

- Present: Councillor Mrs P Buckett
Councillor C W Gibson
The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor Miss L Hillier, substitute for Councillor Mrs R Myer
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor C I Pye
Councillor Miss L Pye, Chairman
Councillor Dr P J Skolar
Councillor A J Follett, substitute for Councillor Mrs J Wood,
(Deputy Mayor)
- In Attendance: Mr M Kennedy, Town Clerk and Mrs A Gliddon, Committee
Administrator/Minute Taker
- Also Present: PC V Sims, Thames Valley Police
1 Member of the Press, 4 Members of the Public

116. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors
Mrs J Bland, Mrs R Myer, Dr P Skolar and Mrs J Wood

In the absence of Councillor Mrs J Wood, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor
Miss L Pye took the Chair

117. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors C Pye and Miss L Pye, Minute 126, Henley Arts Trail, Personal.

118. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Mrs Hammond

Referred to difficulties caused to pedestrians in Greys Road by illegal parking.
Councillor Nimmo-Smith advised that this was not an agenda item and could not
therefore be discussed.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, advised that at a Traffic Advisory
Committee meeting held earlier in the day there had been an item on 'safety
issues for school children'. A number of issues regarding police policy in respect
of illegal parking had been identified and she had advised the members of the
public present that the police would be in attendance this evening and had
suggested that they attend to seek confirmation regarding police policy.

Mrs Hammond asked why new parking restrictions were being introduced when
the police failed to enforce existing parking restrictions. Oxfordshire County
Council (OCC) constantly refused requests made by residents. The Highways
Officer had stated at this morning's meeting that a request for a mirror in Greys
Road by the Saracens Head where the sight line was constantly obscured by cars
parking illegally would not be legal. As well as the primary school, where numbers
had increased from 800 to 1,200, there was a disability centre, elderly sheltered
housing and a training pool which many mothers and young children attended. A
request for Greys Hill to be one-way traffic had been refused due to two way traffic
giving more opportunities to exit. She advised that the Headteacher at Sacred

Heart School, who had given a presentation to the Traffic Advisory meeting earlier in the day, had constantly worked hard to try to improve safety en route to the school and was frustrated by the lack of progress.

Councillor Nimmo-Smith advised that some of what Mrs Hammond had said was levelled at the County Council. As a County Councillor he worked to encourage the Highways Officer to implement changes which were otherwise likely to be refused.

Neil Grey, Greys Hill

Advised that this was a very serious problem. Some years ago two people had been killed in Hart Street following which the road pattern had been changed. He was concerned that the situation in Greys Road had got to the point where permitting cars to park illegally in Greys Road could cause a serious accident or death there. He was of the opinion that the problem should be addressed sooner rather than later.

The Chairman, Councillor Miss Pye, thanked the members of the public for their input.

119. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 18 March 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Miss L Pye.

120. **POLICE**

The Chairman welcomed PC Vicky Sims to the meeting and invited her to the table.

P C Sims gave apologies from Sergeant Pink who had hoped to attend.

She reported on the following:

The Police had held a number of 'Have Your Say' surgeries at various venues including Waitrose and Tesco. Each had been attended by c50 people whose main concerns had been about parking and speeding issues. She advised that police resources were put into areas reported to them and tickets issued over a period of time. She confirmed that the police liaise with head teachers. At Trinity school new arrangements had been put in place whereby pupils are dropped off elsewhere and walked to school.

Unfortunately no-one had turned up at the meeting arranged at the YMCA. A second meeting had been arranged for Friday 23 April.

The café at Mill Meadows would open once a month from May 2010.

Burglaries were up slightly. One arrest had been made.

Councillor C W Gibson asked about a robbery which had taken place earlier in the day in the town centre.

PC Sims advised that there had been a theft in a local jeweller's shop by two people. One had driven off and one had escaped on foot, although items of clothing and jewellery had been retrieved and sent for forensic examination. She confirmed that the Town Council would be informed whether CCTV cameras had picked up the incident.

Councillor Miss L Hillier advised that she had noticed an increase in minor crime in the town. On Friday and Saturday nights groups of youths had been seen walking on tops of cars and driving at speed in blacked out cars in local streets. There had also been incidences of people urinating in doorways in the town centre. She would like to see an increased police presence in the streets from the station to the town centre.

PC Sims advised that Neighbourhood Police Officers had to be out on the streets for 80% of their time. Figures showed that crime in town was down; the closure of the night club had had an effect. The recent incident at Mill Meadows was being dealt with. The police are out and about working with the community.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, was pleased to hear about improvements to public safety at Trinity School. She was concerned about pedestrian safety at Greys Road/ Greys Hill / Saracens Head. Concern was not just about the amount of traffic but also at the very badly parked cars on the corner by the Saracens Head which reduces visibility. She asked if PC Sims could put pressure on her colleagues for this to be tackled.

