

Present: Mayor, Councillor S J Gawrysiak  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M S Akehurst  
Councillor Mrs J Bland  
Councillor D Clenshaw  
Councillor Miss S Evans  
Councillor W Hamilton  
Councillor Miss L M Hillier  
Councillor Miss K L Hinton  
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin  
Councillor Ms L A Meachin  
Councillor D R Nimmo Smith  
Councillor Mrs P A Phillips  
Councillor I Reissmann  
Councillor D M Silvester

In Attendance: Mr M W Kennedy - Town Clerk  
Mrs P Price-Davies - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator  
Mr C Austin - Town Sergeant

Also Present: 26 members of the public  
1 member of the press

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.

**71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Hinke and Mrs J Wood.  
An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Mrs J Bland.

**72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**73. MINUTES**

(i)The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 December 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save to the following extent:

Minute No.57 – Apologies for absence

A Member requested that as Councillor D Clenshaw was absent at this meeting his name be deleted from the list of Members present.

Minute No. 61 – County Councillor Report

A Member requested that the last sentence on the final paragraph be deleted, 'but it was agreed that a restriction was not feasible as it would prove difficult to impose'. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the minutes be amended to reflect this deletion.**

(ii)The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 8 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save to the following extent:

Minute No.69 – Public Participation

A Member requested that the second part of the final sentence of Mr Smewing's comments should be deleted and that the following wording be inserted, '*HTC should support measures to counter climate change*'.

Minute No.70 – Councillor David Silvester

A Member requested that in the ninth paragraph the word 'work' be replaced with word 'word'.

It was **RESOLVED**

**that the minutes be amended to reflect this additional wording.**

**74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett, referring to the TSG meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013, asked whether financial closures had yet taken place.

*Councillor Mrs J Bland entered the meeting at 7.42pm.*

He was informed by the Chair of TSG that good progress had been made and that financial closure was on schedule for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and that the TSG were hopeful that commercial closure would also be achieved. He reported that John Howell MP had been in contact with James Wakeham (regional director for NHS Property Services) and was confident that the financial closure would be achieved within the next two weeks.

Mrs P Isaac, Gainsborough Road

Mrs Isaac spoke of her support for the development of the skatepark at Makins Recreation Ground. She regarded the current site an eyesore and that the new development would be welcomed and would enhance the space. She felt that the opposition to the increase in the footprint of the new development was unfair as extra land that would be incorporated into the design was currently overgrown and underused and it would become a new free community facility. She spoke of the opposition that several Councillors had voiced over the initiative as being personal and incorrect. She felt that this new development would be an attractive, much needed draw to the town that catered for young adults. She requested that personal issues be resolved so that development of the skatepark could finally get underway.

Mrs G Dodds, Greys Road

Mrs Dodds dismissed a recent letter that Councillor D Hinke had written to the Henley Standard claiming that the skatepark initiative should be referred to the Neighbourhood Plan development as time wasting as this option had been clearly rejected by HTC in April 2012. She also felt that Councillor Miss S Evans was unaware of the history of the skatepark as work had commenced before her term on HTC had begun. She pointed out that the recent skatepark, built at Sonning Common, was 45 metre square and as Henley has such a larger population, it obviously warranted a larger development. A larger site would also mean that the requirements of all age groups could be catered for without there being a danger issue.

Mrs Crabley

Mrs Crabley thanked various Councillors for their support over the Skatepark Initiative. She also pointed out that there was little other free sport for older teenagers in the town apart from the Adventure Playgrounds and that this facility was of no interest to them. Referring to claims that Councillors had made about the proposed facility being smaller, she said that it would not work if it was decreased. The current skatepark was outdated and damaged but young people continued to use it as there was no alternative, she saluted the local campaigners for their continuing work.

Mr G Walsh, Windale Close

Mr Walsh criticised certain Councillors for their discourteous remarks about his recent charitable offer to loan HTC his portrait of the Queen which was painted by Christian Furr.

