

Present: Mayor, Councillor Miss K Hinton
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Miss L M Hillier
Councillor Sara Abey
Councillor K Arlett
Councillor Julian Brookes
Councillor Donna Crook
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor Will Hamilton
Councillor G Lambert
Councillor Sarah Miller
Councillor D Nimmo Smith
Councillor Jane Smewing

District Councillor Mrs J Bland

In attendance: Mrs J Wheeler – Town Clerk
13 Members of the Public

A Minute's silence was held in remembrance of ex Councillor Francis Sheppard, Mayor of HTC from 1970-1971 who sadly died on 22 January 2018 aged 96.

88. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms H Chandler-Wilde and I Reissmann.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

90. MINUTES

A Member requested consistency with regards to Members being named in Minutes. Councillor Evans stated that it was her understanding that it had been agreed in the past Full Council 25 July 2017, that Members would not be named, but at a meeting Mrs G Dodds requested that Councillor Evans be named in response to a comment that she had made.

Councillor Hinton advised that she had no issue with her name being recorded.

Minute 87 - It was requested that a member's personal attack on the Town Clerk in the confidential section be noted.

A Member questioned why the Councillor suggested to attend the meeting with Chris Rolley, the Town Clerk and the Mayor was replaced with a different Councillor.

A member asked for answers to questions she had previously raised in public question time regarding CCTV and the Christmas festival and was advised that the CCTV question has been answered at the time and that the notes of the Christmas Festival wash up meeting would be circulated to all Members when available.

Following the amendments, the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3 January 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

91. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Martin Wary – Gravel Hill – private matter with Cllr Arlett.

Ian Clarke – Cromwell Road stated that a Member of the Council had phoned his daughter to say that he was not welcome to attend any more Council meetings and wanted to know which Member it was as his daughter would not tell him. He further stated that as a home owner in Henley he was fully entitled to come to any meetings and called for the Member to make themselves known. As no Member came forward The Mayor apologised on behalf of the Council and advised Mr Clarke to make a complaint to the Town Clerk if he so wished.

Mrs Gill Dodds – Greys Road thanked the Council for the minute's silence for ex Councillor Sheppard who along with others started the over 60's Club back in the 1970's.

Richard Guy – New Street questioned why a meeting regarding moorings on River Terrace were discussed in confidential with no minutes being available for the public and was advised that this was due to a long standing legal issue and the HTC are seeking further advice.

92. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Various items were discussed from reports provided by District and County Councillors Bland, Gawrysiak and Hillier.

SODC budget has been finalised and included £100,000 for air quality measures, subject to approval at SODC Full Council on Thursday 15 February. A housing growth deal for Oxfordshire is also being discussed at that meeting. Once this budget is approved Town Councils will then be invited to put forward requests for funding.

A Member questioned if there was an increase in this year net or a deficit budget? He was advised that there is a 4.5% increase in SODC's portion of the council tax.

Councillor Gawrysiak advised that SODC have created a balanced budget showing income & expenditure as identical. This however hides another story with SODC intending to spend £13m but with an income of only £11m with the 12% deficit balance being made up from reserves.

Councillor Gawrysiak stated that he will be voting in favour of this budget, but has asked the questions as to why there is a projected spend £13m when there is only an £11m income which will not be sustainable going forward.

Cllr Bland stated that SODC were in the fortunate position of having good reserves which they can dip into in times of need to cut mass expenditure. She further stated that central Government may start looking at councils that have large capital investments, including Town Councils so SODC and HTC should start to think how they use their capital rather than have it removed.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

A Member questioned what had happened to the additional work in Henley that had been identified such as library access out of hours. He was advised that it had not been considered appropriate at this time for Henley.

All County Councillors have been given a budget of £15,000 for a Councillor Scheme, and will be inviting HTC to submit ideas for match funding.

