

Present: Mayor, Councillor S J Gawrysiak
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M S Akehurst
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor D Hinke
Councillor Miss S Evans
Councillor W Hamilton
Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Miss K L Hinton
Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin
Councillor D R Nimmo Smith
Councillor Mrs P A Phillips
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor D Silvester
Councillor 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: 13 members of the public
1 member of the press

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.

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ms L Meachin.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

98. MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1 April 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save to the following extent:

Minute No. 89 – District Councillor Report

A Member requested that in last sentence on the report that the word 'Henley' be replaced with the word 'Oxfordshire'. It was **RESOLVED**

that the minutes be amended to reflect this changed wording.

99. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms G Nahum, Green Lane

Ms Nahum expressed her concern about the Markets that take place in Market Square over weekends in the Town throughout the year. She believed that they were run by a national organisation and that they were not always of a reasonable quality and felt that it would be more appropriate to give local businesses the opportunity to trade. She also drew attention to the fact that all the stalls faced inwards, creating a central corridor for customers and pedestrians, forcing them away from the local

businesses sited on the perimeter of the square. The Mayor responded, stating that applications from all potential Market Traders were considered by the Council.

Mr M Dodds, Greys Road

Mr Dodds spoke on behalf of Henley In Transition, stating that the group was fully in support of local communities deciding their own future and as a result several of their members had been active within the Working Groups of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan. Whilst he acknowledged all the work and commitment that had been put into the Draft Plan he aired concern about the timescale and as a result felt that decisions were being rushed. He was grateful to Councillor Hinke for his assurance that both time and resources were available to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan would reflect the view of the residents and Working Groups. He emphasised the need for it to be a joint plan that Harpsden residents were also in agreement with and that this connection was essential to ensure a yes vote at the referendum.

He was assured by a Member that all the residents of both Henley and Harpsden would have input into the Draft Plan during the Public Consultation period and that this six week period was crucial. He highlighted the fact that once this period was complete it would then go back to the Working Group to be finalised before being submitted to SODC.

Mrs G Dodds, Greys Road

Mrs Dodds acknowledged the fact that the Kings Arms Barn signage had finally been erected, making it easier for people to locate it. She raised the issue of the hedge on Greys Road that grew between the Pram Walk and the entrance to the Gainsborough Estate yet again needing to be maintained and requested that this be addressed imminently before it became too costly.

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett thanked the Mayor for presiding over the Town Council during his Mayoral year, particularly for his Chairmanship style. He enquired as to when the Town Clerk would respond to his recent letter, he was told that the delay was partly due to the recent bereavement of the Town Clerk's father and he was assured that he would get a response in due course.

Dr B Wood, Blandy Road

Dr Wood expressed his disappointment that the Town and Community Committee had recommended not to acknowledge the longstanding service that the late Mr Tony Lane had given to Henley Town Council both as a Councillor and a Mayor. He called on the Council to reconsider this recommendation.

Mr C Baker, Lauds Close

Mr Baker spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Henley Hockey Club, thanking the Town Council for having allowed the hockey pitch to be built, enabling both the progression and growth of the club. He announced that this season they had won two national cups and achieved one promotion. The Mayor congratulated the club on behalf of the Council and thanked him for his dedication and service to the young people of the town.

Dr B Wood, Blandy Road

Dr Wood enquired as to the whereabouts of the apple sculpture that was gifted to the town by Leichlingen. He was informed that it was currently undergoing repair work following accidental damage, it was due to be returned to its position on Gravel Hill once the work had been carried out.

Mr J Donahue, Whitchurch-on-Thames

Mr Donahue spoke of two photographic books that he had recently published about Pangbourne and Whitchurch and his intention to produce a similar publication on Henley. He would be submitting a proposal to the Town Clerk and hoped that he

would have the support from the Town Council on this unique project which he felt would be beneficial to the community.

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett spoke remarked that the Independent Councillor, Mrs Anne Midwinter was due to be made Chair of District Council next year and wondered whether Henley Town Council would consider the election a Deputy Mayor from an opposition party.

100. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS

Members had before them reports from Councillors Mrs E Hodgkin and Mrs J Wood. It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports be received and noted.

County Councillor Report

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

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

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

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

He confirmed that the estimated levels within the SHMA represented a 7-8% increase on previous figures from 2 to 3 years ago and that OCC were currently assessing where these houses should be sited within the County. He confirmed that the housing allocation for Henley had already been finalised and that he would ensure that lobbying would take place if this figure was to increase as the infrastructure would not be able to cope.

Oxfordshire Flooding Summit

He responded to questions over the flooding impact downstream to Henley if the Western Conveyance scheme was adopted. He assured Council that sufficient modelling of this initiative had taken place alongside input from both local and national agencies who were confident in its results.

Lampposts and Potholes

A Member thanked OCC for the installation of new lampposts along Thameside and also pointed out that various potholes around the town had been repaired a lot quicker than previously. Councillor D Nimmo Smith informed Council that there was a new quicker method current being trialled in Cambridgeshire.

LTP4

A Member highlighted the public consultation on the Strategic Environmental Scoping Report to which no information had been sent to the Town Council. Councillor D Nimmo Smith referred to LTP4, the overarching document, in which the Council should focus its attention.

A Member enquired as to the continuing highway maintenance work taking place on Greys Road by the One Stop Shop roundabout, he requested that they had illuminated warning signage in operation when the work was being undertaken.

101. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

A Member spoke of her recent successful weekend visit to Falaise as part of the Falaise Twinning Association.

102. MAYOR'S REPORT

Members had before them the list of Mayoral engagements from the period **27 March – 29 April 2014**. It was **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and noted.

Matters arising from the report:

The Mayor spoke of his enjoyment in carrying out his role over the past year, in particular meeting a wide range of people within the Town. The Deputy Mayor thanked him on behalf of the Members for leading the Town Council during his mayoral year.

103. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A Member requested that the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee regularly submit a report to Full Council updating them on the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan. He was told that the last meeting had not fallen within the current cycle of meetings and that the next meeting would not be held until after the Public Consultation period.

(i) The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 8 & 22 April 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 8 & 22 April 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

(ii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee, held on 8 April 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town and Community Committee held on 8 April 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

Minute No 110 – Civil Parking Enforcement

A Member called for clarification on OCC's support for CPE. Councillor D Nimmo Smith said that he was unaware of their position on this issue and thought that the report from District Councillor Mrs J Wood had included an item on Parking Enforcement; she agreed to investigate their position on this matter.

A Member informed Council that the Police had agreed to install the gates on the entrances to the alleyway running parallel to Greys Road and that expenditure for this initiative would have to be funded by Thames Valley Police Commissioner.

Minute No. 117 – Volunteer Fair

A Member drew Council's attention to the Volunteer Fair that was due to be held this Saturday in Market Square.

Minute No. 119 ii – Tribute to the late Tony Lane

A Member called for the issue of a tribute to the late Tony Lane be passed to Full Council for further consideration. Following further discussion of the suitability of a tribute to it was proposed that this item be discussed under confidential session. The proposal was carried whereupon it was **RESOLVED**

that Minute No. 119ii – Tribute to Mr Tony Lane, be discussed as a separate item under confidential session.

(iii) The Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 15 April 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 15 April 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted.

Arising from the report:

A Member enquired as to whether the scheduled IT review at the Town Hall had been implemented. He was told that the Accountant would inform Council on the status of this initiative.

(iv) The Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 18 March 2014 were before the Council. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 22 April 2014 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted,

Arising from the report:

Minute No.83ii – Minutes of Henley in Bloom Sub-Committee

A Member expressed concern over the significant change for Henley in Bloom Committee's delegated powers over its budget. She requested clarification over this change and spoke of how it could be problematic due to the seasonal nature of their work. This issue was discussed and it was agreed that it would be clarified for the next cycle of meetings later in the month.

Minute No.83iii – Minutes of the Christmas Decorations and Events Sub Committee

The Chair confirmed that the whole figure of £11,739.20 for the installation of the new electrical infrastructure was not being fully met by the Council, instead this project was being match funded by the Infrastructure Fund at SODC, therefore the Council were supporting this through its capital expenditure budget at a cost of approximately £5,869.60.

Minute No. 83iv – Minutes of the Mill Meadows and River Sub Committee

A Member thanked Sally Rankin for all the work she had carried out during her twenty year tenure on the Wildlife Group, it was understood that she was standing down for personal reasons but would still act as a consultant on the development of the Nature Area at Mill Meadows.

The Chair confirmed that the current situation allowing Barbecues on Mill Meadows was a temporary arrangement, being trialled for a year and would be closely monitored.

A Member drew Council's attention to a potentially dangerous stump in the river at Rod Eyot Island and the silt that has grown under the footbridge, it was agreed that the Moorings Secretary would write a letter to the Environmental Agency asking them to investigate these hazards.

Minute No.85 – Progress Report

A Member enquired as to the whereabouts of the update to Full Council on the Makins Recreation Ground Skatepark situation and was told that it had not been submitted. In the absence of the report, a Member gave a verbal update, Council were informed that due to the necessity for a Noise Survey SODC was not able to consider the planning application. Therefore the application for funding would not be able to be considered this financial year. Unless other sources of funding could be identified then the project could be delayed by 12 months, the Chair, Mr Colin Braithwaite would be contacted to submit a report to the next Recreation and Amenities meeting to clarify their position.

Minute No.86 – Car Parking at Mill Meadows

A Member expressed her surprise that this item had been brought up for discussion at the Recreation and Amenities meeting as she believed that this had been previously addressed and settled and felt this parking facility was well used by local families. A debate ensued regarding the perceived abuse of these 'free' parking bays adjacent to the toddler playground, several members spoke of their personal use of these bays, making use of the play area more convenient and felt that the real issue was that the current signage was ambiguous and therefore it was difficult for members to enforce the one hour 'free' parking policy. After further debate it was **RESOLVED**

that the signage for the ten 'free' parking bays adjacent to the Toddler Play Area be replaced with signage bearing clearer wording and that this issue be referred back to the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

Minute No.86 – Car Parking at Mill Meadows

Members discussed the issue of the sculpture that local residents, Mr and Mrs Hill were considering bequeathing to the town. They were all in agreement of this donation in principle pending the identification of a suitable location.

(vi) Townlands Steering Group (TSG) Committee

The Chairman gave a verbal update on the development, confirming that work had begun, that Amber Solutions were on site and that relationships with all the major stakeholders were being maintained. He spoke of the support from all sectors of the community on this project and that this strength of feeling had made the critical difference in making this development happen. He also confirmed that the Steering Group would welcome new Members. The Mayor gave thanks to all those people that had been instrumental in this achievement, giving special thanks to Dr Ashby, Ms L Hastings and the Chair, Mr I Reissmann who he considered were owed a huge debt of gratitude for all their work over the years in ensuring that this project was achieved.

104. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The minutes of the Town Meeting held on 10 April 2014 were received and noted.

105. THE LEASE FOR THE KIOSK AT MILL MEADOWS

The lease between Henley Town Council and the Kiosk at Mill Meadows was presented to Council for signing and sealing. It was **RESOLVED**

that the lease between Henley Town Council and the Kiosk at Mill Meadows be signed and sealed by the Mayor.

106. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

It was moved by the Chairman and **RESOLVED**

that the public and the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters which were about to be discussed were considered to be confidential.

MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 6 MAY 2014

107. TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR TONY LANE

Members considered the suggestion of the Town Council purchasing and installing a suitable tribute to the late Mr Tony Lane who had served on the Council for 38 years, standing as Mayor four times during this period. A debate ensued as to

whether the Town Council should purchase a fitting memorial and as to what form it should take. It was **RESOLVED**

that Henley Town Council purchase a suitable tribute in the form of a bench dedicated to Mr Tony Lane and that it be located somewhere in Mill Meadows.

The Mayor thanked his partner, Catherine Notaras for all the support she had given him during his mayoral year and invited all members of the public and press to join him for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

ppd

Mayor