – West Street Stores

The Town Clerk confirmed that an advertisement regarding renting West Street Stores had been placed in the Henley Standard and that there had been no response. He confirmed that one applicant had come forward. It was proposed that the Town Clerk be given delegated powers to offer the said applicant a three year lease contract on the same terms and conditions as the previous tenant. It was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be given delegated powers to offer the said applicant a three year lease contract on the same terms and conditions as the previous tenant.

Minute 98(i) – Legal Update – Sports Centre

It was confirmed there were still a number of issues that needed to be resolved before the lease is signed, including reducing the management fee as the weekly maintenance of the astro pitch is to be brought in-house. It was noted that these issues are to be addressed at the next Finance, Strategy and Management Committee on the 20 March 2012.

- (v) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 14 February 2012 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 14 February 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute 67- A Sculpture for Henley

A member opposed the recommendation to install a sculpture by the Thames in Henley and spoke against the recommendation that the Town Council agree in principal to locating a sculpture in Henley provided a suitable location can be identified. A discussion ensued regarding the proposal and suitability of the statue. It was noted that there would be no financial implications for HTC and a report would be presented to the next Recreation and Amenities Committee on 27 March 2012 before a decision was recommended. It was

RESOLVED that the Town Council agree in principal to locating a sculpture in Henley provided a suitable location can be identified; and that Councillor Miss S Evans prepares a brief report for the next Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting.

Minute 68 – Makins Skate Park Initiative

It was noted that the name for this project is 'Henley Skate Park Initiative' and that this name be adopted in the minute and in any future reference.

(vi) Townlands Steering Group (TSG)

Members had before them and noted a written report (attached to the agenda) from the Chairman of the Townlands Steering Group (TSG).

The Chairman of the TSG confirmed that the meeting on the 20 February 2012 had been a full house in the large hall of the Town Hall, even though members of the public had to pre-register to attend. He confirmed the timetable for the project was still on target and the contract would be awarded at the end of March. Plans for the development would be available at the end of April and there would be further meetings for reviewing the plans.

A member asked how many homes had been proposed to be built on the site and it was confirmed that approximately 50 homes had been planned on one of the bidder applications. The Chairman confirmed that Primary Care Trust (PCT) had been invited to attend a future HTC Planning Committee to discuss the planning application.

Thanks were expressed to the TSG for organising the successful meeting on the 20 February. The Chairman also paid thanks to Mr R Darch, Ms R Relihan and Mr A Kilham from the PCT who had all been an integral part of the project.

76. **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT 2012/13**

The Mayor invited nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elect 2012/13.

Mayor Elect

Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin was nominated by Councillor D Hinke and seconded by Councillor Miss K Gehrmann; and
Councillor Miss L Hillier was nominated by Councillor D Silvester and seconded by Councillor Miss S Evans. Character references were given on each nomination.
It was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin be considered as the Mayor Elect for 2012/13.

Deputy Mayor Elect

Councillor S Gawrysiak was nominated by Councillor Mrs P Phillips and seconded by Councillor Miss K Gehrmann; and
Councillor Miss L Hillier was nominated by Councillor W Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Miss S Evans. Character references were given on each nomination. It was

RESOLVED that Councillor S Gawrysiak be considered as the Deputy Mayor Elect for 2012/13.

77. **TOWN MEDAL COMMITTEE**

The election of two Conservative Councillors to fill the vacancies on the Town Medal Committee were considered. It was

RESOLVED that Councillors D Silvester and W Hamilton be elected on to the Town Medal Committee for the remainder of the local government year 2011/12.

78. **WEST STREET STORES**

It was noted that this item had already been resolved under item 75 (iv). The report gave the views of the surveyor on the effect of delaying planned maintenance (attached to the agenda). It was

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

79. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was moved by the Chairman and **RESOLVED**

that the public and the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters which were about to be discussed were considered to be confidential.

MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2012

80. **CONFIDENTIAL**

(i) **Recreation and Amenities Committee - Minute 70(ii) Permanent Moorings**

A member disagreed with the recommendation that Mr Hooper is retained as a monitor of the Town Council moorings for a yearly fee and it was discussed whether this service could be carried out by Council Officers instead. It was explained that Mr Hooper did more than just inspect the moorings, he assisted people in difficulty on the mooring and monitored the moorings for those who moored without consent. It was explained that Mr Hooper's expertise regarding the river/moorings is money well spent and he provides an invaluable service. It was

RESOLVED that Mr Hooper is retained as monitor of the Town Council's permanent moorings.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

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Mayor