

Present: Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (presiding)
Councillor Mrs P G Buckett
Councillor Mrs G M Dodds
Councillor A J Follett
Councillor C W Gibson
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Miss L H Pye
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillors Dr P Skolar
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith
Councillor S Smith
Deputy Mayor, Mrs J Wood
Councillor Dr B Wood

In Attendance: Mr M W Kennedy – Town Clerk
Miss J Smith – Minute Taker / Committee Administrator
Mr C Austin - Town Sergeant

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

The Town Clerk read out the fire evacuation procedure. The Mayor reminded Councillors and members of the public of the Code of Practice relating to Public Participation as stated on the agenda.

127. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Bland, Mrs R Myer and C Pye. An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Dr B Wood.

128. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In addition to those already declared in the relevant Minutes.

Miss L Pye – Minute 125 Town and Community – Henley Arts Trail – personal.

Miss L Hillier – Planning – 4 May 2010, P10/E0483 and P10/E0484/LB – personal, neighbour.

129. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 6 April 2010 were approved and signed by the Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, as a true record.

130. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs A Chumas, Bell Street

Mrs Chumas referred to the issues regarding the parking spaces at Northfield End and the article in the Henley Standard and wanted to clarify her position. She had bought two parking spaces 7/8 in good faith as 'title absolute' and that if these spaces reverted to public use she would be seeking compensation.

Mr P Stott, Friday Street

Mr Stott confirmed that he was the Chairman of Governors at Rupert House School and expressed concerned regarding the parking spaces outside the school that were being disputed as they had always been considered as being owned by the school. He advised that the school was aware of the consultants' report that was sent out in August last year, but had not yet seen the final report and the misconceptions regarding the use of the parking spaces. He stated that it would

be disastrous if the school lost these parking spaces and they became public parking spaces as it would compromise the safety of the pupils at the school. He stated that they would resist any attempts to turn these spaces into parking spaces for residents or for the public, and in the event the school was to lose these places they had been advised that they could take legal proceedings. He also asked that the 'stopping-up' order be extended to include this area.

Councillor Dr B Wood entered the meeting at 7:45pm.

Mr R Atkin, Elizabeth Road

Mr Atkin referred to an action from the Traffic Advisory Group and a letter that was being sent to Whites Coaches to ask if they have had many complaints regarding passengers being shaken up because of the changes to the shape of the traffic calming humps in Paradise Road and Deanfield Avenue. He handed the Town Clerk an extract from the Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006-11 – Bus Strategy regarding these humps being a particular problem for low floor buses because they accentuate the physical impact of a road hump with the force being transmitted to the driver and passengers.

Mr J Vaughan, Greys Road

Mr Vaughan referred to the decisions for parking restrictions and yellow lines that were to be enforced in Deanfield Road as currently parking in this road was restricting access for emergency vehicles. He was strongly opposed to these restrictions being put into place as there was already chaos on Greys Road with school children trying to cross the road and these parking restrictions would only increase the disruption in this area.

Mr W Hamilton - Greys Road

Mr Hamilton stated that he felt that over the past months there had been very little progress with the Townlands Hospital project. He asked what the role of the Townlands Steering Group (TSG) was and its relationship with Full Council. The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin disagreed and advised that Councillor I Reissmann gave an update on the progress of the project at every Full Council meeting.

Councillor I Reissmann advised that he would be providing an update of progress under agenda item 9 (v) of the meeting and confirmed that the TSG was an advisory committee to the Council.

Mr A Hutton, Bell Street

Mr Hutton was speaking on behalf of his mother, a resident at Northfield End, and referred to the issues regarding the parking spaces. He believed that these spaces should remain with Highways as currently the pavements in this area were an absolute disgrace with cars parking on them. He advised that his mother had recently had several pots smashed by cars parking outside her house. He stated the cars parking in the 'herringbone layout' caused a danger to pedestrians and vehicles.

131. **PROGRESS REPORT**

Members had before them a progress report which was noted. The Council was apprised of the latest developments.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood asked if the residents on Gravel Hill had now been given refuse bags to replace their recycling bins.

Mayor, Mrs E Hodgkin confirmed that SODC had given permission for these residents to keep their bins on the pavement in Gravel Hill.

