

Present: Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood (presiding)
Councillor Mrs P Buckett
Councillor Mrs G M Dodds
Councillor A Follett
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor Mrs R Myer
Councillor Miss L Pye
Deputy Mayor, Councillor C Pye
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Dr P Skolar
Councillor S Smith
Councillor Dr B 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
13 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.

77. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors C W Gibson and Mrs J Bland.

78. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs G Dodds and Mrs E Hodgkin – Minute 154 Finance, Strategy and Management – Youth Centre – personal and prejudicial interest as trustee.
Councillor Dr B Wood and Mayor, Mrs J Wood – Minute 154 Finance, Strategy and Management – Youth Centre – personal and prejudicial interest as both on management committee.

79. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 29 March 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

80. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett thanked the Mayor for being a great ambassador for the town for the past year. He then went on to query, as a Henley rate payer, why County Councillor Dr P Skolar had received £4k allowance but had spent the last three and half months on holiday, therefore, did Councillor Dr P Skolar intend to donate some of this allowance to a charity.

Councillor Dr P Skolar replied that this allowance was nothing to do with Henley Town Council (HTC) as the allowance was paid for his work as a County Councillor. However, he clarified that due to health issues he had been advised by his doctor to do any travelling this year. He also advised that he had kept in communication with his

constituents via email during his holiday and had spent over £200 on WiFi connections and was also likely to receive a very expensive mobile phone bill.

Mr R White, Milton Close

Mr White expressed his concern over the future status of Henley's allotment from information gained from the Communities and Local Government review of local government statutory duties. He asked if the Council would be taking a watching brief on this review and what its responsibility was for securing space and maintaining allotments in the town.

It was confirmed that HTC does not keep a watching brief as it relies on the National Association of Local Councils to alert on any changes/new legislations. Allotments are classified as designated open space land and by law HTC are responsible for maintaining and securing open space for allotments and in fact were actively seeking other pieces of land.

Mr W Hamilton, Greys Road

Mr Hamilton stated that he thought the Royal Wedding celebrations and street parties around Henley were fantastic, however, it was a pity that nothing was held in the Market Place. He asked that to celebrate this year's Royal Wedding would the Royal Regatta Enclosure be hosting a firework display.

It was confirmed that the Lions were organising the fireworks this year and it had been already arranged for these to be set off on the opposite side of the river.

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett referred to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) tax leaflet which showed that expenditure over the last two years had risen by 15%, therefore, where had savings been made.

The District Councillors were unable to respond and suggested that Mr Arlett contact SODC.

Mrs L Binny (on behalf of Mrs E Norton, Bell Street)

Mrs Binny referred to the parking issues at Northfield End and the current planning application by Chestertons and the fact this effects the residents who have purchased a parking space (in particular her mother Mrs Norton). She stated that she does not condone Chestertons but would like to see a compromise made between them, HTC and OCC. If the number of the parking spaces could be reduce to around five and made parallel to the green it would make it easier for cars to turn and park. She stated that she would still like it maintained as private parking and reiterated that all residents in Bell Street did not want the grass area to be touched or for any trees to be removed.

A member sympathised with Mrs Binny by saying residents had obviously bought the parking spaces in good faith. He confirmed that he had a copy of a letter from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) who had written to the seller prior to the spaces being sold, stating this area could not be sold off as it was under investigation with OCC highways. It was confirmed that OCC had been invited to come and discuss the situation with HTC on numerous occasions but to date they had refused.

It was confirmed by a County Councillor he would make contact with the Cabinet Member, Councillor R Rose, and again ask for a meeting to take place with all parties.

81. **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Members had before them reports from District Councillor Mrs J Bland and County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith. It was

RESOLVED that the reports be received and noted.

District Councillor Report

District Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin apologised for not submitting a written report. She advised that she had attended SODC Full Council meeting on 28 April 2011, where Mr David Buckle, the Chief Executive for SODC discussed after the meeting that there had been errors on 1200 Goring postal voting cards. It was stated that this would

mean that Goring residents would be disenfranchised. Mr Buckle had laid the blame for these errors as the fault of the printers. Councillors present at the SODC Full Council meeting had demanded a review of the process. Members agreed that the process had been conducted very unsatisfactorily and that this should be followed up by the new Council.

District Councillor Miss L Hillier confirmed that she had received an email from Mr Buckle regarding the word 'Town' being omitted from the postal voting cards and she would forward this to Members

District Councillor Mrs R Myer advised that she would not be standing for Henley in the elections but that she had enjoyed serving the community.

A member asked why SODC have raised £1.4m more in income than they have spent over the last four years, as this was equivalent to an average of £30 per family in South Oxfordshire.

District Councillors confirmed that they could not answer this as they did not know.

