

Present: The Chairman, Councillor S Smith
Vice Chairman, Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor Miss L Hillier (Mayor)
Mr P Simms

In attendance: Mr K Bishop – Senior Park Warden
Mrs B Walker – Minute Taker/Committee Administrator

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

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Eggleton, Mrs M Clarke, Ms M Francini, Ms K Kobik and Mrs C Langler.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr Malcolm Dodds of Henley in Transition – Minute 22 – Fruit Tree Grow Your Own Initiative – Mr Dodds spoke regarding a proposed joint initiative by Henley in Transition, the Gainsborough Residents Association and Henley in Bloom to encourage residents to plant trees in their gardens whereby a selection of fruit trees would be on sale at a reduced price. Mr Dodds asked for feedback regarding the draft leaflet as presented and suggested an order form also be incorporated into it. Mr Dodds explained how helpful it would be to have the payments and orders to go through the Town Council and would also give credence to the project and hoped members would support this

21. VARIATION TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

In accordance with the Standing Orders 5 (a) (viii), it was **RESOLVED**

that in view of the member of the public present the Order of Business on the agenda is altered to allow Item 7 – Fruit Tree “Grow Your Own” Initiative to be considered next

22. FRUIT TREE “GROW YOUR OWN” INITIATIVE

Members received and considered an information leaflet promoting the proposed “Grow Your Own” scheme – a project initially conceived by the Gainsborough Residents Association and Henley in Transition. The scheme aims to increase the number of trees on the Gainsborough Estate by encouraging residents to purchase fruit trees to plant in their gardens. The trees will provide fruit to eat, blossom which looks and smells beautiful and, importantly, to provide much needed food for pollinators such as bees and butterflies which are under threat. Henley in Bloom has been asked to join in with this project as there is a common aim of promoting horticulture, increasing biodiversity, community participation and pride in your place.

The trees on offer include apple, pear, plum and cherry trees either bare root stock (£15) or potted tree stock (£25) – the latter are supplied by Toad Hall Garden Centre and are offered at a reduced price. This pilot project is aimed at residents of the Gainsborough Estate however is open to all residents of Henley also and, if successful, future projects will be aimed at the whole town. The leaflets will be delivered by volunteers to residents on the estate and it is hoped will be promoted in the local media.

In order to ensure the scheme runs smoothly it is suggested the orders are accepted at the Town Hall in a similar way to the hanging baskets orders. The set-up is already established at the Town Hall and the work load should not be onerous. The Accountant has confirmed the systems are in place for payments to be received and then the order and payment to be made to the supplier.

Members considered the leaflet and agreed an order form should be incorporated into it. After further discussion the Sub Committee **RESOLVED**

that Henley in Bloom support the Henley in Transition and the Gainsborough Residents Association's "Grow Your Own" Fruit Tree initiative and the leaflet, subject to inclusion of an order form, be agreed

Mr M Dodds left the meeting at 9.06 am.

23. BUDGET UPDATE

Members received and noted an updated budget report noted the final balance was healthy and also noted the Entente Florale Europe costs had come in under the £7000 budget.

24. THAMES AND CHILTERN/BRITAIN IN BLOOM/ENTENTE FLORALE

Members received an update from the Chairman and Vice Chairman regarding the judging days for the regional, national and Entente Florale judging days and felt each day had gone well.

Members noted the results will be announced at the Award Ceremonies on the following dates:-

- Thames and Chilterns in Bloom – Oxford Town Hall on Wednesday 16 September 2015
- Entente Florale Europe – Bristol on Friday 18 September 2015
- Britain in Bloom – Sunderland on Friday 16 October 2015

Members considered who could attend and the costs/budget as follows:-

Thames and Chilterns in Bloom – details of the event have not been circulated yet however as the awards are held being held in Oxford this year there are unlikely to be costs associated with attending.

Entente Florale Europe – the following names were put forward for attendance:- Councillor Miss K Hinton (who conducted the tour), Councillor D Eggleton (who drove the minibus on the day), Mrs C Langler (who met with the judges and worked tirelessly on the day), the Mayor – Councillor Miss L Hillier (who greeted the judges, spoke on the day and hosted the evening dinner), Mr G Bartle (who conducted the tour on the day) and Mr P Simms of the Henley Standard (or a representative) who has promoted all the Bloom events this year.

Britain in Bloom – Councillor Miss K Hinton (who conducted the tour on the day), Mr G Bartle – Parks Service Manager (who conducted the tour on the day), Mr K Bishop – Senior Park Warden (who drove the minibus on the day) and Mrs B Walker (who organised the itinerary).

The Chairman advised he would not be attending the Awards.

After discussion members agreed associated costs should be covered for 6 people to attend the Entente Florale Europe Awards in Bristol (approx £1000) and 4 people to attend the Britain (approx. £800) in Bloom Awards in Sunderland and **RESOLVED**

that up to £1800 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget towards the costs of delegates attending the Entente Florale Europe Awards in Bristol on Friday 18 September 2015 and the Britain in Bloom Awards in Sunderland on Friday 16 October 2015

25. HENLEY IN BLOOM AWARDS

Members considered the arrangements for the Henley in Bloom Gardens of Henley Awards to be held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 23 September 2015 in the Council Chamber including the following:-

- production of the certificates – Councillor Miss K Hinton agreed to produce the certificates and noted quality paper would need to be purchased
- floral arrangements
- refreshments and nibbles
- prizes (Toad Hall Garden Vouchers for first, second and third place in each category)
- a video presentation of the gardens to be shown in the background
- Awards programme and invites

It was noted that the Gardens of Henley Awards are sponsored by Southern Plant Hire who provide £350 sponsorship towards the competition. Last year up to £650 was allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget/

After discussion members **RESOLVED**

that up to £650 be allocated from the Henley in Bloom budget for the costs to the Henley in Bloom Awards

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 23 September 2015 at 9.30 am.

The meeting closed at 9.31 am.

Chairman

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