Councillor Dr B Wood referred to an article in the Henley Standard regarding banning HGV's in the town centre and the fact that this had been on the progress report since 2008. He asked what progress had Councillor Dr P Skolar made.

Councillor Dr P Skolar advised that he was part of a group that since the 1990's had been trying to ban HGV's coming over the Henley Bridge. However, the bridge was too well built and therefore could not have a weight restriction enforced. It was therefore very difficult to find legal reasons to ban HGV's going through the town.

Councillor Dr B Wood stated that he felt Councillor Dr P Skolar had been misleading everyone as it appeared that there was nothing that could be legally done to enforce a ban on HGV's.

Councillor Dr P Skolar confirmed there appeared to be no legal route, therefore, other ways were needed, namely to educate and dissuade HGV's drivers from coming through the town. He stated that he would continue to fight this issue.

132. **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

The Council received the following verbal reports from District and County Councillors.

District County Councillor reports:

District Councillor Miss L Hillier reported on the following matters:

Applications for Grants: South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) had set aside £400,000 to make grants to charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations, in order to assist them in local projects. Online applications were open from 16 April until 14 May. Local organisations can apply for up to £100,000 towards schemes to benefit the whole community. SODC would be choosing the winning applicants in June.

CCTV Cameras, Mill Meadows: advised that footage from this camera had resulted in an arrest.

Parliamentary Count: confirmed that the counting of votes would now take place after 10pm on 6 May 2010.

District Councillor Miss L Hillier advised that she had spoken on behalf of the Town Council at the District Council's Planning Committee re the Red Lion planning application and confirmed that the planning application had been withdrawn.

District Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin had nothing to report as a recent SODC meeting had been cancelled.

Councillor A Follett referred to an article in the Henley Standard regarding the recent arrest following an incident at Mill Meadows where it was reported that Mr M Prosser, strategic director for SODC, had stated that these cameras belonged to the district council. He confirmed that this statement was incorrect as the cameras were bought and maintained by Henley Town Council.

Councillor A Follett referred to the last Full Council meeting when it was reported that there was going to be changes to the age eligibility for Concessionary Bus Passes. He confirmed that this was not going to be a 'guillotine' approach after all, but a sliding scale relating to the pension changes up until 2020.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood referred to the waste recycling scheme and the fact that the Waste Action Group had fought hard before its implementation for bins to be left within the curtilage of properties and questioned, therefore, why residents were now given permission by SODC to leave recycle bins on the pavements instead of being issued with bags.

Councillor I Reissmann asked if SODC were still receiving complaints from residents about the waste recycling scheme.

District Councillor Miss L Hillier stated that SODC were not now receiving many complaints about the scheme and the reason why some residents had not been given bags instead of bins was because of the cost implications.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith referred to an email he had received regarding bogus bio-gradable bags for food waste that were being sold and the fact that even though he had bought bags from the supermarket these were not being recognised by Verdant and therefore not being collected. He asked if this could be addressed by the District Councillors.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood asked why the Red Lion had been allowed to make changes to their building.

District Councillor Miss L Hillier regretted that some of the historic fabrics on this building had been changed. She confirmed that SODC has agreed to the retrospective planning application, but then had withdrawn this approval following further evidence regarding the use of the garages. District Councillor Miss L Hillier also stated that she was surprised that the Henley Society had had no strong views on the application as the building was built in 1531. She suggested that there needed to be more collaboration between the Henley Society and HTC when planning application approval was sought for major old buildings in the town.

County Councillor reports:

County Councillor Dr P Skolar had nothing to report.

County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith reported on the following matters:

- Parking Restrictions: he referred to Mr Vaughan's concerns in Public Participation and confirmed that Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) would be doing speed checks in Greys Road for the pedestrian crossing and confirmed that there is now a School Crossing Patrol employed on this road for children crossing for Sacred Heart School. He also advised that he would check on the parking in the area.
- Snow and Ice Leaflet: advised that an OCC scrutiny committee had produced a leaflet for town and parish councils advising what can and can not be done regarding clearing snow and ice. It would be going to cabinet on 15 July and would be set up and implemented after this time.
- Local Transport Plan 3: advised that there was yet another consultation period from the 10 May to 20 June and there would be a series of options coming out for feedback.
- Bike/Walk to School Weeks: advised that last week had been a 'bike to school week' with another one being held in mid June. He also advised that in two weeks it would be a 'walk to school week'.

Councillor G Dodds asked about the situation regarding the filling of pot holes as she was still receiving a number of complaints. She asked if the County Councillors would use their best endeavours to get pot holes in the town filled. County Councillor D Nimmo-Smith reported this was a national issue. County Councillor Dr P Skolar advised that he would raise this with OCC.

Councillor Dr B Wood was pleased that the snow and ice issues were being addressed. However, as he had pointed out previously it needed joint cooperation from all Councils to address making safe the town's car parks and Market Place should there be adverse weather in the future.

County Councillor Dr P Skolar agreed OCC would address the highways, but as part of the development of market towns all councils should be working in partnership to address these types of issues.

Councillor A Follett referred to a large hole outside Boots where a lamp post had been knocked down. He stated that they had been able to obtain a quote for its installation as OCC were in the process of changing contractors. He asked County Councillors to take this forward.

133. **FEEDBACK REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
There was nothing to report.

134. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from 29 March 2010 to 26 April 2010 inclusive, copy attached to the Agenda.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin thanked the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Dr B Wood for their support during her mayoral year and for attending engagements as her deputy.

135. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- (i) The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 April 2010 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 April 2010 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (ii) The Town Clerk gave an oral report following the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4 May 2010 that took place prior to Full Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4 May 2010 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

- (iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 13 April 2010 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 13 April 2010 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute 89 – Gillotts Field

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin advised that she was delighted to have officially opened Gillotts Field as a town green during her mayoral year.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 20 April 2010 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 20 April 2010 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted subject to the following changes.

Arising from the report:

Minute 124 – Bus Shelters

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood stated she was very disappointed that the recommendation had not been approved as a lot of work had been undertaken. She was particularly disappointed for the people who use the buses. In addition, HTC would now have to think on how they were going to maintain the existing shelters as these were subjected to vandalism and needed regular cleaning.

Councillor Dr B Wood expressed his concern that Members continuously 'flip flop' on decisions.

Councillor C Gibson stated he was not opposed to bus shelters but against the advertisements.

Councillor Dr P Skolar reminded members that should the Council consider purchasing bus shelters this would be an unbudgeted expenditure and funds would need to be found from elsewhere.

Councillor S Smith stated he was very disappointed and concerned that this recommendation was not being pursued and added he would like to see the

resolution changed so that the vision of providing bus shelters in the town can be pursued and other options explored. It was

RESOLVED that further options be pursued for the installation of additional bus shelters within the town.

125 – Henley Arts Trail

Councillors had been given sight of a Henley Arts Trail banner (bright pink with black text – approximate size 2.5' x 10' plastic vinyl on a stake) to be placed on the Fairmile. It was

RESOLVED that a Henley Arts Trail banner (bright pink with black text – approximate size 2.5' x 10' plastic vinyl on a stake) be placed on the Fairmile to advertise this forthcoming event.

127 – Henley Town Centre Litter Working Group

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Wood referred to the last paragraph in this minute and stated her disapproval that the pavements should be littered with commercial rubbish over the weekend as Grundons collections did not take place until Monday mornings.

Councillor Miss L Hillier stated that there were discussions taking place with Henley Partnership regarding this issue but that this was hard to coordinate as different traders use different refuse collectors.

Councillor S Smith advised that all the refuse collectors are in Henley every day, therefore, there was no excuse for commercial businesses to put out rubbish on a Saturday evening for a Monday collection and they can choose which days they want their collections.

- (v) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 27 April 2010 were before the Council. It was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 27 April 2010 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted, subject to the following changes.

Arising from the report:

Minute 116 – Northfield End Highway

Councillor I Reissmann referred to the Northfield End Highway issue as being long and complicated. He advised the area remains as designated highway until the 'stopping-up' order has been made using the Highways Act with a final decision being made by a magistrate who would determine if the highway was necessary. He stated that the position was clear and that OCC had agreed it was highway. However, it was very unfortunate that people had been allowed to purchase this land. He regretted that he was unable to attend the meeting on 24 March and was disappointed that only officers had attended the second meeting with the committee. He pointed out the notes from the meeting were inaccurate and the map showing the areas was incorrect. He stated that OCC had totally mismanaged the area and now to get out of the situation wanted to give the land away. Councillor I Reissmann referred to part (b) of the resolution and proposed that HTC does not formally support the proposal to stop up the carriageway at Bell Street (up to but excluding Rupert House) over the area shown as Area 1 on the plan. The Town Clerk advised the Council that Councillor Reissmann's amendment could not be put as it was contrary to Standing Order 36(a) in that the amendment negatives the principal resolution.

