

Present: The Mayor – Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor Miss K L Hinton
Councillor Mrs P A Phillips (substituting for Councillor M Akehurst)
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor D Silvester
Councillor Mrs J Wood

In attendance: Mr M Kennedy – Town Clerk
Mrs B Walker – Committee Administrator/Minute Taker

Also Present: Councillor D Hinke
1 member of the press

The Mayor, Councillor S Gawrysiak took the Chair.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Mayor called for nominations for the election of Chairman for the year 2013-14 and proposed that Councillor Mrs J Wood be elected. Councillor Mrs P Phillips seconded the motion.

Councillor Mrs J Bland proposed and Councillor Miss S Evans seconded that Councillor Miss S Evans be elected Chairman for the year 2013-14.

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

that Councillor Mrs J Wood be elected Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee for the year 2013-14

Councillor Mrs J Wood took the Chair.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman called for nominations for the election of Vice Chairman for the year 2013-14.

Councillor Miss K Hinton proposed and Councillor Mrs P Phillips seconded that Councillor M Akehurst be elected.

Councillor Mrs J Bland proposed and Councillor Miss S Evans seconded that Councillor Miss S Evans be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2013-14.

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

that Councillor M Akehurst be elected Vice Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee for the year 2013-14.

3. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received and considered the Terms of Reference for the Recreation and Amenities Committee and **RESOLVED**

that the Terms of Reference for the Recreation and Amenities Committee be re-adopted.

4. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Akehurst and apologies for lateness from Councillor I Reissmann.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

None.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS, THE MEMBERSHIP THEREOF AND THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Town Clerk reminded members that, as stated in Standing Orders (16b) the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee shall be members of each Sub Committee appointed by it unless they signify otherwise.

i.a) The Committee considered the appointment of the members of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee and **RESOLVED**

that the following Councillors be appointed to the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee for the municipal year 2013/14

Councillor M Akehurst
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor D Hinke
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor Mrs J Wood

Co-opted members: Mr A Brown, River and Rowing Museum
Mrs S Rankin, Henley Wildlife Group

The Committee noted the next meeting of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee is Thursday 20 June 2013 at 9.30 am.

- i.b) The Committee received and considered the Terms of Reference for the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee and **RESOLVED**.

that the Terms of Reference of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee be re-adopted.

- ii.a) The Committee considered the appointment of the members of the Christmas Decorations and Events Sub Committee as below and noted Mr A Follett is resigning and will be replaced by a fellow Lion and Mrs C Yoxall is also resigning due to time commitments. After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

that the following Councillors be appointed to the Christmas Decorations and Events Sub Committee for the municipal year 2013/14

Councillor M Akehurst
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor Mrs P Phillips
Councillor Mrs J Wood

Co-opted Members: A representative from the Lions Club of Henley
Mr I McGaw – Rotary Club of Henley Bridge
Mr R Reed
Ms J Perigo - Chair of the Living Advent
Calendar

The Committee noted the next meeting of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee is on Tuesday 9 July 2013 at 9.30 am.

- ii.b) The Committee received and considered the Terms of Reference for the Christmas Decorations and Events Sub Committee and **RESOLVED**

that the Terms of Reference of the Christmas Decorations and Events Sub Committee be re-adopted.

- iii.a) The Committee considered the appointment of members of the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee and **RESOLVED**

that the following Councillors be appointed to the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee for the municipal year 2013/14

Councillor M Akehurst
Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor Mrs P Phillips
Councillor Mrs J Wood

Co-opted members: Ms M Francini
Mr S Khan
Mrs C Langler
Mr R Reed
Mrs M Taylor

In attendance: Mr A Hawkins – Tree Warden

The Committee noted the next meeting of the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee is Friday 28 June 2013 at 9.30 am in the Council Chamber.

- iii.b)** The Committee received and considered the Terms of Reference for the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee and **RESOLVED**

that the Terms of Reference of the Henley in Bloom and Civic Pride Sub Committee be re-adopted.

- iv.a)** The Committee considered the appointment of members of the Makins Wheeled Sports Facility Working Group and noted that Councillor Mrs J Bland wished to stand down from the Working Group due to a standing commitment on the same evening as these meetings are held. After discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

that the following Councillors be appointed to the Makins Wheeled Sports Facility Working Group for the municipal year 2013/14

Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor S Gawrysiak

Mr C Brathwaite
Mrs G Dodds
Mr A Seldon
Mr J Lipscombe
Mr J Clarke

- iv.b)** The Committee received and considered the Terms of Reference for the Makins Wheeled Sports Facility Working Group and **RESOLVED**

that the Terms of Reference of the Makins Wheeled Sports Facility Working Group be re-adopted.

8. **MINUTES**

- i. The minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 26 March 2013 were approved and then signed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs J Wood as a true record.

A member suggested that an application be made to South Oxfordshire District Council for match funding from the Infrastructure Fund towards the cost of the renovation of the memorial to Sir Frank Crisp and the Committee noted future projects involving a capital expenditure may be eligible.

- ii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meetings of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 21 March and the 7 and 24 May 2013.

The Committee noted the expenditure on the replacement sleeves for the Market Place planters will be funded from the Henley in Bloom budget (minute 104 refers).

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the meetings of the Henley in Bloom/Civic Pride Sub Committee held on 21 March and the 2 and 24 May 2013 be received, approved and adopted.

- iii. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee held on 18 April 2013.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee held on 18 April 2013 be received, approved and adopted.

- iv. The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee held on 7 May 2013.

The Committee noted on minute 105 the lights referred to are on real trees rather than Christmas trees.