Mr C Braithwaite, St. Mark's Road

Mr Braithwaite spoke of the skatepark initiative being a project that had brought members of the community and HTC together over the three years that it had been progressing. He felt that Makins Recreational Ground was the only viable site within HTC ownership for such a development and that all sectors of the community had been involved throughout the development of this project and that there was enormous support throughout the town. He stressed the importance of this development being regarded as a new sports facility for the town. The skatepark initiative held a feasibility report in March 2012 using sound measuring equipment and it was proven that the traffic on Greys Road generated more noise than the users of the skatepark. He referred to Dorchester where a study had revealed that their anti-social behaviour had been greatly reduced when a similar facility had been provided in the town. He invited any sectors of the community to engage in discussions with them over this important development.

Mr J Trailer-Thompson, St. Mark's Road

Mr Trailer-Thompson spoke of the existing skatepark structure at Makins Recreation Ground being built out of fibreglass and in disrepair which inevitably generated high levels of noise. He commented on other skateparks that he visited and used which were made of concrete and the only noise being that of 'enjoyment'.

**75. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS**

Members had before them a report from Mrs J Wood. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the report be received and noted.**

Matters arising from the report:

A Member sought clarification on the Community Investment Fund (CIF). The fund was open to applications from community groups through its Communities Capital Grant Scheme this year and that there was approximately £1 million available. The issue of the value of the reserve fund established from the sale of Council Housing stock was questioned and it was agreed that the Mayor would write directly to Councillor Dodds to gain assurance and precise figures on this matter.

**County Councillor Report**

Members had before them a report from County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the report be received and noted.**

Matters arising from the report:

County Councillor D Nimmo Smith referred to his report which he had emailed to Councillors previously and gave a verbal update on the following issues:

He spoke of the decision-making process that had been adopted with regard to road closures due to the recent flooding by the OCC, the emergency services and various third parties. He reported that national Fire and Rescue Services had collaborated over availability of equipment to ensure that normal service was resumed as quickly as possible in the affected areas. Members thanked the Fire and Rescue Services for all their work and commitment during the recent flooding.

He announced that he was due to attend a meeting on the 3 March 2014 at the House of Commons regarding the issue of building a third Bridge over the Thames River at Reading. He asked Members to email him their views so that he could formulate a report that adequately reflected HTC's view on this issue. A Member

referred him to a report that was carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory several years ago which would inform him of HTC resolve position on this matter.

**76. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

- (i) Members had before them a report from Mrs K Robinson on the River Thames Alliance AGM which was held on 5 February 2014 (attached to the agenda), which was noted.
- (ii) Members had before them a report from Councillor Mrs J Wood on the Henley and Falaise Twinning Association AGM which is due to be held on 5th March 2014 (attached to the agenda), which was noted.

**77. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from the period **11 December 2013 – 12 February 2014**. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the report be received and noted.**

*Matters arising from the report:*

A Member requested that the Mayor should consider other Members to deputise in his absence rather than Councillor Mrs J Wood repeatedly attending events but the Mayor felt that the recently agreed protocol did not warrant further discussion as this situation had already been resolved.

**78. VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

It was **RESOLVED**

**that in the light of the large number of people in the audience the order of business be varied to take Agenda Item 8.iv, Reports of Committees : Recreation and Amenities before Agenda Item 8.i, Planning Committee.**

**79. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 4 February 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 4 February 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted, save for the following extent:**

*Arising from the report:*

Minute No.63.ii – Makins Skatepark

The Chair updated Council on the pre planning advice that HTC had received from South Oxfordshire District Council on the application regarding the increased footprint to the skatepark development at Makins Recreation Ground. He informed Council that the feedback the Town Clerk had received on proposed plans at this stage should be regarded as extremely positive. In light of this new information he proposed, the deletion of paragraphs two and three in the final recommendation of Minute No.63 ii and the additional wording '*having regard for the pre-planning advice*' be inserted after South Oxfordshire District Council in paragraph one that,

*'The Town Council submit a planning application to South Oxfordshire District having regard to the pre planning advice for the Skatepark at Makins Recreation Ground based on the submission from Maverick Industries'*. The motion was seconded.