County Councillor Report

A further verbal report was given by County Councillor Dr P Skolar:

Rural Services Bill: It was confirmed that Fujitsu would be putting in broadband to rural areas.

New Deprivation Indices: Oxfordshire may have indices raised as Oxfordshire was one of the lowest.

NHS: clause in the new NHS contract which may help to get better services for rural areas/market towns.

Bus Passes: OCC will be taking over issuing bus passes in 2012, but it is likely that tokens would be discontinued. Dial-a-ride would continue.

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

There was nothing to report.

83. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from 23 March 2011 to 20 April inclusive, copy attached to the agenda. It was

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending the art exhibition on the 8 April.

84. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- (i) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 April 2011 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 April 2011 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (ii) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 26 April 2011 and were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26 April 2011 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Mayor thanked Councillor C W Gibson for his hard work as chair of the Planning Committee and for being a font of all local knowledge and foresight over the past years.

- (iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 12 April 2011 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 12 April 2011 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute 134 – Henley Action Plan Update Meeting

A member expressed that he felt Henley needed a town centre manager as a part time market town coordinator was not enough. He asked if there was going to be a report giving feedback from the Henley Partnership's AGM regarding their accounts, structure and strategy. Members were referred to item 134 (iii) regarding feedback following the AGM.

A discussion took place as to whether the Henley partnership should be invited to give a presentation to the new Council but a member stated that the Action Plan responsibility lies with SODC and even after four years of trying it appeared that SODC were not serious about the economic development of the town.

Minute 136 - Progress

A member confirmed that legislation had changed and that District ward members were now able to speak at Licensing Panel meetings.

The Mayor thanked the chairman of this committee, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin and members of this committee for all their hard work over the past year.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 19 April 2011 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 19 April 2011 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute 149 – Progress Report – Northfield End

Several members stated that they were disappointed that Rupert House had been a casualty of this dispute regarding the parking spaces and reference was made to a report that had been commissioned by Rupert House outlining their parking requirements that had been sent to OCC (a copy of this report had been sent from OCC). It was proposed, as Rupert House was not an item on the agenda, no further discussion should take place and members should move on to the next item. It was

RESOLVED that as the Council proceeds to the next item of business on the agenda.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood and Councillor Dr B Wood, Mrs G Dodds and Mrs E Hodgkin left the chamber.

Minute 154 – Henley Youth Centre

Members had before them a Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Funding to the Henley Youth Centre for approval incorporating amendments (1), (2) and (3) from the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 April, attached to the agenda. It was

RESOLVED that the Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Funding to the Henley Youth Centre be sealed and approved for signature.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood and Councillor Dr B Wood, Mrs G Dodds and Mrs E Hodgkin re-entered the chamber.

Minute 157 – Variation to Standing Orders

Members had before them revisions to Standing Order 17, attached to the agenda for approval and adoption. In addition, it was also recommended that a status report is submitted to Full Council in six months time giving details of how the scheme was operating in practice. It was

RESOLVED that the revisions to Standing Order 17 be approved and adopted. In addition, that a status report is submitted to Full Council in six months time giving details of how the scheme was operating in practice.

The Mayor thanked the chairman of this committee, Councillor A Follett (who would be standing down at the local elections) and members of this committee for all their hard work over the past year.

- (v) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 26 April 2011 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 26 April 2011 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Mayor thanked the chairman of this committee, Councillor Mrs G Dodds (who would also be standing down at the local elections) and members of this committee for all their hard work over the past year.

- (vi) The Minutes of the meeting of the Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee held on 7 April 2011 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Townlands Steering Group Committee held on 7 April 2011 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

The chairman referred members to minute 76 (iv) of the last Full Council and the timetable outlined therein. He advised that unfortunately there had been a delay to the proposed 1 April for issuing of the Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ). The reason being that focus had been prioritised on obtaining Strategic Health Authority at a forthcoming Board meeting on the 26 May. He confirmed that he was due to have a conversation with Mr R Darch (Townlands Project Manager, Primary Care Trust) within the next few days regarding concerns on the slipping of the already tight timetable deadlines and would report back to members.

It was confirmed that membership of the TSG would be approved at the Annual Town Meeting on 16 May and the chairman asked that each TSG member is written to asking if they wish to continue on this committee and anyone that is interested in being on this committee.

Action: Townlands Committee Administrator to send a letter out to the TSG members.

A County Councillor confirmed that the project would be put to the Cabinet in May to be signed. It was also confirmed that the next GP Consortium would be held on the 12 May at 7.00pm in Benson.

The Mayor thanked Councillor I Reissmann for his report and work on this project. In addition, she paid thanks to all Councillors for their hard work over the last four years.

Members thanked the Mayor for all her hard work during the past mayoral year.

The Chairman invited Councillors, officers and members of the public to join her for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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Mayor