

**Present:** Councillor Mrs P Phillips (Chair)  
Councillor Miss K Hinton (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Mrs J Bland  
Councillor W Hamilton  
Councillor D Hinke  
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin (Substitute for Councillor Ms L Meachin)  
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith  
The Mayor Councillor S Gawrysiak (ex officio)

**72. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillors M Akehurst and Ms L Meachin

**73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received.

**75. HENLEY, OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE UPDATE**

Members welcomed to the table Mr John Nixon, the Group Manager/Fire Risk Manager, South Vale Area who gave a verbal update regarding the on-going trial between Henley and Wargrave Fire Stations.

Mr Nixon advised the Members that the trial had been extended from 3-6 months as the 3 month trial had ended over the Christmas period and nothing much had changed. The trial is now scheduled to end March 2014 and should provide more data to work from.

The meeting was advised that the long term prognosis for Henley Fire Station was good, and as long as the staffing levels are back up to where they can crew an appliance nothing should change.

There is a ghost pump which is a fire engine with 5 fire fighters from Oxford City Centre which covers Henley and the South and Vale area 7 days a week, the engine is in Henley during the day and then returns to base during the evening. If Henley can recruit more fire fighters and can once again crew their own engine the ghost pump can be utilised elsewhere.

Henley fire fighters are now working alongside South Central Ambulance Service and responding to red calls, a 3<sup>rd</sup> of the workforce now has the relevant training which means that the fire engines can respond not only to fire calls but for emergency care as well.

In other areas where this has been on trial, the Ambulance Service have ended up providing a vehicle for use that can be stationed at the Fire Station.

Nothing has yet been signed and sealed with the Ambulance Service as details have still to be agreed by the Fire Brigade Union.

Henley Fire Station currently has 10 fire fighters but would ideally have between 15–16. To qualify as a part time fire person you need to either live in the area or be able to leave your place of employment (in Henley) to respond to a call.

There are currently only 2 officers who are capable of driving a fire engine and neither is contracted to work weekends.

There have been a few teething problems, but targets for responses have been met.

Whatever happens in the future it will not be to the detriment of the Henley Fire Station.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nixon for attending the meeting and invited him to return and give a further update at the end of the trial.

Mr Nixon left the meeting at 7.55pm

**76. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 26 November 2013 were received, approved and after the following amendment signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Minute 59 CCTV – Mill Meadow figure should read £8,100.

**77. PROGRESS**

Members received a report on progress, and after the following observations noted the information contained therein.

The Old Fire Station Gallery and Barn Users Group Successful meeting held on Thursday 16 January, notes to be attached to next agenda.

Fairtrade Town Still ongoing

Decriminalisation of Parking (CPE) Meeting held on 15 January 2014. The 4 Market Towns are now all indicating support, (just waiting for Thame to take a report to committee). SODC are considering its position and will be taking a paper to Cabinet. The £175k set up cost would mean that SODC should just about break even on income taken. The County Council Officer was not able to guarantee that the Mill Meadows Car Park could be excluded, which would cause a large loss on income to Henley, and would require a 30% increase on the Council Tax. Other areas in the Country have had exemptions from the Order but the Department of Transport are responsible for the final decision. The lead in time for the Order would be 18 months.

Hanging Basket Pole Due to a mix up with the order the Pole for the basket will be delivered in 6-8 weeks' time.

Market Place Seating Licence Item to be removed from progress.

**78. BUDGET**

Members received the budget report to 31 December 2014, copy having been issued. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be noted.

**79. POLICE**

Members received a local area update report from Inspector Mark Harling and noted the information. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be noted

Members were advised that residents of Greys Hill and Greys Road would be having a meeting with the Police at the Saracens Head Public House on Thursday evening to discuss ways beyond a Neighbourhood Watch to protect the area.

**80. CCTV**

Members received and considered the CCTV quarter 2 report for 2013/14 and noted the information. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be noted.

Members received and considered a report on the possibility of extending the current CCTV contract with SODC. It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND**

that this Council supports an extension to the existing contract for one year until 31 March 2015, with an option to extend incrementally for a further year until 31 March 2016.

that a letter be sent to the Police informing them that as the CCTV was very useful to them they should not reduce their contribution but continue to fund at the current level.

**81. REGATTA FOLLOW-UP MEETING**

Members received the informal notes of the Regatta Follow-Up meeting held on Tuesday 7 January 2013. It was **RESOLVED**

that the notes of the Regatta Follow-Up meeting be noted.

**82. PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN**

Members received and considered an offer to either purchase a Christian Furr portrait of Her Majesty the Queen for £12,000 or to borrow it for a public show. After an in-depth discussion it was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND**

that a letter be sent to Mr Walsh, thanking him for his offer but advising that this Council does not wish to purchase the portrait but is happy to show it for him at a date and location to be discussed as long as there was no cost to the Council and Mr Walsh would be willing to cover the insurance.

**83. NETWORK RAIL**

Members considered the responses from Network Rail to questions raised at the Town & Community meeting on Tuesday 15 October 2015. It was **RESOLVED**

that the responses be noted.

Councillor D Nimmo-Smith refrained from voting on the following item.

**84. DISABLED PARKING**

Members received a Formal Consultation from OCC on the addition and removal of Disabled Persons Parking Spaces in the Town. It was **RESOLVED**

that this Council notes the provision of a new Disabled Parking Space outside 10 Gainsborough Road, and the removal of the Disabled Parking Spaces outside 8 Harpsden Road, 15 New Street and the South West junction of Station Road.

**85. BYBOX LOCKERS**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk on the possibility of locating a Bybox Locker in the Town Centre. It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND**

that a request be made for more information on how successful the lockers are in other towns, and

that SODC be advised that HTC does not have any land that would be suitable to place the lockers on.

**86. LITERARY FESTIVAL**

Members received a request from the Literary Festival to place a marquee (9x18m or 12.5x15m) that will hold 500 + people on the Market Place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of this year's festival which will be held from Monday 29 September – Sunday 5 October 2014. It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND**

that the Literary Festival be advised that this Committee does not think that either of the suggested marquees would fit onto the market place,

that the Festival be invited to come and pace out the space that is available for use on the Market Place and then submit a request that can be reconsidered.

**87. FOOD FESTIVAL**

Members received a request from the Market Square Group to hold a Food Festival on the Market Place and in the Town Hall (in place of one of the

Continental style markets) in August 2014. It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND**

that in principle this Council was in favour, but would like to arrange a meeting with the Market Square Group to discuss further.

Councillor S Gawrysiak left the meeting at 9.10pm

The Press left the meeting at 9.13pm.

**88. TOWN HALL SOUND SYSTEM**

Members considered a report from Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin following a site visit with the Chairman and the Town Clerk to Marlborough Town Hall to inspect their new sound system. (Marlborough Town Hall is very similar to Henley Town Hall in its set up). It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND**

that Sound, Lighting and Vision specialists be invited to the Town Hall to give advice and provide a specification report of what is required, and

that the scheduled decoration of the large hall in August this year be put on hold until discussions have taken place with Sound & Lighting companies to see if it is possible to carry out all the works at the same time, and

that the Council Chamber also be considered in the specification, and

that a small Working Group be set up, and

that the Town Clerk speaks to Marlborough Town Council to see if they had a lot of wiring carried out or if they considered it prudent to go ahead with the redecoration of the large hall before the installation takes place.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm