

Present: Mayor, Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Deputy Mayor, Councillor J Brookes
Councillor Sara Abey
Councillor S Evans
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor Rebecca Chandler-Wilde
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Miss Kellie Hinton
Councillor Will Hamilton
Councillor Sarah Miller
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor S Smith
Councillor Jane Smewing

In Attendance: N Taylor - Proper Officer
P Price-Davies - Committee Administrator

13 members of the public
1 member of the media

The Mayor called for one minute's silence in respect of the recent atrocities both in Brussels and Pakistan.

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Akehurst and I Reissmann.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

90. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **16 February 2016** were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

91. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr J Barr, Park Fun Run UK

Mr Barr spoke on behalf Park Fun Run UK on the proposal they had submitted to the Council to hold an event over two Henley Parks that would be beneficial to local residents along with a Risk Assessment and that they would be reporting back to the Recreation and Amenities Committee in due course.

Mr I Clarke, Cromwell Road

Mr Clarke complained about the state of the road surface on Cromwell Road and expressed his frustration at OCC for not carrying out the necessary works to resolve the potholes issue.

Mrs G Dodds, Greys Road

Mrs Dodds called for the minutes pertaining to 353 - 357 Reading Road Site to be released into the public domain as the information regarding the development of this site was in the Public interest. She implored Council to explore the option of facilitating 100% Affordable Social Housing on this site as this was much needed and would be hugely beneficial to local people and much needed.

Mrs P Philips, St.Mark's Road

Mrs Philips sought confirmation on who was responsible for the policing of notices erected around the town. She felt that the current system was inadequate as out of date posters were still displayed, she also highlighted unauthorised commercial signage that should be removed. She was informed that Mrs N Taylor was the Officer responsible for monitoring this operation but it was the advertiser's responsibility to remove them once the event had taken place.

Mrs Philips expressed concern over the recent decision of the Council to postpone awarding AFC Henley a grant towards new goalposts until the sale of 353 - 357 Reading Road had been finalised whilst a grant to Henley Rugby Club of £100k had recently been awarded. The Chair informed her that this had been a Committee decision and that it was not always the expected result.

Mr D Dickie, St.Katherine's Road

Mr Dickie agreed with Mrs Dodds case over the need for affordable Social Housing within Henley. He also aired concern over the fact that he had still not received an answer to his question over the legal standing of the Transport Strategy. He drew Council's attention to a recent article carried in the Evening Standard outlining solutions to Air Quality issues in London. He felt that Henley's Air Quality issues should be addressed similarly and he agreed to give the newspaper article to a Member so that a copy could be made.

Mr I Clarke, Cromwell Road

Mr Clarke questioned OCC's recent decision to install new bus shelters around the town when they were threatening to reduce the bus services for the area. He pointed out that Henley had a large proportion of older residents who relied on these services. County Councillor D Nimmo Smith explained that OCC were in a difficult situation and had no option but to reduce them back to Core services as bus subsidies across the County were being cut. He said that OCC were engaging with both the White Coaches and Yellow Bus services to explore other solutions.

Mr D Thomas, Northfield End

Mr Thomas spoke on the two separate traffic collisions that had damaged two of his parked vehicles due to dangerous speeding drivers. Since he moved into the area, he had been campaigning for safer roads and traffic calming measures and was grateful to fellow Members that had signed the petition, but he had realised that it was OCC's responsibility to fully address these issues. At a recent Traffic Advisory meeting he had been informed by an OCC Officer that until a fatality occurred there was little that OCC were prepared to do, he felt that this was unacceptable and he wanted to register his protest.

92. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

Members had before them reports from District Councillors S Gawrysiak and J Bland. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

Matters arising from the reports

In addition to his written report, Councillor Gawrysiak spoke on the issue of Low Emissions and Air Quality and insisted that the Transport Strategy Group made their position clear on what Henley residents wanted.

He also re-iterated the fact that many local residents were dependent upon the bus services, so it was important that funding was sourced to ensure that this service continued whether it be from HTC, SODC or OCC and that maybe a Working Group should be set-up to facilitate this. He suggested that a Grant from SODC could be a solution.