A lengthy debate ensued regarding the proposed increase in the footprint of the skatepark development at Makins Recreation Ground and the siting of this development. Members also debated the protocol of HTC making recommendations on planning applications. Referring to the code of conduct it was confirmed that where Members have a pecuniary interest, HTC were unable to make a recommendation,

therefore it was agreed that the plan should be supported and considered as it evolved instead.

The motion having been proposed and seconded was put to the vote.

**that the Town Council submit a planning application to South Oxfordshire District having regard to the pre planning advice for the Skatepark at Makins Recreation Ground based on the submission from Maverick Industries and that paragraphs two and three be deleted from the final recommendation in Minute No.63 ii.**

A recorded vote was requested:

**For**

Cllr Mrs J Bland  
Cllr D Clenshaw  
Cllr S Gawrysiak  
Cllr Miss L Hillier  
Cllr Miss K Hinton  
Cllr Mrs E Hodgkin  
Cllr Ms L Meachin  
Cllr D Nimmo Smith  
Cllr Mrs P Philips  
Cllr I Reissmann  
Cllr D Silvester

**Against**

Cllr Miss S Evans  
Cllr W Hamilton

**Abstention**

Cllr Mr M Akehurst

The motion was carried.

Minute No. 64.ii – Use of Telephone Boxes

Councillor D Nimmo Smith put forward the suggestion of relocating the disused telephone box in St. Mark's Road to a more prominent location within the town centre and using it to house a defibrillator, he proposed funding this initiative through the Community Fund.

(i)The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 7 & 28 January 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 7 & 28 January 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.**

Arising from the report:

Minute No.133– Application P13/S3692/HH – 9 Leicester Close

A Member reported that the correct procedure had not been adhered to with the processing of both the original application and the amended application, This resulted in the neighbours missing their opportunity to comment on the proposed development. It was agreed that HTC should write a formal letter of complaint to the relevant planning Officers reiterating their concerns with the process and advice they were given.

Minute No.133– Application P14/S0065/LB – Rose & Crown Pub, 56 New Street

A Member drew attention to the Town Council's recommendation for refusal of the use of this Public House to be changed to a dwelling, stating the importance of this historic pub remaining a viable business in the town. A discussion ensued as to the procedure involved in approaching SODC to list this building as a 'Community Asset' for protection, it was agreed that HTC would investigate this application and that it would be considered at another meeting of the Full Council and taken as a separate Agenda item.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on

21 January 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 21 January 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.**

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 77 – Progress – Fairtrade

Members agreed that the issue of Fairtrade should be discussed at a further meeting of the committee and taken as a separate Agenda item.

(iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 28 January 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 28 January 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted, save for minute no. 90.iii – 357 Reading Road Site, which will be discussed following the exclusion of the public and the press as it is considered confidential.**

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 85 – Council Tax Leaflet

A Member proposed the deletion of certain words relating to the value of the Council's investments. The motion was defeated whereupon it was **RESOLVED**

**that the Council Tax Leaflet 2014/15 be approved.**

(v) The Minutes of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on the 10 January 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the Minutes of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on 10 January 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.**

(vi) Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the current project status of the Townlands Development. He re-iterated that the financial closure was still on schedule for the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March and that the commercial closure was making progress and that he was still hopeful of closure in March 2014. He confirmed that the next TSG Meeting was set for 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and he would inform Council of any further progress.

The Chairman noted that in County Councillor D Nimmo Smith's report the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee was currently looking for three members of the public to join Councillors in scrutinising how healthcare is provided in the County. He suggested a member a particular member of the TSG as an ideal candidate and would put this item on the agenda for consideration at their next meeting.

