

Present: Vice Chairman, Councillor D Clenshaw
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs P A Phillips
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor M Akehurst – substitute for Councillor Mrs J Wood
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Miss K L Gehrman
Councillor D Silvester

In attendance: Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk
Mrs B Walker – Committee Administrator/Minute Taker

Also Present: Councillor D Hinke
1 member of the press
7 members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood, the Vice Chairman Councillor D Clenshaw took the Chair.

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

86. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr M Dodds – 192 Reading Road – Minute 90 - A Sculpture on Henley - Asked three questions regarding the bronze sculpture:-

1. Is the statue of a mermaid appropriate for Henley, which is a riverside rather than seaside town.
2. It is art? This question has raised discussions in the Henley Standard.
3. A “get-out” clause/time limitation should be included in the agreement should the Town Council decide they no longer want the statue.

Mr D Dickie – 14 St Katherines Road – Chairman of the Henley Hockey Club. Minute 92 i and ii – Jubilee Park Sponsorship Boards and Branding - Referred to the proposal to be considered by the Committee regarding sponsorship boards and branding of the Henley Hockey Club at Jubilee Park and informed the Committee that he had been in discussions with perspective sponsors, who had also suggested

sponsorship boards could be placed on the Henley Hockey Club dugouts which are located on the side of the astropitch.

Mr A Shafi – Slough – Minute 91- Jubilee Park – Car Wash Proposal Spoke as the proposer of a car wash at Jubilee Park and explained he had experience of running a successful car wash in Slough and wanted to expand and open a car wash in Henley along with his business partner Mr Mohammed who runs a car hire business in Henley.

Mrs G Dodds – 192 Greys Road - Minute 90 – A Sculpture in Henley - Questioned whether there would be an option to remove the statue should the Town Council decide in the future that they no longer wanted one to be located in Henley and if so would the proposer cover the cost of returning the area to its original state.

Mr C Baker – 3 Lauds Close – Minute 90 – A Sculpture in Henley - Spoke in favour of the proposed statue and felt it would be an asset to Henley

Councillor D Hinke – Valley View, Elizabeth Road – Minute 90 – A Sculpture in Henley - Agreed with the previous speaker and is also in favour of the statue and felt it is too easy to say no to these kinds of projects.

87. MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting held on 27 March 2012 were approved and then signed by the Chairman, Councillor D Clenshaw as a true record.
- ii. The Committee received and considered the notes of the Jubilee Park User Group held on 4 April 2012.

A member queried the following:-

- whether the management fee to Nexus would be adjusted as the Parks Services are carrying out some of the maintenance work and the new astropitch should require less maintenance. The Town Clerk assured the Committee that negotiations on this subject are continuing with Nexus and a conclusion is expected soon.
- the trial period of locking the astropitch. The Town Clerk confirmed a trial period had taken place and was successful and the astropitch is now locked when not in use.
- safety at the pedestrian crossing. The Town Clerk explained this is an on-going concern and that Oxfordshire County Council and Tesco Stores have each inspected the site and the crossing does comply with safety standards. Tesco Stores have also carried out additional safety improvements. However cars still seem to drive too fast when entering and exiting the car park. The Town Clerk advised that County Councillor D Nimmo Smith was pursuing these concerns with the Highways Authority in attempt to ameliorate the situation.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the notes of the Jubilee Park User Group held on 4 April 2012 be received, approved and noted.

- iii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 5 April 2012.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

The minutes of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 5 April 2012 be received, approved and adopted.

88. BUDGET

The Committee received, considered and noted the outturn of the budget report to March 2012. Members were pleased to note such a favourable end of year balance sheet.

89. PROGRESS REPORT

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

First Chapel – The Town Clerk reported the Lease is with the Town Council's solicitors.

Red Lion Lawn – The Town Clerk reported that the South Oxfordshire District Council's Forestry Officer has given consent to fell the self-seeded sycamore tree abutting the shelter at Red Lion Lawn, which is in conflict with the adjacent tree.

Makins Recreation Ground – The Town Clerk reported that the Council's solicitors had raised concerns with regard to the dedication of Makins Recreation Ground as a Queen Elizabeth II Field as it may amount to a "disposal" and further discussions are in progress with the Fields in Trust to clarify the situation. A further update will be presented to this Committee. Following a concern from a member the Town Clerk assured the Committee the name Makins Recreation Ground would be retained.

Jubilee Park – The Town Clerk reported Councillor D Hinke is in discussions with Nomad and local primary schools with regard to which equipment should be purchased and an update will be given to this Committee in due course.

90. A SCULPTURE IN HENLEY

The Committee received and noted a report which included suggested locations for the statue from Councillor Miss S Evans along with a draft agreement received from the promoter.