PC Sims agreed to liaise with Mr Hulme at Thames Valley Police Management Unit and report back to the Mayor. She confirmed that following completion of the new arrangements at Trinity School she would be working with other schools on the issue.

Councillor A J Follett advised that it had been confirmed at the TAC meeting that a school crossing patrol would commence at Sacred Heart School the following day.

Councillor C I Pye referred to huge potholes on a sharp bend at Wootton Manor, which it is difficult for motorists to avoid. He asked if the police were in a position to put pressure on OCC to repair these.

PC Sims confirmed that she would discuss this issue with Mr Hulme.

Councillor Nimmo –Smith confirmed that these potholes had been referred to Highways Officers. It was a matter of priorities with other areas being worse. New contractors had been taken on from 1 April and it would take time for them to become established.

Councillor C I Pye referred to the issue of people throwing litter in the street.

PC Sims confirmed that PCSO's have power to issue tickets to people seen throwing litter. They had taken a soft approach initially and asked people to put litter in bins.

Councillor Miss Hillier asked why any leeway was permitted. People who knowingly drop litter knew it was wrong.

PC Sims confirmed that tickets would be issued in future to people seen dropping litter. The police received large number of complains about litter.

The Chairman, Councillor Miss L Pye, thanked PC Sims for her report. PC Sims left the meeting.

121. **PROGRESS**

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER a report on progress

Oxfordshire County Council Highways, Minute 50

The Chairman, Councillor Miss L Pye, advised that OCC Highways had adopted all the recommendations contained in the report except those for Upton Close.

Details were on OCC's website and a link had been sent to Councillors

Angel on the Bridge, Minute 105, Finance Strategy and Management

The Town Clerk confirmed that the landlord had paid the first instalment of fees.

Henley Partnership Action Plan 2010/2011, Minute 115, 16.3.10

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended a meeting on 14 April with the Mayor, Barbara Richardson from the Partnership, Suzanne Malcolm and Caroline Wood from SODC. They were told that SODC had yet to set its budget, which was £80k in total. He had asked if this would be allocated across the towns and it had been confirmed that this would not be the case but each request would be considered on its individual merits. HTC had £3.5k set aside in its Action Plan budget. He had reminded those present that a whole host of other projects were supported by Henley Town Council, including CCTV, the Visitor Information Centre, flowers in the town etc.

The Town Clerk confirmed that Barbara Richardson had presented Henley Partnership's Action Plan, which had been supported by Henley Town Council through the Committee process and the schemes had been endorsed by Councillors for submission to South Oxfordshire District Council. The Action Plan had now been presented to Rodney Mann, Cabinet member at SODC. It would not go to Cabinet until June 2010. However, Mrs Richardson had managed to get

agreement from SODC for some pre-funding. It was agreed that some good projects had been put forward and that the District Council's decision was awaited with interest.

122. **BUDGET**

(i) Councillors received and noted the budget report to February 2010

(ii) Councillors noted the Committee's budget for 2010/11

The Mayor requested that the title Exhibition Centre be changed to The Old Fire Station Galley in the budget listings.

123. **LAY LIGHTS**

Minutes 94, 9.2.10 and 108, 16.3.10 refer

Councillors received a letter from the Council's appointed Architect and considered the following three options for progression of the item.

- accept the Architect's suggestion that a planning application for replacement of the pavement lights with material matching the footpath is submitted, or
- submit a planning application for replacement with glass lenses set in concrete, or
- undertake the refurbishment of the lay lights at a cost of £33,754

The Town Clerk advised that, in effect, Councillors were being asked to decide whether over £30k of Henley taxpayers money should be spent on like-for-like repairs, or whether the views of the Planning Officer's should be tested by putting in a planning application for replacement of pavement lights with glass set in concrete or material matching the footpath. The District Council had already indicated that they would not support an application to replace glass lenses set in concrete.

Further discussion ensued, during which it evolved that Councillors were minded to submit an application for the lay lights to be replaced with York Stone which matched the footpath.

Councillor Nimmo-Smith advised that a precedent had been set in c1983 when public toilets in the basement were removed and the area converted to office space. Lay lights above the toilet area were no longer necessary as the toilets had been removed and were replaced with material matching the footpath. The same now applied to the areas beneath the existing lay lights which were not used.

The Committee **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that

a planning application is submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council for the lay lights to be replaced with York Stone which matches the footpath, and;

a case is made in the application that a precedent had been set when lay lights had been similarly replaced when the public toilets in the basement were removed

124. **BUS SHELTERS**

Councillors received and considered an outline proposal from Primesite, which had been submitted following a site visit by members of the working group with representatives Primesite; Oxfordshire Highways; Thames Valley Police; the Public Transport Development Officer from OCC and a representative from Arriva buses, on 24 March 2010, when a number of sites were inspected for suitability for a bus shelter.

Councillors noted a response from Councillor Mrs J Wood (who had sent apologies to this meeting), in which she had confirmed that the sites in the proposal were acceptable to her.

During discussion a number of Councillors express disquiet at the prospect of bus shelters containing advertising coming to Henley.

Councillor Miss Hillier advised that the matter had already been to Committee and approved by Full Council.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, advised that changes to locations had been asked for and this proposal made as the result of this request .

Councillor Nimmo Smith suggested drawing a line on the matter.

Councillor Mrs Hodgkin agreed and advised that the original proposal had been for one shelter on Harpsden Road.

Councillor A Follett requested that Councillors take into consideration that if the proposal was rejected, the Town Council would have an obligation to maintain the shelters in Greys Road and the one which Oxfordshire County Council had agreed to provide and install in Hart Street. Part of the strategy for this Town Council was to get people to use buses instead of cars.

Councillor C I Pye suggested that the cost to the appearance of the town should also be considered. He did not see the benefit to the town of this Council permitting advertising. He encouraged Councillors to look at the bigger picture and set a budget for the maintenance of bus shelters.

The Committee **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that

the project for the installation of bus shelters containing advertising in Henley is not pursued.

125. **HENLEY ARTS TRAIL**

Councillors received and considered a request from the Henley Arts & Crafts Guild to display a banner along the Fairmile (approximate size 2.5' x 10' plastic vinyl on a stake). It was noted that permission had been given by this Committee last year for a similar size banner to be placed on the grass verge at the Reading Road entrance to Henley, by the entrance to Waterman's Allotments.

Councillor Miss Pye read out the letter of application which stated that the Henley Arts Trail had raised funds last year for the Air Ambulance by providing tea and cakes along the way.

The Committee **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND** that

the Committee supports the application in principle, subject to Councillors having sight of the colours to be used in the banner prior to the Full Council meeting on 4 May.

126. **WASTE RECYCLING SCHEME**

Councillor received and noted a report.

The Town Clerk advised that his officers had been instructed to write to Oxfordshire County Council to ask if there were any outstanding issues with the new waste recycling scheme and the report contained their reply.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, advised that she had been surprised to learn that it had been agreed by SODC at the start of the scheme that some properties in Gravel Hill had to leave their bins on the pavement at all times. This was a conservation area and an entrance to the town.

Councillor Miss L Hillier confirmed that District Councillors were not now receiving any complaints and the assumption was that the public have no problems with the scheme

127. **HENLEY TOWN CENTRE LITTER WORKING GROUP**

Councillors receive and noted notes of a meeting held on Friday 12 March 2010.

Councillor A J Follett spoke to the notes and advised that it had been a useful meeting. He had been impressed with the work of Verdant who had a difficult job trying to adhere to the contract. A road sweeper now comes to Henley early in the morning, every day including Sunday. He had inspected the town centre at 8am on a Sunday morning and there was no litter in town. Verdant had a difficult schedule. Their van is under capacity and not big enough. When the van is full they have to travel back to Sutton Courtenay then back to Henley, sometimes doing three trips per day. If the van is overweight they are fined. One of the major aims was to stop residents putting domestic waste into litter bins as this all goes into landfill and is not recycled.

Councillor Follett advised that the Big Tidy Up Campaign would take place on Saturday 1 May 2010 from 9.30am. He and the Mayor had spoken with the Henley Standard who would be carrying a feature on this in the next edition. The aim was to make residents take responsibility for their own litter. In the longer term the aim was for larger capacity litter bins in the town for which SODC had advised they may have resources later in the year. He would also be trying to impress on take-away establishments the effect that litter generated from them has on the town and try to get them to agree to a voluntary code of practice. Bins in the town were not designed for pizza boxes and coffee cups.

Residents had also complained about the number of cigarette butts around the town. The police had in the past been reluctant to be excessive in terms of Fixed Penalty Notices but may have taken the message from the meeting this evening that this should be addressed.

Councillor Miss L Hillier advised that commercial waste was collected by Grondon at c5.30am on Monday mornings. This had to be put out by traders on Saturday or Sunday evenings. The Henley Partnership was asking its commercial members to address this. She also stated that she had seen a fox dragging litter across Queen Street from the Henley Festival offices.

128. **HENLEY TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL**

Councillors received and noted the minutes of the 16TH meeting held on 15 March 2010

The Chairman, Councillor Miss L Pye, reminded Councillors that they were invited to the Henley Youth Centre at 5.45pm the following day to see a film on Transforming Henley for Young People. The Mayor advised that the film had been funded by SODC and was very professional.

The Chairman also drew Councillors attention to the date of the next Youth Council meeting on Monday 17 May 2010 at 13.30 in the Town Hall. This would be the last meeting for the current school year.

129. **HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA**

Councillors received and noted the notes of an informal meeting held on 23 March 2010. The Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin, advised that this had been a very productive meeting which had created an atmosphere of cooperation.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman