

Present: Mayor, Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss L Hillier
Councillor D Hinke
Councillor Miss K Hinton
Councillor Ms L Meachin
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor D 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
34 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.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Akehurst, Councillor Miss S Evans, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin and Councillor Mrs P Phillips.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

48. MINUTES

(i) The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1st October 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save to the following extent:

Minute No.33 – County Councillors' reports – Henley in Transition

A Member requested that the following wording be inserted after the second paragraph, 'A member asked that in view of the serious Air Quality problems in Henley, the discussion between Cllr Nimmo-Smith, Cllr Hinke and HiT should include consideration of reducing the problem with the objective of having the Air Quality Management Area removed from Henley'. It was **RESOLVED**

that the minutes be amended to reflect the additional words.

Minute No.33 – County Councillors' reports – County Council Budget

A Member requested that the word 'Cabinet' be inserted after County Council in the fourth paragraph. It was **RESOLVED**

that the minutes be amended to reflect the additional words.

(ii) The minutes of the Special Full Council meeting held on 5th November 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save to the following extent:

Minute No.45 – Potential Housing Development Sites

The Mayor requested that the following wording be inserted in the Watermans Allotments paragraph after the second sentence, 'The opposing view was expressed that Henley Town Council was the democratically elected body and therefore it was legitimate that Henley Town Council also made decisions on which sites to include or not'.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the minutes be amended to reflect the additional words.

49. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr P Burness-Smith, St.Mark's Road

Mr Burness-Smith highlighted the position of the Henley Town Manager being partly funded by The Henley Partnership and questioned who he was accountable to, in his opinion this was deemed an untenable arrangement as they were not an elected body. Mr Burness-Smith suggested that the £4 million that HTC sold their land to Tescos for in the mid-nineties should be donated to the Philippines Tornado fund without any question.

Mrs Haig, St.Mark's Road

Mrs Haig made a plea to the Council to not support any financial cuts to either the Sonning Common or Henley branches of the Rainbow Children's Centres. She described these facilities for young families as centres of outstanding excellence. The Mayor assured her that she had the support of HTC and that they would be committed to lobbying OCC, it was reported that OCC were in fact reviewing this provision as part of a wider programme of budget cuts.

Mr D Smewing, St.Marks Road

Mr Smewing expressed concern over the continuing delay of the Townlands Development and recommended that HTC urgently approached James Wakeham, Regional Director of NHS Property Services. Councillor I Reissmann assured him that he would update the Council on this matter under Item 9 on the agenda.

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett sought clarification on the meaning of the wording, 'A Member wondered if there would be an adverse effect on the stock market if the general election delivered an unexpected result' under Minute No.55 of the Minutes of the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee meeting held on 22 October 2013. He was told by a Member that it referred to the unpredictability of general election results and the effect on share value of investments as stated in the following sentence.

Mr K Wood, Hart Street

Mr Wood aired his concern over the current trial period being undertaken by the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service with regards to the weekend cover at both Henley and Wargrave Fire Stations. He was assured by the Mayor that all his questions and concerns would be dealt with by the presentation by Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service under the next item on the agenda.

Mrs P Isaac, Gainsborough Road

Mrs Isaac spoke on behalf of the residents from the Gainsborough Estate over the Skate Park Initiative, outlining the community benefits to this major investment to the improvement of the recreational facilities in the town.

Mr C Braithwaite, St. Mark's Road

Mr Braithwaite re-iterated all the benefits of this investment into the Skate Park Initiative both to the local residents and the wider community. He listed the support

he had received from schools wanting to incorporate this facility into their recreational programme and also spoke of the wider positive effect that such a development would have on the community.

Mrs G Dodds, Greys Road

Mrs Dodds aired her opinion that the support from HTC towards the Skate Park Initiative was being driven on political grounds. She had felt proud of the way that the young people of Henley had handled themselves throughout this campaign and had illustrated complete commitment.

50. OXFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Area Manager, Nigel Wilson and Risk Manager John Nixon from the Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service gave a presentation to the Council on the Oxfordshire Community Risk Management Action Plan for 2014-15. It was explained that the Service were reviewing the provision of staffing levels at the weekends and that there was currently a weekend trial period of three months underway in which the town's fire station in West Street pools its resources with the station in Wargrave. This joint cover was a managerial decision that reflected a more efficient use of resources and staffing. Various members asked questions regarding the implications of this trial on the shift management every other weekend and the wider general issue of the decline in recruitment levels in the Fire Service. Members were urged to participate in this consultation process and encourage discussion around these issues. It was agreed that once the trial period was over they would be invited back in the new year to present their findings. In the meantime, the Committee Administrator would coordinate any questions from Members and any issues or comments for inclusion in the consultation process could be registered at irmpteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

51. VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was **RESOLVED**

that the order of business be varied to take Agenda Item 9, Reports of Committees before Agenda Items 6,7 & 8.

52. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 8 & 29 October 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 8 and 29 October 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on 15 October 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 15 October 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 46 – Henley Branch Line Electrification

A Member drew attention to the fact that Government Funding for this programme had still not been confirmed.

Minute No.50 – Christmas Car Parking

Members discussed the offer from SODC regarding the extension of free Saturday afternoon parking. It was agreed that for next year, the Council should take the initiative and approach SODC beforehand to allow the Committee and Full Council to consider it's position.

Minute No.51 A)v) – Increasing the Town Centre Manager’s hours

Members discussed increasing the Town Centre Manager’s hours to full-time, subject to agreement and funding from SODC. Given the uncertainty of the funding from SODC, it was **RESOLVED**

that the issue of increasing the Town Manager’s position to full-time be referred back to the Town and Community Committee.

Minute No.51 A)vi)- Town Centre Improvements/Action Plan budget

Members discussed increasing the Town Centre Improvements /Action Plan budget from £4,000 to £10,000 In noting that this budget increase was subject to the submission of reports from the Town Manager. It was **RESOLVED**

that the issue of increasing the Town Centre Improvements /Action Plan budget from £4,000 to £10,000 subject to the submission of reports from the Town Manager, be referred back to the Town and Community Committee for further consideration.

Minute No.51 A)ix) – Extension of the CCTV contract

Members discussed the extension of the CCTV contract which was due to expire at the end of April 2014, subject to further consideration on costs having regard to Thames Valley Police’s reduction on funding. It was **RESOLVED**

that the issue of the extension of the CCTV contract which was due to expire at the end of April 2014, subject to further consideration on costs be referred back to the Town and Community Committee for further consideration.

Minute No.51 D)iv) – Increase in the price of the permits for parking in Upper Market Place

A debate ensued over the 3% inflationary increase to the price of the permits for parking in Upper Market Place. A motion that there should be no inflationary increase was lost whereupon, it was **RESOLVED**

that the 3% inflationary increase to the price of the permits for parking in Upper Market Place be adopted from 1 April 2014.

(iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 22 October 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 22 October 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No.56 – Bell Street & Northfield End – Parking and Highways Issues

A member asked whether a meeting to discuss the issue of parking in the Bell Street and Northfield End area had taken place with OCC without HTC involvement. She was assured that this was not the case and that when consultations are underway, HTC would be invited to take part in the process.

Minute No. 61 – ‘Talking Oxfordshire’

A Member reported that these meetings had been dominated by the threat of closure to the Rainbow Children’s Centres due to OCC funding cuts. A full debate regarding these provisions for young families ensued. Members confirmed that OCC had always funded these facilities and there was no reason to believe that this level of support would change. It was **RESOLVED**

that HTC reaffirms its support for this service and that the issue of funding from OCC of the Rainbow Children's Centres by OCC be referred to the Town and Community Committee for further debate and representation to OCC.