Councillor Miss Evans spoke to the report and agreement and made the following additional comments:-

- the promoter's intention is that the statues will be located in the 20 most beautiful places in the world and these would be recorded in a hard-backed book

- the agreement is a draft and amendments can be made following liaison with the promoter regarding the Committee's comments
- regarding the questions raised in the public participation session Councillor Miss Evans responded as follows:-
 - "is it art?" agreed that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and she had received many positive comments regarding the statue.
 - a time limit/"get-out" clause can be negotiated with the promoter and be included in the agreement if required along with stipulations regarding restoring the area to its original condition.
- possible locations are suggested as – Station Park, Singers Park or Mill Meadows (next to the Bowls Club at the River End). Another possible location is next to the New Street Slipway.
- the project will enable the Council to nominate a local charity to receive 5,000 euros

Members discussed the proposal and made the following comments:-

- the statue has no connections with Henley – Henley is a riverside not a seaside town
- would like to see more art in Henley however it needs to be relevant to the town – for instance a statue of George Harrison or possibly a "fourth plinth" project with local artists displaying works.
- Should the Town Council decide to promote art in the town - residents views on the type of art could be sought via a poll in the Henley Standard
- the agreement would need to be considered by the Council's solicitors and there would be a cost for this
- the statue could be a focus for tourists
- Singers Park is the wrong location
- there should be an option to remove the statue after 3 to 5 years and should the Council wish to have another statue they should have the option to approve it
- would be an honour to have the statue located in Henley and for the town to be included as one of the 20 most beautiful places in the world
- choosing the right site is very important
- the proposal is a marketing plan and is purely for Henley to be used as a shop-front for this artwork
- would the statue be subject to planning permission?

After further discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

that Councillor Miss S Evans liaise with the promoter with regard to including the following clauses in the contract and that item be bought back to this Committee for further consideration:-

- **a "get-out" clause**
- **a proviso that ensures the promoter pays to have the area made good once the statue is removed.**

91. JUBILEE PARK – CAR WASH PROPOSAL

The Committee received and considered a proposal from Mr A Shafi regarding establishing a car wash at the Jubilee Park car park. Mr Shafi runs a successful car wash in Slough and is aware of all the necessary requirements for drainage and chemical waste.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the car park is owned by Henley Town Council and is not included in the lease of the Henley Hockey Club or Nexus therefore the Town Council would be entitled to make the car park available to a third party if the Council so wished. Following discussions with Mr Shafi he confirmed that he would seek all the necessary permissions and would not operate when the car park is required for parking at Jubilee Park eg when matches or training is on.

Members discussed the proposal and made the following comments:-

- this area is community land and it is inappropriate to have a commercial venture located here
- there are other car washes in town however competition is a good thing
- the car wash would provide a service to the community
- why was the car wash not operating in the Tesco Stores car park as this is a practice in other Tesco car parks

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that permission is not given for a car wash to be established at the car park at Jubilee Park.

92. JUBILEE PARK SIGNAGE AND SPONSORSHIP BOARDS

- i. The Committee received and considered suggested artwork for the proposed directional signs for Jubilee Park to be located on the corner by the Reading Road roundabout following the Full Council resolution to add the AFC Henley and Henley Hockey Club badges to the signs.

Following discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the sign for Jubilee Park be white writing on a green background and read “Henley on Thames Town Council Jubilee Park with www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk at the bottom. The AFC Henley and Henley Hockey Club logos to be placed on either side.

- ii. **a) Sponsorship Boards**

The Committee received and considered a report prepared by the Henley Hockey Club following consultation with the AFC Henley on sponsorship boards to be placed at the astropitch, Jubilee Park and also a proposal on

branding for the Henley Hockey Club. This item was referred back from Full Council.

Members discussed the proposed sponsorship boards and made the following comments:-

- the sponsorship boards could provide much needed revenue for the sports clubs
- they would provide publicity for local businesses
- they would want to specify local sponsors only
- the signs should be subtle and tasteful
- Jubilee Park is a community area and sponsorship boards may give the impressions the area is “owned” by the Hockey Club or AFC Henley
- would prefer not to see any advertising at Jubilee Park
- a time limit should be stipulated and the situation reviewed for instance 1 or 3 years
- would want the boards to be at pitch level
- a percentage of the revenue raised should be given to the Town Council and should be allocated to the maintenance of Jubilee Park
- sponsorship boards are a part of modern sport
- Henley Hockey Club and AFC Henley are currently the largest users of Jubilee Park.
- permission to be given for 2 boards only initially

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that permission be given for 2 sponsorship boards at Jubilee Park subject to the following conditions:-

- **one sign only for AFC Henley and one sign only for Henley Hockey Club – each club to retain the funds of their own sign**
- **each club to donate 5% of any income obtained to Henley Town Council**
- **the two signs to be located on the shortest fence located next to the entrance gate to the astropitch**
- **further permission to be sought from the Town Council for any additional signs**
- **each sponsorship board would be 6 metres long and 1 metre high**
- **the signs to be at pitch level**

that the permission be given for a 3 year term and the Clubs to then approach the Council for further permission

b) Branding

The Committee received and considered a proposal from the Henley Hockey Club for a branding sign to be placed on the fence running adjacent to the Tesco car park. The sign to be double sided so it can be read from the car park side and the pitch side. The sign to read "Welcome to Henley Hockey Club" along with the Club's badge and logo. The sign to be 6 metres by 1 metre, the background colour to be amber with Oxford blue writing.

The Committee did not object in principle to a branding sign for the Henley Hockey Club however concern was expressed at the size of the sign and after discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that permission be not given for the Henley Hockey Club to have a branding signs at Jubilee Park and that further discussion takes place between the Town Clerk and the Henley Hockey Club regarding the size of the signs in particular and a further proposal be put to this Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman

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