

Present: Councillor Miss L Hillier, Mayor
Councillor J Brookes
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss K Hinton (substituting for Councillor I Reissmann)
Councillor D Nimmo Smith (substituting for Councillor M Akehurst)

In Attendance: Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Mayor called for nominations for the election of Chairman for the year 2015-16.

Councillor W Hamilton proposed and Councillor J Brookes seconded that Councillor D Nimmo Smith be elected.

Councillor Gawrysiak proposed and Councillor Miss K Hinton seconded that Councillor I Reissmann be elected.

There being no further nominations, and following a vote, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor D Nimmo Smith be elected Chairman of the Townlands Steering Group for the year 2015-2016.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, called for nominations for the election of Vice Chairman for the year 2015-2016.

Councillor W Hamilton proposed and Councillor D Nimmo Smith seconded that Councillor I Reissmann be elected.

The Committee was informed the meeting that Councillor Reissmann did not wish to serve in this capacity. A further motion was moved that Dr P Ashby be elected as vice-chairman. Given that Dr Ashby had not been approached, the motion was withdrawn whereupon

Councillor W Hamilton proposed and Councillor Miss L Hillier seconded that Councillor J Brookes be elected.

A discussion followed on whether or not the whole membership of the TSG should consider and elect the chair and vice chair which resulted in further debate on the voting rights of non-members appointed to serve on the TSG.

Reference was made to the Traffic Advisory Committee; Christmas Events and Decorations; Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride and Mill Meadows Sub Committees all of which have non-members with voting rights. The Clerk explained the status of the TSG as an appointed subcommittee of the Town & Community Committee. While the Act makes provision for non-members to vote on matters relating to the management of land, harbour functions, tourism functions and the management of a festival, non-members have no vote on any other town council function.

Councillor Brookes declined to accept the nomination of vice-chairman preferring instead to allow the whole TSG to vote on this as a matter of principle. The Chairman concurred with these remarks and expressed his intention to offer himself up for endorsement at the next full TSG meeting; failure to secure support would result in his resignation as Chairman. It was

RESOLVED that the election of Vice Chairman of the Townlands Steering Group for the year 2015-2016 shall stand adjourned to the next meeting.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Akehurst, Councillor Nimmo Smith was attending as his substitute, and Councillor Reissmann, Councillor Miss K Hinton was attending as his substitute.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None tendered.

5. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Committee was invited to consider the appointment of the 6 community representatives to serve on the TSG.

Councillor Gawrysiak proposed and Councillor Miss K Hinton seconded that the existing 6 named community representatives be reappointed to serve.

A motion moved by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Nimmo Smith was subsequently debated and

RESOLVED that subject to clarification of Dr P Ashby's position as a representative from Nettlebed Parish Council that Fiona Galton-Fenzi; Mr Rob Heginbotham; and Dr Peter Ashby be added to the existing 6 community representatives: Valerie Alasia; Roy Atkin; Paul Bradbury; Pauline Buckett; Geoff Probert and David Smewing

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Chairman