

Present: Mayor, Councillor S J Gawrysiak
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M S Akehurst
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor D Hinke
Councillor Miss K L Hinton
Councillor Ms L A Meachin
Councillor D R Nimmo-Smith
Councillor Mrs P A Phillips
Councillor D M Silvester
Councillor Mrs J Wood

In Attendance: Mr M W Kennedy - Town Clerk
Mrs P Price-Davies - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator
Mr C Austin - Town Sergeant

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

The Town Clerk read out the fire evacuation procedure and reminded Councillors and members of the public of the Code of Practice relating to Public Participation as stated on the agenda. He also drew Members of the public's attention to the laminated rules placed on each seat in the public gallery.

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I Reissmann and Councillors Mrs E Hodgkin and Mrs J Bland.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 25th June 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

22. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr M Dodds, Greys Road

Mr Dodds expressed his delight on behalf of Henley in Transition about the success of the Defra Air Quality application which had resulted in the production of a low emission zone strategy for South Oxfordshire.

Mrs D Jones, Rupert Close

Mrs Jones expressed concern at the lack of provision for depositing dog faeces along the public footpath leading from Fawley Meadows to the Fawley Road. She claimed that this had been an issue for a long period of time and that various complaints to the Council had been made but no adequate facilities had been provided. The Town Clerk reported that policy regarding this issue had recently changed and that dog faeces was now regarded as litter and could be deposited in litter bins which were the responsibility of SODC. The Chairman requested that this issue be escalated to SODC.

Mrs G Dodds, Greys Road

Mrs Dodds spoke of the signage for The Kings Arms Barn, and said she was pleased that the application had been submitted to the Planning Department at SODC and that KVB Design had been instructed to keep the main doors open so that the building was visible from the road.

Mr A Yeates, Meadow Road

Mr Yeates spoke on behalf of his wife and their two neighbours who live in the building adjacent to the Mill Meadows playground. He read out a statement regarding the history of noise disturbance issues resulting from the upgraded Adventure Playground since 2009 and the fact that they have expressed their concerns to Henley Town Council since this facility had been installed. He urged the HTC to agree to their compromise offer of not pursuing further legal action if the tyre swing was to be removed from the facility and not be replaced with any alternative piece of play equipment. He felt that it was this piece of equipment that caused regular bouts of high pitched screaming and shouting from the children that used it and its removal would be the most effective way of resolving this situation.

The Chairman pointed out that this matter would be considered under Item 10 on the agenda.

A resident complained about the upkeep of the area behind WHSmith and enquired as to who this land belonged to. She was advised to take a photograph of the area in question and contact head office at WHSmith. The Chairman requested that Henley Town Council should follow up this matter.

23. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillors' Reports

Members had before reports from District Councillors Mrs J Wood, Mrs J Bland and Mrs E Hodgkin. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

Matters arising from the reports:

Deep Clean: A Member requested that the deep clean operation of Market Place that SODC and the contractors had reportedly been liaising over had still not occurred despite reassurances. A Member assured Council that the matter was in hand and it was scheduled to be undertaken.

County Councillor Report

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

that the report be received and noted.

County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith referred to his report which he had previously emailed to Councillors and gave a verbal update on the following issues:

Pedestrian Crossing in Greys Road: He informed Council that Sacred Heart Primary School were pressing for the installation of the pedestrian crossing on Greys Road, opposite Makins Recreation Ground but the preference was for a crossing to be installed at a different point where the section of Greys Road was straight. A member reported that the exact location had finally been decided and gone through Council.

Thames Water: He informed Council that he had followed up Mr Smewing's request to investigate the unacceptable situation of the temporary materials that had been

used to replace paving slabs throughout the town centre. He reported that the necessary utility works were currently being completed and that OCC were aware of the situation.

Badgemore School: A Member questioned whether the recent Ofsted report would affect school admissions. They urged the Governing Body to address this issue as a matter of urgency and he was assured that it was being dealt with as Ofsted were re-visiting the school in September.

