

Present: The Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor C I Pye
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor Dr B Wood

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

Also present: 1 Members of the Press
2 Member of the Public

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs P G Buckett and Councillor Dr P Skolar.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds declared a personal interest in minute 56 i) as a member of Transition Towns.

52. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

None.

53. MINUTES

- i. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 November 2010 were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds.
- ii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee held on 25 November 2010.

The Committee recognised the considerable amount of hard work and organisation which went into making this year's Christmas Shopping event such a success and asked that all those who were involved in the preparations and helped on the night be thanked in particular the Mayor, Town Councillors, Town Council staff and that special thanks be extended to the Chairman of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee, Councillor A J Follett.

It was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that the minutes of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee held on 25 November 2010 be received, approved and adopted.

- iii. The Committee received and considered the notes of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee meeting held on 18 November 2010.

A member objected to the suggestions under discussion for the future use of the former putting green (as a maze or putting green) and felt the open space nature of Mill Meadows should be preserved.

A response was made that the putting green area is under utilised and is in the more formal part of Mill Meadows and that alternative uses are worthy of investigation.

It was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that the notes of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee held on 18 November 2010 be received, approved and adopted.

54. BUDGET

The Committee received and noted the budget report to October 2010.

55. PROGRESS REPORT

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

Mill Meadows – Works to Entrance – it was noted that the works have vastly improved the entrance and the project came in on time and within budget.

The First Chapel – The Committee noted that the Finance Strategy and Management Committee had referred this item back to the Recreation and Amenities Committee in order to continue discussions with Mr Burness-Smith as they had the following concerns (Minute 89 FSM 14.12.10 refers):-

- It was not in favour of providing an interest free loan also it was not deemed acceptable to realise assets for this purpose
- Concerns were raised about the proposed parking area, which if fully or over-utilised would cause access difficulties back onto the main Fairmile.
- A query was raised whether the venture could generate sufficient financial income.

After discussion it was suggested that progress may best be made by a small number of Councillors meeting with Mr Burness-Smith in order to clarify concerns.

It was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that a Working Group comprising of Councillors Mrs G Dodds, Mrs E Hodgkin, Mrs J Wood and Dr B Wood be appointed to meet with Mr Burness Smith subject to the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee meeting held on 14 December 2010 that further talks be held with the applicant.

Sports Centre – it was noted that all the lights in the area near the crossing are now working however that lighting levels should be re-assessed once the snow has melted.

56. WOODLAND MEMORIAL/40 ACRE FIELD

i. The Committee received an update on the Woodland Memorial/Henley in Transition New Forest project. The following points were reported:-

- **The Tenant of 40 Acre Field** - The agricultural tenancy of 40 Acre Field is currently being progressed with the current tenant, minus the area

identified for the Woodland Memorial/Henley New Forest. The new tenancy is due to begin in January 2011 for a 3 year period,

- **Sue Ryder Care** - Mr O Knights of Sue Ryder Care Nettlebed is liaising with the Sue Ryder Care Central Office and is awaiting the final authorisation for this project to progress. If the project is agreed it is intended that the planting will commence in winter 2011 and will be undertaken as a community project.
- **Henley Town Council** – in order to ensure a clear delineation of responsibilities legal advice has indicated that the most favourable way to progress would be for the Town Council to lease the area intended as a Woodland Memorial, and Henley in Transition New Forest to sub-lease from Sue Ryder Care at a peppercorn rent with the conditions that ensure no costs fall to Henley Town Council in the future.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the offer be made to Sue Ryder Care for the lease of a 2 acre site at the far end of 40 Acre Field to be used as a Woodland Memorial/ Henley in Transition New Forest at a peppercorn rent for a period of 25 years and the following to be included in the Heads of Terms:-

- **the lease to allow Sue Ryder Care to sublease an area to Henley in Transition.**
- **Sue Ryder Care to ensure stock proof fencing is erected around the area with a kissing gate onto footpath H8 to allow access for visitors and a 5 bar gate on the boundary with 40 Acre Field to allow access for maintenance.**
- **Sue Ryder Care may engage the Town Council to maintain the area at a rate to be agreed and to be reviewed annually to include:- maintenance of trees including replacement of failed trees with whips, mowing of paths (5 – 6 times a year), maintenance of fencing OR engage an outside contractor.**
- **Sue Ryder Care to purchase and arrange for the planting of trees/tree guards**
- **Sue Ryder Care to draw up the required legal documentation and pay any legal fees incurred by the Town Council.**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds abstained from the vote.

- ii. The Committee received and considered a report regarding a request that has been received from the tenant of 40 Acre Field to re-fence the top boundary with stock proof fencing.

After discussion the Committee agreed that the area should be fenced although it was noted that there was no budget for this and that this

item would need to be considered by the Finance Strategy and Management Committee.

It was RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that in order to maintain its status as a good landlord and to avoid the establishment of unauthorised footpaths, the Council should agree to and fund the 500 metres (approx) replacement fencing along the western boundary from Nicholas Farm to Pack and Prime Lane.

that a report be presented to the next Finance Strategy and Management Committee for the fencing, including quotes and a recommendation as to where the funding should come from (approximately £6,000)

57. CONDITION OF THE ASTROPITCH

The Committee received a report from an independent company, commissioned by Nexus Community, regarding the condition of the astropitch following concerns raised by the Henley Hockey Club at the Sports Centre User Group meetings.

The report indicated that the 14 year old astropitch, whilst still playable was likely to deteriorate rapidly over the next 18 months and would require replacing by the summer of 2012.

After discussion the Committee agreed it was important that the astropitch should be replaced and that serious consideration would need to be given to finding the funding for the replacement of astropitch in 2012 which also was the year of the Olympics.

After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that a further report be presented to a future Recreation and Amenities Committee outlining options for funding the replacement of the astropitch.

58. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

It was moved by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G Dodds and **RESOLVED**

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

59. TEMPORARY MOORINGS

The Committee received and noted an update regarding the two boats moored on the temporary moorings at Mill Meadows.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

bw

Chairman