

Present: Councillor J Brookes (Mayor)
Councillor Will Hamilton (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Sara Abey
Councillor Miss H. Chandler-Wilde
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Sarah Miller
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Jane Smewing
Councillor S Smith
Councillor D Thomas

In Attendance: Mrs J Wheeler - Town Clerk
P Price-Davies - Committee Administrator

18 members of the public
1 member of the media

166. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Akehurst, S Evans and Miss Kellie Hinton.

167. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

168. MINUTES

- (i) The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **26 July 2016** were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- (ii) The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on **27 September 2016** were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, with the addition of the following text:

“The motion was proposed that Henley Rugby Club to be permitted to sub-let part of the site to Physiologists. Another member proposed an amendment and several Members spoke to welcome the acceptance of the amendment.

The motion as amended was carried and it was RESOLVED by 11 votes (Councillor Nimmo Smith did not vote following his earlier declaration), that

- 1. The Henley Rugby Club to be permitted to sub-let part of the site to Physiologists.*
- 2. No financial return is sought by HTC at this point. However, in the future, HTC may seek to share the financial success of the Rugby Club (eg. By expediting loan repayments) or rent review in 2022.*

3. *The decision should not be regarded as setting a precedent for future subletting of the Council's property.*
4. *Pending provision of the sub lease agreement and HTC approval of it."*

169. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs J Stevens, Greys Road

Mrs Stevens made a statement regarding her husband's burial plot in the Fairmile cemetery. The content of her statement and the Town Clerk's response cannot be minuted for legal reasons.

Mrs G Dodds, Greys Road

Mrs Dodds made a statement about the Fairmile Cemetery. She also spoke of item 12 on the agenda stating that she would like to see 100% affordable housing on the site of 353 -357 Reading Road site which she regards as a social housing project.

Mrs P Philips, St. Mark's Road

Mrs Phillips spoke of the minutes from the previous Council meeting which she felt did not quote her accurately. She spoke at length on the failure of SODC to put any weight on the Neighbourhood Plan and that other sites were now coming forward where the Plan was being ignored. She then spoke about the tarmacking being carried out by OCC on the Blandy Road pavement - and questioned why the roads were not receiving the same attention.

Mr Baker, Lauds Close

Questioned where we are with the Neighbourhood Plan and suggested that we should get more legal involvement. He would welcome a statement as to the current status of the Plan.

Mr D Fletcher, Mill End

Worked on the Neighbourhood Plan and was disappointed with the outcome. He requested that the Councillors seriously consider the option of 100% affordable housing for the 353-357 Reading Road site.

Mrs P Philips, St.Mark's Road

Requested an up-date on the Children's Centre which is on the agenda for next week's T&C Committee.

A member then rose to ask some questions of the Mayor about the recent opening of the Rugby Club. The Mayor referred to the article in the Henley Standard where these questions had been addressed. The member suggested that the Mayor should send a letter of apology to the Rugby Club because he had an email stating that the Mayor had received an invitation. The Mayor reiterated that he did not receive either a verbal or written invitation.

170. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

Members had before them a report from District Councillor S Gawrysiak. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report

Cllr Gawrysiak will raise the issue that the Planning Department are showing a complete disregard for the Neighbourhood Plan with the leadership of SODC. He also stated that the Neighbourhood Plan was very clear on the levels of affordable housing that residents would like to see on each site.

District Councillor Lorraine Hillier gave a verbal report on a number of items including allowances; a drop-in exhibition from SODC on proposals to reduce vehicle emissions on 29 October in Henley from 10.00am – 2.00pm; and changes to the Recycling Service due to start in November.

District Councillor Joan Bland stated that the grant money was now finished for this year. She would report back once she knows the size of the fund for next year however £130,500 has been ear-marked for the Henley Rugby Club to build new changing rooms for the ladies.

A member insisted that SODC should clarify the current status of the JHHNP and members should consider whether there is a case for a judicial review.