**80. COUNCIL TAX LEAFLET 2014/15**

Members having considered this item under Minute No. 74(iii) above **RESOLVED**

**to move to next business.**

**81. LEASE BETWEEN HENLEY TOWN COUNCIL AND HEADWAY THAMES VALLEY LTD FOR THE GARAGE ADJOINING BRUNNER HALL**

It was proposed that the lease between HTC and Headway Thames Valley Ltd for the Garage adjoining Brunner Hall be now signed and sealed. It was **RESOLVED**

that the lease between HTC and Headway Thames Valley Ltd for the Garage adjoining Brunner Hall be signed and sealed.

**82. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE 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 18 FEBRUARY 2014**

**83. FINANCE, STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2014  
Minute No. 90 (iii) – 357 Reading Road**

Members had before them Minute 90.iii -357 Reading Road from the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 28 January 2014. The following changes to this recommendation were proposed and seconded:

the deletion of the bullet point:

- 'not to pursue discussions with any developers who intend to use the site for retail use'

and the addition of the following bullet points:

- Inland Homes would be presenting their Mill Lane site & combined Mill Lane & 357 Reading Road scheme, jointly with the town council, at the developers evening on 26 February; and
- that in the meantime the Council makes known its dealings with Barwood Developments and M&S Simply Foods for a retail /housing mixed use; and
- that the council appoints professional advisors to support the Council in this matter.

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the meetings that the Town Clerk and the appointed three members of the Council (Councillors I Reissmann, Mrs J Bland and Mrs E Hodgkin) had held with two separate developers over the potential development of the 357 Reading Road site;

Barwood Developments; were proposing a mixed use development which would incorporate an upmarket food outlet, employing approximately 50 local people and approximately 28 residential dwellings.

Inland Homes; were proposing a development that would incorporate approximately 50 residential dwellings.

A debate ensued as to the merit of both potential developments and suggestions were put forward for inclusion and the economic benefits to the town were raised. It was generally felt that in keeping with the ethos of Neighbourhood Plan, it was in the interest of the public to put this information into the public domain. It was **RESOLVED**

**that Barwood Developments should be invited to make a presentation on their proposed development of the 357 Reading Road site at the Developer's Presentation session which was due to be held on Wednesday 26 February 2014 to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Groups.**

Members debated the amended motion and were in agreement that independent advisors should be appointed to act on behalf of HTC to ensure that all negotiations and options were professionally handled and that all options for the development of 357 Reading Road be explored until such time as the Neighbourhood Plan is confirmed. It was **RESOLVED**

- (i) **that an Independent Advisor should be appointed to act on behalf of HTC to ensure that all negotiations and options were professionally handled with regards to the potential development of 357 Reading Road;**
- (ii) **the deletion of the bullet point:**
- **'not to pursue discussions with any developers who intend to use the site for retail use'**
- and the addition of the following bullet points:**
- **Inland Homes would be presenting their Mill Lane site & combined Mill Lane & 357 Reading Road scheme, jointly with the town council, at the developers evening on 26 February; and**
  - **that in the meantime the Council makes known its dealings with Barwood Developments and M&S Simply Foods for a retail /housing mixed use; and**
  - **that the council appoints professional advisors to support the Council in this matter.**

A discussion ensued regarding a member substituting for Councillor I Reissmann at an upcoming meeting scheduled with Gillotts School regarding the access land off Blandy Road. It was **RESOLVED**

**that Councillor Miss K Hinton substitute for Councillor I Reissmann at the meeting with Miss C Darnton and Mr N Walden from Gillotts School regarding the access land off Blandy Road.**

#### **84. TOWN MEDAL NOMINATIONS**

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Medal Committee held **on 3 February 2014** were before the Council. Members debated the nominations put forward by the Town Medal Committee, several Members highlighted the fact that recipients of the Town Medal should be members of the community who have benefitted the community through exceptional work they have carried out on a voluntary basis as opposed to work undertaken within a role of paid employment.

On this basis, several members argued that two of the nominees did not meet the criteria. A Member suggested that Council should consider asking members of the public to suggest nominees for this prestigious award in the future. It was **RESOLVED**

**that Wendy Hawkins be awarded the Town Medal for 2014.**

The meeting closed at 10.12 pm.

*ppd*

*Mayor*