

Present: Mayor, Councillor G Lambert
Deputy Mayor, Councillor K Arlett
Councillor Sara Abey
Councillor Julian Brookes
Councillor Donna Crook
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Evans
Councillor Will Hamilton
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Laurence Plant
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Jane Smewing

In Attendance: Mrs J Wheeler – Town Clerk
Cath Adams – Planning and Project Manager
Mrs L Jones – RFO/Accountant
District Councillor Mrs J Bland
7 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press

The Mayor announced the sad news of the death of former Mayor, Mr David Johnston. A minute's silence was held.

33. VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

In accordance with Standing Orders 5 (a) (vii), **IT WAS RESOLVED**

that the order on business on the agenda be altered so that item 10 Sound System in the Council Chamber be considered after Item 11 3G pitch

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gawrysiak, Hinton, Miller and Nimmo Smith.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

36. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on the 03 July 2018 and the Minutes of the Special Full Council meeting held on the 10 July 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

37. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Clark asked for the result of the consideration on moving Public Participation to a later point during meetings.

The Chair of the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee replied that this had been considered but was not thought to be beneficial. This was included for ratification at the current meeting of the Council via the Minutes of the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee held on 24 July 2018.

Mr Clark then asked when various white lining, drain clearance and pavement works would be carried out.

A Member reported that the County Councillor had advised that loose pavers on West Street had been reported and that Oxfordshire County Council had stated that a large number of items had been completed earlier in the year.

Councillor Smewing spoke on behalf of Mrs Phillips, who was of the view that the sound in the Council Chamber needed improvement and hoped that the Council would vote in favour of a new sound system at Agenda Item 10.

Mr Feary stated that he found the sound system being trialled gave an echo and was less distinct than not having a system.

38. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Members had before them a report from Councillor Bland, but there were no questions relating to it. Councillor Hillier updated the meeting on her report, which had not been circulated previously. Individual Councillor grants are now open for applications, as are volunteering grants. The Go Active Gold scheme is offering a month's swimming for £5. The CIL monies received for SODC in 2017/18 totalled £2,190,161.72, of which £205,890.61 had been transferred to parishes.

The Council noted the information from Councillors Bland and Hillier but felt that there had been insufficient notice to permit questions on the reports.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that a line be added to future agendas that District and County Councillors be required to provide their reports a week in advance of the Full Council meeting to enable inclusion of the report on the agenda. Also, that questions on the reports should be minuted, including when they had been emailed to Councillors and not discussed in the Chamber.

39. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

No report from Councillor Gawrysiak was available. Questions had been emailed from Councillor Will Hamilton. These related to the timelines for river pavement works, bridge repairs and lights and paving repairs to West Street. The Mayor advised that answers would be obtained on these items.

40. OUTSIDE BODIES

Members had before them a report from Councillor Abey regarding the Henley 60+ Club. Councillor Abey expressed concern over the future sustainability of the club and recommended that a more robust business model was required.

41. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS

Members received and noted Civic Engagements from the Mayor 2018-2019 from 28 June – 29 August 2018.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that the list of Mayoral Civic Engagements for the period 28 June – 29 August 2018 be received and noted.

42. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

The Minutes of the Planning Committees held on 17 July 2018, 7 August 2018 and 28 August 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 78

Councillors debated whether the Fairmile Verges Policy should be discussed once again as recommendations from the Standing Committees were not aligned. This could be at either Finance, Strategy and Management Committee or at Full Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that the Fairmile Verges Policy should be considered as an agenda item at Full Council on 6 November.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Planning Committees held on 17 July, 7 August and 28 August 2018 be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee held on 17 July 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 29

A Member queried whether a meeting with the Police that had been referred to by the Chairman of Planning Committee should have come to Town and Community Committee. The meeting had been in relation to speeding – this had been raised as an issue at Planning Committee.

Minute 31

Councillor Ian Reissmann provided an update on the public meeting with 5 senior members of Sue Ryder. A report will be forthcoming. There were questions to be answered and the End of Life care strategy is still in its early stages, but it looks as if Joyce Grove will close and alternate forms of service will be provided from a single location in the catchment area.

Minute 35

A Member asked if the Council could write to OCC to enquire when the repairs to the Grade I Listed Structure of Henley bridge would be carried out. This would give more weight to the request.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Town and Community Committee held on 17 July 2018 be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 10 July 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 26

Litter on Marsh Meadows - A Member stated that all but one of the signs detailing the barbeque ban had been removed and that there were burn marks on the grass. More signs are to be erected. The policy regarding a barbecue ban will be considered at the next Recreation and Amenities Committee.

Brunner Hall Fencing – A Member was disappointed to hear that the fencing had been removed, requested prioritisation of the replacement fencing and asked whether anything could be done to help with the Headway garden as it is such a valuable resource.

Minute 27

A Member proposed an investigation into the introduction of charging for non-residents at Mill Lane Car Park. After debate, it was resolved not to take this forward.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 10 July 2018 be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 24 July 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 35 (iv)

The Minute to be amended to increase the hours of the Project and Planning Manager to full time for 10 weeks to allow for her work load.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 24 July 2018 be received, approved and adopted.

43. TOWNLANDS STEERING GROUP

Members had before them a list of the membership of the Townlands Steering Group.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that the membership of the Townlands Steering Group was approved, subject to the addition of the Mayor, Councillor Glen Lambert and the Chairman of Nettlebed Parish Council, Councillor Barbara Lewis.

44. 3G PITCH

Members had before them a report from the Accountant and the Planning and Project Manager on the Council's contribution for a 3G Pitch at Jubilee Park.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that the Council set aside £50,000 of CIL monies received for the 3G pitch project at Jubilee Park.

45. SOUND SYSTEM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Members had before them a report from the Town Clerk on a new sound system in the Council Chamber. Comments were invited from members of the public as well as Councillors. There were mixed views on whether the sound system being trialled at the meeting was of benefit. There was an echo in some locations and it was also suggested that as the Councillors stand to speak, the microphones on the tables may not be effective. If the system is not progressed, grant monies would need to be returned to SODC.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that further investigation into a new sound system is undertaken

46. 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.

47. 353-357 READING ROAD

Members had before them a report from the Planning and Project Manager.

IT WAS RESOLVED

that Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd are appointed to carry out a viability assessment and business plan for the 353-357 Reading Road project.

48. FAIRMILE ACCESS VALUATION

Members had before them a report from the Planning and Project Manager on the negotiations for access across the Fairmile verge for Thames Properties. The Planning and Project Manager also gave a verbal update following contact between the Council's consultant and the agent for Thames Properties.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That following advice from Vail Williams that Thames Properties have refused to consider the proposed percentage of the gross sale value to come to the Council, Vail Williams are requested to:

- i) Await the counter offer from Thames Properties;**
- ii) Return to Thames Properties with re-iteration of the proposed percentage;**
- iii) In subsequent negotiations, Vail Williams will receive the instructions detailed in Appendix A.**
- iv) If the instructions detailed in Appendix A is not accepted by Thames Properties, then the minimum offer that may be accepted by the Council must come back to a Special Full Council for further consideration.**

Appendix A contains the relevant confidential information concerning item 48.

49. PARKS DEPOT

Members had before them a report from the Accountant and the Planning and Project Manager on a potential location for the Parks Depot. Concern was expressed regarding the cost of the land.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Council register an interest and investigate the purchase of the land at this site for the Parks Depot. Enquiries also to be made into previous offers on the site and why they have not come to fruition. A decision on whether to proceed further to come back to Finance, Strategy and Management Committee and/or Full Council at a later date.

50. HR AND H&S CONSULTANT

Members considered the confidential minutes of the Legal and HR Committee meeting of 28 August 2018 and

IT WAS RESOLVED

that Peninsula are appointed as Human Resources consultants to the Council and DW Safety are appointed as Health and Safety consultants to the Council.

The Meeting closed at 9.42pm