Councillor Miss L Hillier informed Council that David Dickie's report on Air Quality solutions had been submitted to SODC and she had been assured by District Councillor W Hall that it was being carefully considered.

Councillor D Nimmo Smith confirmed that the withdrawal of the subsidy of the buses was scheduled for the 20 July due to this being end of the academic year. He reported that Gillotts Head teacher, Mrs C Darnton was currently in discussions with OCC and the White Coaches Company regarding the transportation of school children. He stated that the continuing subsidy of these bus services was just not viable as they were simply not used enough to make them profitable in their own right and older people tended only to use them up until lunchtime.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

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

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

County Councillor Nimmo Smith informed Council on the Proposal for a District Unitary Council and that OCC and SODC were currently in debate over the development of this initiative. He reassured Council that this would not have any negative effect on Town Councils.

Tourist Information and Tourism

He spoke on the issue of tourism and culture and advised that OCC were aware that SODC had not prioritised it adequately, and that OCC were aware of the growing importance of tourism as boosting the County's Economic Development.

93. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor J Brookes spoke in his capacity as a Trustee of the Henley YMCA, reporting that they had raised £278k to date, so their five year Business Plan and their Housing Community Registration were well advanced and they would now be able to have the lease signed by the end of the next fiscal year.

94. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS

Members had before them the list of Mayoral Civic engagements from the Mayor for the period **10 February– 20 March 2016**. It was **RESOLVED**

that the list of Mayoral civic engagements be received and noted.

Matters arising from the Mayoral Civic Engagements

The Mayor reminded members and the public to attend the upcoming Annual Town Meeting which is due to be held on 7 April at 7.30pm.

95. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 23 February and 15 March 2016 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 23 February and 15 March 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on 23 February 2016 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 23 February 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the minutes:

The updated 2016/17 Economic Development Action Plan was tabled for Members information. It was **RESOLVED**

that the updated 2016/17 Economic Development Action Plan be received and noted.

(iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on **1 March 2016** were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 1 March 2016 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the minutes:

Minute No.78 – Henley Canoe Hire

The Chair updated members on the proposal that Henley Canoe Hire had put forward regarding the hiring of canoes from a temporary wooden cabin structure at Mill Meadows. It had been suggested that it would be trialled for one year, subject to a suitable fee being agreed and the Accountant, Mrs L Jones had suggested a fee of 10% of turnover (to be calculated on a monthly basis) as a reasonable percentage. It was **RESOLVED**

that Henley Canoe Hire be given permission to offer the hiring of canoes at Mill Meadows , to be trialled for one year at a fee of 10% of their turnover (to be calculated on a monthly ongoing basis).

Minute No.80– Walkers are Welcome

In her capacity as the HTC representative on the '*Walkers are Welcome*' organisation, Councillor Miss K Hinton, spoke on the support required to ensure that Henley gained their accreditation and the sources of funding required to design and produce a leaflet encouraging Henley circular walks. As she had not attended the last meeting she suggested that this initiative be referred back to the next meeting of the Recreation and Amenities to ensure that a more informed discussion could take place. It was **RESOLVED**

that both the '*Encouraging Use of Footpaths*' and '*Walkers are Welcome*' initiatives be referred back to the Recreation and Amenities Committee for further consideration.

Minute No.82 – Mayor of Marlow

The Chair confirmed that the Mayor of Marlow had agreed that Marlow would participate in a '*Henley v Marlow Olympics*' in May 2017.

Minute No.86 – Jubilee Park User Group

The Chair confirmed that the Jubilee Park User Group has been combined with the Jubilee Park Working Group from the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee and that Councillor S Evans was the representative from the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

Minute No.88 – Horticultural Contract

Members explained the current situation with regards to the two companies (Company A&C) that had made presentations to bid for the Council's Horticultural contract due to commence from June 2016. Members were in agreement that there was an opportunity to make some amendments to the contract which had been outlined in the brief that was presented to the two companies, and that this was also a lucrative contract that required due care and consideration. It was explained that Company C were not regarded as being Horticulturally competent but that a final decision on the awarding of this contract could not be made for various reasons. It was suggested that the current Horticultural contract with Company A (the incumbent) be extended for an additional 6 months as an interim solution until a more informed and satisfactory decision could be reached. It was **RESOLVED**

that Company 'C' be discounted from bidding for the Horticultural Contract and that two other Horticultural Companies with adequate skills be approached to bid for this contract, along with the Incumbent, Company A and that the current contract with Company A be extended for an additional six months.