A lengthy discussion ensued amongst Members. Councillor G Dodds asked that a recorded vote be taken on both recommendations. It was

RESOLVED that

- (a) Henley Town Council does not withdraw its complaint made under section 130 (6) of the Highways Act 1980

For	Against
Cllr Mrs P G Buckett	Cllr C W Gibson
Cllr Mrs G M Dodds	
Cllr A J Follett	
Cllr Miss L Hillier	
Cllr Mrs E Hodgkin	
Cllr D Nimmo-Smith	
Cllr Miss L Pye	
Cllr Dr P Skolar	
Cllr I Reissmann	
Cllr S R Smith	
Cllr Dr B G Wood	
Cllr Mrs J Wood	

- (b) Henley Town Council formally supports the proposal to stop up the carriageway at Bell Street (up to but excluding Rupert House) over the area shown as Area 1 on the plan.

For	Against
Cllr Mrs P G Buckett	Cllr Mrs G M Dodds
Cllr A J Follett	Cllr C W Gibson
Cllr Miss L Hillier	Cllr I Reissmann
Cllr Mrs E Hodgkin	
Cllr D Nimmo-Smith	
Cllr Miss L Pye	
Cllr Dr P Skolar	
Cllr S R Smith	
Cllr Dr B G Wood	
Cllr Mrs J Wood	

Minute 118 – Finance

Councillor Dr P Skolar stated he was unhappy with the suggested increased costs to the refurbishment of toilets at the Leichlingen Pavilion and that there was nothing in the contingency for these additional costs. Councillor Dr B Wood advised that the specification had still not been defined and confirmed that the proposal would be brought back to Full Council for approval.

Minute 127 – Northfield End Highway

Councillor I Reissmann asked that the minute be amended to read 'notes' of the meeting instead of 'minutes'. This was accepted by Council. The Mayor confirmed that the notes of the meeting were now in the public domain.

Minute 131 – Stepping Stones Nursery

Councillor C Gibson asked why HTC were granting a 10 year lease when a decision regarding the Leichlingen Pavilion refurbishment had still not been decided.

Councillor A Follett stated that this was nothing to do with the toilets and a 10 year lease needed to be in place to enable Stepping Stones to receive the grant from OCC for refurbishment/alterations.

- (vi) Townlands Steering Group (TSG) there had been no meeting of the TSG since last Full Council, therefore, Mr I Reissmann gave the following verbal update:-

Invitation Participation Dialogue Pack: deadlines have been missed. The pack had not yet been sent out to the bidders as it was still being reviewed by external lawyers. There had been various issues which had arisen and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) was taking time to address these. Part of the delay was due to the forthcoming election.

Townlands Community Group: he confirmed that the next meeting was being held on 13 May 2010 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber and PCT were to be involved and that a new timetable would be issued.

Townlands Steering Group: he confirmed TSG was an advisory committee to HTC and there were non-councillors on this committee.

Councillor I Reissmann confirmed that he had recently met with Mrs Sonia Mills, PCT's new Chief Executive to talk about the project and had encouraged her to attend a forthcoming TCG meeting.

Councillor Dr P Skolar confirmed that legal technicalities had caused delays.

Councillor Dr B Wood suggested that the TSG should remain as a lobbying group because they were currently restricted by the terms of reference that had been written in 2003 which were now redundant and needed reviewing. The TSG primary purpose should be to act as a scrutiny group and recommended that the terms of reference be rewritten and brought back to Full Council for approval. It was

RESOLVED that the terms of reference for the Townlands Steering Group be rewritten and brought back to Full Council for approval.

136. **THANKS**

Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Mayor, Councillor E Hodgkin, for her Chairmanship of the Council during her Mayoral year.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin thanked the Councillors for their support during her mayoral year and invited them and members of the public to join her for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

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Mayor