A Member requested that County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith investigated the phasing of the lights at the Pedestrian Crossing outside Maison Blanc on Hart Street as it was generally felt that the current sequencing was too short and posed a danger to pedestrians.

24. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members had before them a report from Councillor D M Silvester on the OALC AGM meeting held on 1 July 2013, which was noted.

County Councillor D M Silvester referred to his report which he had previously emailed to Councillors and gave a verbal update on the following issue:

Delivering Better Broadband: He reported that the national programme to achieve a transformation in broadband access and speed was currently been undertaken in Oxfordshire and that British Telecom were currently undertaking a postcode review of the area.

25. MAYOR'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from the Mayor from the period 19 June – 30 July 2013, copy attached to the agenda. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

The Mayor announced that he was hosting the Last Night of the Proms Concert in conjunction with the Henley Symphony Orchestra, featuring a live broadcast from the Albert Hall at St Mary's Church on Saturday 7th September. All proceeds would go to designated Mayoral Charities and he hoped that Members would help to promote the event.

26. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 2 and 23 July 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 2 and 23 July 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 9 July 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 9 July 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 16 July 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 16 July 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 23 July 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 23 July 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted, save for the addition to Minute No.23, that one of the main intentions of the World War 1 Exhibition is for it to be used as an educational resource for local schools.

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 20.ii – Delegated powers to approve the Frog Ball

A Member questioned when delegated powers had been assigned to the Henley-in-Bloom Sub Committee that had approved the Frog Ball sculpture that was currently in situ at Station Park, and was assured that the correct protocol had been adhered to and that the sculpture was part of a six month rotating programme of public art with an educational element that would involve local schools.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Miss K L Hinton and the In Bloom Sub Committee for all the commitment and work in the town that had taken place in preparation for the judging of the Henley in Bloom and Britain in Bloom throughout July.

(v) The minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee (NPGC) meeting held on 26 July 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on 26 July 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No.28 – Progress on the current Workplan

Councillor D Hinke, as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee highlighted the following key dates within the Workplan:

- 15 August 2013 Landowners Information Session
- 7 September 2013 Launch in Market Square
- 14 September 2013 Launch at The Henley Show

Minute No.29 – The Communication and Consultation Strategy

A Member questioned the assumption that all Members would be involved in the Neighbourhood Plan as had been the case in Thame. Councillor D Hinke responded by re-iterating the importance of the support and involvement of all Members in ensuring that the local residents get involved in the Neighbourhood Plan. A Member pointed out that the Henley Standard should be obliged to be more supportive about this important change to the community and publish all information and press releases pertaining to it.

Minute No.31 – Budget report

Councillor D Hinke confirmed that the second application to Locality UK for a grant of £7,000 had been approved.

(vi) Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee

Members had before them a report from The Chairman of the Townlands Steering Group, which was attached to the agenda. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

27. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was moved by the Chairman and **RESOLVED**

that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as the matters about to be discussed were considered to be confidential.

MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 6 AUGUST 2013.

28. CONFIDENTIAL

A debate ensued on the issues surrounding the implications of accepting the residents' compromise of removing the tyre swing at Mill Meadows Adventure Playground. Subsequently, it was proposed by a Member that Henley Town Council accept the offer of compromise of removing the tyre swing at Mill Meadows Adventure Playground and get them to issue the first stage of that compromise as a precursor to the agreement. The issue of noise levels from children using the Adventure Playground facilities and its positioning was debated further. A vote was taken and the motion was lost.

Following this, a second proposal was made. It was proposed that the minutes of the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee held on 16th July 2013 relating to the Adventure Playground be accepted. i.e. It was proposed that the subject need not be visited after this time and this is communicated to the resident whose solicitor's letter had been reviewed by the Legal Group.

A vote was taken and it was passed on the Chairman's casting vote.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

ppd

Mayor