Minute No.62 – Christmas Arrangements 2013

A debate ensued as to whether the Council should make a contribution of £500 (+ vat) towards the staff Christmas festivities as a token of the Council's thanks and appreciation for their work throughout the past year. A motion that the contribution should come from Councillors directly rather than HTC funds was put to the vote and was lost. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Council contributes £500 (+ vat if applicable) towards the staff Christmas festivities as a token of the Council's thanks and appreciation for their work and commitment throughout the past year.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 29 October 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 29 October 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No. 50 ii)c) – Permanent Moorings at White Hart and River Terrace

A discussion ensued regarding the recommendation that mooring fees for the permanent moorings at White Hart and River Terrace were not to be increased in 2013/14 due to low occupancy over the last year. Members considered reducing the fees next year to encourage take-up and also debated the implications of keeping them at the 2013/14 rate. A motion that the mooring fees at White Hart and River Terrace be reduced by 20% in 2014/15 was put to the vote and was lost on the Mayor's casting vote. It was **RESOLVED**

that the mooring fees for the permanent moorings at White Hart and River Terrace were not to be increased in 2014/15.

Minute No. 50 ii)p) – Skate Park (Makins Recreational Ground) – £75,000.00

Two members drew Council's attention to the fact that they had been victims of personal attacks on Twitter regarding intimidating tweets on the issue of the Skate Park Initiative. They both made it clear that they would not tolerate such intimidatory behaviour but would welcome the opportunity to discuss any issues in a reasonable manner. A discussion ensued as to the cost of the Skate Park project and the opportunity of match funding from additional sources if HTC were to financially support this initiative, the benefit to the wider community and the siting of such a facility was debated. It was **RESOLVED**

that Henley Town Council allocates £75,000 in the capital expenditure budget for 2014/15 towards the future cost of replacing/upgrading the Skate Park at Makins Recreation Ground.

- (v) The Minutes of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on the 26 September & 24 October 2013 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee held on 26 September & 24 October 2013 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

The protocol regarding the appointment of a substitute Member for Councillor M Akehurst on the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee was discussed. It was **RESOLVED**

that in accordance with Standing Order 20A, a substitute Member for Councillor M Akehurst on the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee should be appointed on an ad hoc basis.

(vi) Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee
Members had before them a report from Councillor I Reissmann. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the current project status of the Townlands Development and outlined the concerns about the slippage regarding the project and the fact that the new team responsible for the development were not responding to these areas of concern appropriately. Members were in agreement that a public meeting should be called as a matter of urgency and that all the stakeholders should attend it to reassure the community on the situation. A full debate ensued regarding this new information regarding the delay of the Townlands development. It was

RESOLVED that

- **HTC Reiterate its total support for the redevelopment of Townlands hospital as approved by the SODC Planning Committee in Nov 2012 (Application No : P12/S1424/FUL).**
- **HTC call on NHS Property Services to achieve financial closure and start implementation of the development as soon as possible, with minimum delays.**
- **The Townlands Steering Group meet on Friday 22 November 2013**
- **The following to be invited as key stakeholders:**
NHS Property Services
NHS Thames Valley
Oxfordshire County Council
Amber Solutions for Care
- **The TSG to ensure that stakeholders understand the successful way that community engagement has worked over recent years, and that the TSG and stakeholders work together to ensure that the project proceeds smoothly so that the community understands and supports the successful project outcome.**
- **The TSG call a public meeting so the stakeholders can reassure all the community of their commitment to the project and the timetable for the remaining work.**

53. DISTRICT/ COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

District Councillors' Reports

Members had before them reports from District Councillors Mrs J Bland, Mrs J Wood and Mr W Hall. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

Councillor Mrs J Bland left the meeting at 10.09pm

County Councillors' Reports

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

that the reports be received and noted.

Matters arising from the reports:

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

Rainbow Children's Centres: He confirmed that OCC were working hard to reduce the impact of the cuts and he recognised that this was an important provision for disenfranchised families but unfortunately no organisation was immune from these inevitable cutbacks. He dismissed claims from a Member that approximately 40 Children's Centres across Oxfordshire were being closed and re-iterated the fact that OCC were aware of the value of these facilities.

54. VARIATION TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was **RESOLVED**

that the order of business be varied to take Agenda Item 11, The Santa Fun Run 2013 before Agenda Item 7.

55. THE SANTA FUN RUN 2013

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 8 December 2013. It was **RESOLVED**

To suspend the Parking Place Order at Mill Meadows Car Park for the duration of The Santa Fun Run on Sunday 8 December 2013.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

ppd

Mayor