

Present: Mayor, Councillor G Lambert
Deputy Mayor Councillor K Arlett
Councillor Miss D Crook
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Julian Brookes
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Will Hamilton
Councillor Sarah Miller
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor L Plant
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Jane Smewing

In attendance: District Councillor Mrs J Bland
Mrs J Wheeler – Town Clerk
Miss L Hastings – Minute Taker
Mr James Churchill-Coleman – Town Sergeant
Ms C Adams – Planning & Project Manager
19 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press

51. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss K Hinton and Miss S Abey.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

53. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 04 September 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

54. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Tony May – Leicester Close spoke on behalf of the Friends of Freeman’s Meadow group to advise that there was no lawful impediment to stop Freeman’s becoming a Village Green. He hoped that this would be progressed as soon as possible.

Mr Ian Clark – Cromwell Road made a statement about the council precept. The Town Clerk stated that the precept would be a Council decision.

Mrs V Alasia – Makins Road - Queried the differing terms of loan agreements with different sporting clubs in Henley. The Mayor was not on the Council at the time of the Rugby Club grant and loan agreements.

Mrs Pam Phillips – St Marks Road stated that some of the Councillors around the table were the same. Other sporting clubs in Henley felt it unfair that the Rugby Club was given a substantial grant and a loan.

Mrs Phillips also referred to some large posters advertising the Santa Fun Run that she felt were in the Town Hall – but no one could find them. She asked the Mayor to help.

Mrs Phillips queried the arrangements for the Remembrance weekend – posters were due to go up the next day.

The Mayor gave an over-view of the main events planned over this important commemoration.

Mr David Feary – Hamilton Avenue - spoke of the hedge at Singers Park. This was a popular area to sit by the river and the hedge helped to screen the noise and pollution of traffic. He wanted to see more ongoing maintenance rather than removing the hedge. Cllr Eggleton stated that professional advice was being sought.

Mr David Dickie – St Kathryn’s Road – queried whether the new builds near his home were selling. He commented on the Chancellor’s announcement of the business rate relief. CHECK THIS

Councillor David Nimmo-Smith advised that the South Oxfordshire District Council Economic Development Team is looking at the Council Tax in conjunction with Central Government.

Councillor Miss Sam Evans suggested that it was an item on the next Town & Community agenda. The Town Manager, Ms Helen Barnett to be asked to monitor and give feedback.

Thanks were given to the residents of Northfield End and Helen Gaynor for their poignant Dedication service and to the Police for their work on Operation Stronghold.

55. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**

Members had before them reports from two District Councillors – unfortunately the third report was not received by the correct member of staff or the Town Clerk.

Councillor Mrs J Bland gave a verbal report about the flag stones outside Tudor House in Duke Street. Councillor D Eggleton advised the action that he has taken to try to speed up the replacement of the correct flag stones.

Councillor LM Hillier supplemented her report with dates of events at SODC – a renewable energy workshop and Purple Tuesday shopping for disabled customers.

Councillor S Gawrysiak spoke about the South Oxfordshire District Council Air Quality budget - a small working group will draw up the criteria to access this money. Details of the grants available are on the SODC website. Councillor L Plant felt that grants should be applied for and the local press could advertise these opportunities.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Members had before them a report from County Councillor S Gawrysiak.

Councillor J Brookes asked two questions regarding the Oxfordshire County Councillor budget:
Question one: *What proposals have you received and how would you like to use your County Councillor Priority Fund?*

Answer: £15K is likely to be spent on road repairs in Henley. Green Lane Cul de Sac is marked up along with the bottom of Deanfield Road and the entrance to Leaver Road.

Question two: *Drainage: Mill Lane requires a major repair in the form of an industrial soakaway to prevent flooding – has this work been scheduled into a forward plan and in which year?*

Answer: This is a major project – the gulleys have been cleared but the problem remains – the project will be scheduled as a capital repair.

Cllr Hamilton thought he had sent an email with questions but this was not received by either Cllr Gawrysiak or the Town Clerk. He was invited to email them outside of the meeting.

56. **FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES (max 5 min total)**

Members had three reports:

1. Councillor Hamilton reported that the Henley Cricket Club had paid back their loan early.

2. Councillor Hillier advised that she and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor K Arlett attended the Henley Volunteer Drivers AGM. They undertake roughly twenty-one round trips per week taking the elderly to hospital and doctors appointments. They also provide the transport for the Mayor's Over 65's Christmas Party.
3. Councillor Smewing gave an update on the Borama Friendship Association fundraising event in the summer. Funds have been distributed in Borama after the devastating effects of the cyclone last summer. Fifty dollars has been given to twenty families to help them buy livestock to start again. Thanks go to the Henley Rotary Club and Mrs Helen Barnett for their help.

57. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS

The Mayor advised of three events taking place at the Kenton Theatre with money going to the Mayor's Charities. Members received the Civic Engagements from **04 September – 03 November 2018. It was RESOLVED**

that the list of Mayoral Civic Engagements for the period 4 September – 03 November 2018 be received and noted.

58. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committees held on 18 September, and 09 October 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 107 – Neighbourhood Plan Minutes

Cllr Nimmo Smith referred to the proposal that the ninety-nine homes to be built at Thames Farm – and currently in the parish area of the Joint Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan – are potentially due to be part of Shiplake Parish once a boundary change has been achieved. He sought clarification of HTC's position on this. Cllr Arlett stated that he would be responding robustly to SODC against this proposal.

Minute 129 - Membership of Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Councillor Julian Brookes will join the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Planning Committees held on 18 September and 09 October 2018 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Cllr Bland left the meeting.

The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee held on 25 September 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 47 – Gumdrop Recycling Bins or chewing gum

Members discussed this recommendation. There was a bin at Twyford Station which was not well used. **It was RESOLVED**

Not to progress this project any further.

Minute 49 – Speed Awareness.

The operation of the equipment was discussed and Councillors Crook and Hamilton volunteered to attend the speed awareness course. More investigation to be done on whether to lease or purchase the equipment.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee held on 25 September 2018 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 11 September 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 35 – Hedge at Singers Park

Refer back to Recreation & Amenities Committee to draft out a complete plan. Advice should be sought from an expert in pest control.

Minute 43 – Metal Detecting on Town Council Land

At present only laminated signs have been erected on Town Council land. Proper signs to be sought. Cllr Crook asked that heavy duty signs be erected on Freemans to replace the temporary laminated ones.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 11 September 2018 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 02 October and 23 October 2018 were before the Council.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 02 October and 23 October 2018 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

59. COMMITTEE MEETING CYCLE

Members considered and discussed whether to continue with the eight week cycle used for this year or revert back to the six week cycle of previous years.

It was RESOLVED

that the Council meetings revert back to a six week cycle with a summer recess.

60. FAIRMILE VERGES POLICY

A report and draft Policy on safe-guarding the Fairmile had gone through all the sub Committees. All of the recommendations were agreed with the exception of the sign-posts for businesses. Some Members felt that this historic and unique entrance to the town should be safe guarded by a ban on all signage. Other Members felt that directional signage to businesses such as the Vineyard was acceptable and each application should be decided on its own merit. A proposal to allow occasional finger posts to help businesses was defeated.

For

Councillor K Arlett
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Evans
Councillor G Lambert

Against

Councillor J Brookes
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor L Hillier
Councillor S Miller
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith
Councillor L Plant
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor J Smewing

Abstain

Councillor D Crook

The proposal to ban all signage in order to maintain a clear and uncluttered approach along the Fairmile was carried along with the recommendations in the policy.

It was RESOLVED

That the Fairmile Verges Policy be up-held as a presumption against signage.

61. REQUEST TO USE HENLEY COAT OF ARMS

Members considered a request by the Henley Women's Regatta to use the Coat of Arms in a poster design to encapsulate the regatta.

It was RESOLVED

that the Henley Women's Regatta be offered the use of the Town Badge "H" as the Coat of Arms is for Henley Town Council use only.

62. NEW SOUND IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Members discussed the sound trial and the possibility of having a different table layout in order that the public gallery can hear the discussions more clearly.

It was RESOLVED

that no further action be taken on the sound system for the Council Chamber and that a small group of Councillors meet to discuss trial table layouts.

63. EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members had before them the External Auditors Report.

It was RESOLVED

that the External Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st March 2018 be received, approved and adopted.

64. 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 publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

65. FAIRMILE ACCESS VALUATION - Cath Adams was invited to the table.

Members had before them an update from Vail Williams regarding negotiations for access across the Fairmile verge to allow Thames Properties access to their potential development site. Vail Williams had two recommendations – one was a straight percentage of the final sales price and the second was a percentage with a deduction towards planning costs. The percentage detail is contained in the confidential Appendix A.

It was RESOLVED

To give Vail Williams the authority to go to either a percentage with no planning costs deducted or a percentage to allow for deduction of planning costs. If the latter percentage is accepted, full justification of the planning costs must be provided. The percentage details are contained in the confidential Appendix A.

66. STREET CLEANING CLAIM

The Town Clerk had given Members a full report which had also been prepared for the solicitor – along with appendices as evidence. Members discussed the options of going to court to fight the claim or instructing the solicitor to make an out of court settlement. A motion was put forward to make an out of court settlement but this motion failed.

It was RESOLVED

that Councillors approve the response to the Court Claim – option 3.1 - and give delegated authority to the Town Clerk to instruct the solicitor.

Option 3.1 is contained in the confidential appendix B.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

lh/jw

Chairman