District Councillor David Nimmo Smith spoke as a District Councillor to state that the MP John Howell believes that the JHHNP is more up to date than the SODC Core Strategy and they should be placing more weight on the Plan. However SODC is worried about losing appeals which are very expensive.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Members had before them a report from County Councillor Nimmo Smith. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

He spoke about pavement repairs which is a rolling programme of all aspects of highways. He encouraged residents to report the worst roads and pavements on Fix My Street . com – on the OCC website. He spoke about discussions with Network Rail on future electrification; Cllr Abey working on the Children's Centres and a trial of a new Self Service Library system where residents can get access at any time.

171. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no comments.

172. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS

Members had before them the list of Mayoral Civic engagements from the Mayor for the period **19 July – 3 October 2016. It was RESOLVED**

that the list of Mayoral Civic Engagements for the period 19 July – 3 October 2016 be received and noted.

Matters arising from the Mayoral Civic Engagements

The Mayor highlighted the recent Heroes Return and the Henley Literary Festival events that were both well attended and contributed to the local Economic vibrancy. He drew attention to various upcoming Mayoral Charity events.

173. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- (i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 2 & 23 August and 6 & 27 September were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 2 & 23 August and 6 & 27 September and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the Minutes:

Minute No. 104 – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Members questioned the organisation and decision –making process of this group and whether it was correct for it to be operating autonomously. A member felt that it was pointless to not be able to comment on the notes but merely note them, and further clarification this issue was requested from the Town Clerk. The member felt that the Group was not working as effectively as it should and he wanted a review before any further notes were presented. He proposed not accepting the notes until this was resolved. This was debated at length and the Mayor advised that queries needed to be an agenda item.

- (ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on **21 June 2016** were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 6 September 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on **13 September 2016** were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 13 September 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the Minutes:

Minute No. 30 – Provision of shade in the Toddler Playground at Mill Meadows

A member questioned the proposed idea of supplying umbrellas to provide shade in the Toddler Playground at Mill Meadows. The Chair highlighted the fact that it was still being investigated. Members with alternative ideas were urged to attend the next Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting on the 25 October 2016.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on **20 September 2016** were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 20 September 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted

Arising from the Minutes:

Minute No. 38 – Bell Street

The Town Clerk confirmed that she would update Council following her upcoming meeting scheduled with Chesterton Commercial.

Minute No. 41 – Budget Macro Considerations

A member was concerned that even though his proposal was lost, he felt that all proposals should be recorded. He requested advice from NALC/SLCC. There followed a debate about the ruling from the Town Clerk that items for discussion should be agenda items. Members wanted clarification for the future as this was a marked difference in how they are used to approving the business of the Council. The Town Clerk had sent out a proposal some time ago and would review all the points raised tonight along with Standing Orders.

Some members were not happy about approving these Minutes and asked for a recorded vote.

AGAINST

Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Miss L Hillier
Councillor Miss S Miller
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Mrs J Smewing

FOR

Councillor Ms S Abey
Councillor J Brookes
Councillor Miss H Chandler-Wilde
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor S Smith
Councillor D Thomas

Another member pointed out that members leaving a meeting must be recorded.

174. AUDITED ANNUAL RETURN AND AUDITORS REPORT

Members had before them a copy of the Audited Annual Return and Auditors Report for the year ended March 2016 from the Accountant. The Council gave due consideration to the Return and Auditor's Report, which had been reproduced and had been previously circulated and **RESOLVED**

that the Annual Return and Auditors Report for the year ended March 2016 be received, approved and adopted.

175. AUTHORISATION OF EXPENDITURE FOR REPLACEMENT OF STOLEN VEHICLES

Members had before them a copy of a report on the Replacement of vehicles stolen on 11 July 2016 prepared by the Accountant. The Council noted that the expenditure of £34,261 was unavoidable in order to replace the stolen vehicles. The insurance value amounted to £16,500 to which we would take £17,761 from the overall budgeted cap ex limit of £250k. The Council **RESOLVED**

that the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

176. THE SANTA FUN RUN 2016

Members considered the proposal to suspend the Parking Place Order at Mill Meadows Car Park for the duration of The Santa Fun Run on Sunday 4 December 2016. It was **RESOLVED**

to suspend the Parking Place Order at Mill Meadows Car Park for the duration of The Santa Fun Run on Sunday 4 December 2016.

177. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVISION AT 353-357 READING ROAD

Members considered the percentage of affordable housing provision to be provided in the development of the 353-357 Reading Road site.

The first proposal was for 60% market housing and 40% affordable as defined in the Neighbourhood Plan. This was seconded. The members present felt that this combination would secure a good proportion of low cost housing but would also secure monies to benefit all residents.

It was then pointed out that the agenda wording was incorrect as it should have said that SODC guidelines is a minimum of 40% affordable. Members were keen not to delay any further and were happy to accept this amendment and continue.

A member then proposed an amendment for 90% affordable and 10% market homes. This was seconded. The member felt that this was primarily a social housing project and there should be zero financial gain. The proposer did not accept the amendment.

There followed a debate on who needed affordable homes in Henley. It was stated that out of the 333 affordable homes needed in the area, 42 could be lost with no plan to replace them. (Currently the figure is 21 lost affordable homes at the 345 Reading Road site.) To approve 90% would put 29 affordable homes on this site. Another member felt that the 60/40 followed NP policies HO3 and HO6 and that the Town Council must set a precedent by following the Neighbourhood Plan. Recorded votes were asked for all proposals and amendments.

90% Affordable Housing and 10% Market Housing (Amendment)

A recorded vote was requested:

FOR

Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Miss L Hillier
Councillor Miss S Miller
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Mrs J Smewing

AGAINST

Councillor Ms S Abey
Councillor J Brookes
Councillor Miss H Chandler-Wilde
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor S Smith
Councillor D Thomas

Another member raised an amendment for 70% affordable homes and 30% market homes. The member felt that unless there was provision for affordable homes, Henley would become a pit stop for the pearly gates. Another member reminded Council that the £800,000 promised by a care home provider as Section 106 monies was supposed to be used for affordable housing so the loss of receipt may not be as great. She felt that unless a plot of land was ear-

marked this opportunity could be lost. Another member felt that the amendment below at 70/30 would be a good compromise.

70% Affordable Housing and 30% Market Housing (Amendment)

A recorded vote was requested:

FOR

Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Miss L Hillier
Councillor Miss S Miller
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Mrs J Smewing

AGAINST

Councillor Ms S Abey
Councillor J Brookes
Councillor Miss H Chandler-Wilde
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor S Smith
Councillor D Thomas

P. Price-Davies left the meeting at 22.02

A member tried to further another amendment of 41% affordable housing but the Mayor would not allow this to be considered. The Mayor did take a vote on going straight to the proposal without any further amendments. The Council then proposed an extension of the meeting for a further fifteen minutes to allow the initial proposal to be voted on.

40% Affordable Housing and 60% Market Housing

A recorded vote was requested:

AGAINST

Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Miss L Hillier
Councillor Miss S Miller
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor Mrs J Smewing

FOR

Councillor Ms S Abey
Councillor J Brookes
Councillor Miss H Chandler-Wilde
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor S Smith
Councillor D Thomas

178. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE 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 to be transacted.

179. DISPOSAL OF 353-357 READING ROAD

Members had before them the Heads of Terms for the Disposal of the 353-357 Reading Road site. The Heads of Terms had been emailed earlier that day. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve this document.

180. MEADOWS FARM

A member spoke to give his view on the plot. He noted that it was not river-fronted. He stated that the plot was at market cost but it may be that HTC could contact the owner for some space for the Parks Team. Another member felt that the plot had much potential due to its position and potential revenue streams. It

would be an asset to the town. Another member was concerned over the hidden costs of purchase. It was noted that there is an ownership issue to this land.

It was **RESOLVED** not to go ahead at this time but to keep a watching brief and engage with owner once we know who it is.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

ppd/jw

Mayor