The Committee **RESOLVED**

that the minutes of the Christmas Events and Decorations Sub Committee held on 7 May 2013 be received, approved and adopted.

9. **PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received, considered and noted the progress report and made the following comments:-

Red Lion Lawn – The Committee noted the Ama statue is now installed on the newly refurbished Red Lion Lawn and thanks was extended to everyone involved in the refurbishment, the installing of the Ama and the welcome reception. Councillor Miss S Evans presented drawings of the Ama to the Mayor which were a gift to the Town Council from the sponsors Maria and Thomas Noor and the sculptor, Amaryllis.

10. BUDGET

- i. The Committee received, considered and noted the outturn of the budget report to March 2013.

A member queried the under-spend of almost £6,000 under “Public Toilets, normal upkeep of water”. The Town Clerk advised money had been allocated for deep cleansing of the public toilets however the quality of “cleans” undertaken by the outside contractor was felt to be unsatisfactory and the “deep cleanses” has been undertaken by the Park Services therefore saving the Council money.

- ii. The Committee received, considered and noted the car parking income to May 2013.

11. PERMANENT MOORINGS AT WHITE HART AND RIVER TERRACE

The Committee received and considered a report from the Accountant notifying members of the action being taken to improve income from the two areas of permanent mooring at White Hart and River Terrace (which have six out of twelve vacancies) as follows:-

- the annual charge has been reduced from £2,800 to £2,400 (plus vat) from 1.4.13
- increased advertising
- investigations into improving the moorings being undertaken
- offering temporary weekly (pre book only) for a minimum of 2 weeks

A member queried when the River Terrace moorings revert to the Town Council following the Court Case.

Post Meeting Note: 3-7 River Terrace owners have the right to moor for 10 years commencing 1 April 2006. The owner of the boat ‘Elsie’ have the right to moor for a period of 8 years from December 2008.

Members thanked the Accountant and the Mooring Administrator for their efforts and

RESOLVED

that the Committee notes the efforts being made by Council staff to generate income from the jetties following the fall in permanent mooring income.

that the Committee notes that there will be a further report to the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee when the quotes for supplying water and electricity have been obtained.

12. **MILL MEADOWS – POPLAR TREES**

The Committee received and considered a factual report by the Town Clerk regarding the poplar trees at Mill Meadows including the final “Application for works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order No 97S03” from South Oxfordshire District Council. The Town Clerk advised three quotes are being obtained for the felling of the remaining poplars.

After further discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted and RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that arrangements for the felling of the remaining poplars proceeds at the earliest possible opportunity, with replanting this autumn or within the 18 months following the trees removal, in accordance with the conditions of the decision notice, and that the Mill Meadows sub-committee considers the locations for the 4 additional trees within Mill Meadows.

13. **RED LION LAWN**

The Committee received and considered a further report by the Town Clerk regarding the possible use of Red Lion Lawn for the sale of light refreshments including two proposals (from the Red Lion Hotel and Mr D Beech). The Committee noted a third proposal involving a floating restaurant is still evolving and is unlikely to come to fruition until 2014 and a further expression of interest has been received from the management of “The Spice Merchant”, Thameside.

During the ensuing discussion the following comments were made:-

- support for point 3.5 in the report as follows “The two proposals would both require the provision of tables and chairs that the Council could insist are made available for public use without obligation to buy refreshments as part of the licensing conditions, further enhancing the visitor experience.”
- should alcohol be served, the necessary licences would need to be obtained by the licensee.
- the area could also be used for wedding photos and be included as an added option for weddings at the Town Hall
- these proposals would heighten the profile of the area, increase use and may discourage anti-social behaviour in the area
- public access to the site should be maintained at all times
- the proposal put forward by the Red Lion Hotel could be put into place straight away because all the necessary services are already provided across the road. Mr Beech’s proposal would need longer to come to fruition in the absence of water, waste disposal, electricity, local authority and Environmental Agency licensing arrangements and planning permission for erecting a temporary structure.

After further discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the Town Clerk be authorised to pursue a licence agreement with the Red Lion Hotel for this year only, on terms to be negotiated by the Clerk under delegated powers and without obligation to extend, the position to be viewed at the end of the year when either an extension to the licence, alternative commercial ventures, or reverting back to the status quo can be explored.

14. ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND – MILL MEADOWS

The Committee received a verbal update from the Mayor regarding the advisory signs installed by the Town Council on the Adventure Playground. A meeting had taken place with Sergeant G Pink of the Neighbourhood Police Team who felt the advisory closing time should be changed to 9 pm rather than 7 pm in summer because the police were not in a position to enforce this advisory closure time. Members were also advised that emails had been received from the neighbouring residents asking that the signs remain with an advisory closure time of 7 pm in summer.

After a full and in-depth discussion the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the signs remain in situ with an advisory closure time of 7 pm in summer.

15. 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 matters which were about to be discussed were considered to be confidential.

MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JUNE 2013.

16. CONFIDENTIAL

i. 357 READING ROAD

The Committee received a report by the Town Clerk regarding the future arrangements of 357 Reading Road once the current lease with Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) expires in 2015. The report incorporated a brief history of the property, outlined its current use (the Chi Hair Salon and Ed Barry, personal fitness trainer) and two expressions of interest for its future use.

During discussion the following comments were made:-

- a professional survey/inspection of the building is required
- a full investigation of possible uses etc should be explored before any decisions are made
- the lease does not expire for 2 years and this will give time for various options to be explored

The Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

that the report be noted and further investigations be carried out.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Chairman

bw