- (iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 8 March 2016 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 8 March 2016 and the

recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the Minutes:

Minute No.114 – Community Grants -Summer Fireworks

The Chair informed Council that the financial accounts pertaining to the Summer Fireworks had still not been received. It was **RESOLVED**

that the decision regarding the grant application for the Summer Fireworks be deferred until they had submitted their financial accounts.

Minute No. 121 iii - 353-357 Reading Road

The Chair agreed with the fact that the option for a higher percentage of affordable social housing at the 353-357 Reading Road site should be investigated and that this possibility would be discussed with T A Fisher. A Member highlighted the importance of this in light of the discounting of affordable social housing at the former Jet Garage Site; Members agreed that generally the provision of adequate provision for affordable Social Housing as the Neighbourhood Plan developed was an issue that need prioritising in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan. It was **RESOLVED**

that the additional bullet point ‘to explore the option of one hundred per cent affordable Social Housing on the 353-357 Reading Road site to be investigated’, should be included in the agreement of the three month exclusivity period with T A Fisher.

96. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Members had before them the proposed terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG).

A Member called for the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) to be clear from the outset and that ongoing consultation with the major developers was a key purpose as this was where problems arose with the Townlands Steering Group when lobbying was no longer a requirement.

A Member nominated local resident, Mrs R Chandler-Wilde to join the membership of the NPSG. The Mayor suggested that the recruitment of members of the Public onto the Steering Group be addressed at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday 8 April 2016. It was **RESOLVED**

that the terms of reference and the membership of the NPSG as set out in the attached report be approved but with the membership being increased to include three Henley Town Councillors: Councillors Jane Smewing, Sara Abey and Helen Chandler-Wilde.

97. RIVER AND ROWING MUSEUM’S GRANT APPLICATION TO SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members had before them a report on the River and Rowing Museum’s Grant application to SODC prepared by the Accountant, Liz Jones. Members discussed the charge on the registered title of the land in SODC’s favour and the possible legal implications of this registration and aired concern at the lack of specific detail. It was **RESOLVED**

in principle that HTC agrees to register a restriction or charge on the registered title in SODC's favour with the Land Registry before work starts on the roof works project in order to comply with SODC' grant application, subject to HTC and their legal team having sight of the exact details of the charge and ensuring that it is to the mutual consent of both the RRM and HTC.

98. MILL MEADOWS SIGNAGE

Members had before them an Executive Summary from TM Studio of the Mill and Marsh Meadows signage improvement project which was positively received, and the fact that it was an opportunity to form connectivity within this well used Henley recreational amenity was highlighted and applauded. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Executive Summary outlining the Mill and Marsh Meadows signage improvement project be received and noted so that it could be progressed by the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

99. MAYOR ELECT

The Mayor invited nominations for Mayor Elect 2016/17.

Councillor Miss L Hillier was nominated by Councillor S Gawrysiak and seconded by Councillor Miss K Hinton; and Councillor J Brookes was nominated by Councillor D Nimmo Smith and seconded by Councillor S Evans. Speeches from the proposers in support of the candidates were made and matters raised. Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor J Brookes be considered as the Mayor Elect for 2016/17.

100. DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

The Mayor invited nominations for Deputy Mayor Elect 2016/17.

Councillor W Hamilton was nominated by Councillor J Brookes and seconded by Councillor D Nimmo Smith; and Councillor D Eggleton was nominated by Councillor S Miller and seconded by Councillor S Gawrysiak. Speeches from the proposers in support of the candidates were made and matters raised. Following a vote, it was **RESOLVED**

that Councillor W Hamilton be considered as the Deputy Mayor Elect for 2016/17.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm.

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Mayor