When questioned about the repairs needed to the riverside, Councillor Gawrysiak advised that the cost of the repairs from three years ago would be in the region of £70,000. It was agreed then that this was not economically viable but this is now being looked at again and a report will come back from Keith Stenning to Councillor Gawrysiak.

It was noted that planning permission has now been received for the repair works on the bridge. Henley Bridge is listed and any repairs must be approved by Historic England. This repair is now weather dependant as it has to be fixed using Lime Mortar which can only be used at a temperature above 3 degrees.

93. FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Members received and noted a report from the Mayor.

It was noted that the Cricket Club are doing an enormous amount of fundraising this year and intend to pay back their loan early this year. They have a Golf Day on 10 May.

It was also noted that the Air Cadets were in new Green uniforms brought by a grant from HTC.

94. MAYOR'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS

Members received and noted the Civic Engagements from the Mayor 2017-2018 from 27 December 2017 – 12 February 2018 and the following observations were made:

- 4 January, Deputy Mayor attended the Henley Youth Festival launch
- 6 January Marshalled the Park Run at 9am.
- 27 January Councillor Julian Brooks attended the Local Choirs Concert on behalf of Mayor.
- 2 February rehearsal Kenton Theatre 3.30 pm – Late.
- 2 February Deputy Mayor attended Sea Cadets Annual Prize Giving.

It was RESOLVED

that the list of Mayors Civic Engagements for the period 27 December 2017 – 12 February 2018 be received and noted.

95. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9 January and 30 January 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 153. HOUSING NUMBERS FOR HENLEY IN THE EMERGING LOCAL PLAN

- Change names of Councillors to read Members.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committees held on 9 January and 30 January 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Town and Community Committee held on 30 January 2018 were before the Council.

- A member to be added to the attendance list.
- The Mayor left the meeting until she was able to stop coughing not to attend a mayoral appointment and returned after approximately five minutes.

Minute 92. POLICE

- A. letter of thanks from the Town Clerk to be sent to the Commissioner.

Minute 99. NETWORK RAIL / GWR RAIL NETWORK CONSULTATION

- Delegated powers given to Town and Community to respond to the Consultation following the meeting on 20 February.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town & Community Committee held on 30 January 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 16 January 2018 were before the Council.

- A member to be added to the attendance in the audience.

Minute 69. MAKINS RECREATION GROUND – PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

- A member reported that she was delighted that HRG are continuing the Conservative initiative to revamp both Freemans & Makins Recreation areas, and stressed the need to apply for grant funding..
- Delegated Powers to be given to Recreation and Amenities to finalise this project and allow for a start in May and completion in June.

Minute 72. CONFIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S TREE STOCK

- A complete picture including all figures of Reading Borough Council's tree survey management is to be brought to the next meeting of Recreation and Amenities – or as soon as the work is done.
- As this is a considerable amount of money, consideration should be given to putting this project out to tender.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 16 January 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be received, approved and adopted.

The Minutes of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 23 January 2018 were before the Council.

Minute 78. PROGRESS REPORT- COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Meeting is taking place on Thursday 15 February with Kester George and Tony Wright from Harpsden. Councillor Gawrysiak to substitute for Councillor Arlett.
- Boundary review in hand with SODC.

Minute 80. TREE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

- Clarity required on exactly what we would be paying Reading Borough Council for and how much.

It was RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Strategy and Management Committee held on 23 January 2018 and the recommendations contained therein be received, approved and adopted.

96. MEETING AT SODC TO DISCUSS THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ON 26 JANUARY 2018

Members received and considered the notes of a meeting at SODC held to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and made the following observations:

- The Town Clerk was present at the meeting and should be added to the notes.
- The notes should ideally have been presented at the next Neighbourhood Plan meeting but at the request of a member they were put on the first available meeting.
- The meeting was meeting was to discuss the process of revising the Neighbourhood Plan – the detail such as affordable housing was not appropriate for this meeting.

It was RESOLVED

that the notes be noted.

97. TOWN MEDAL 2018

Members consider whether the Town Council wished to invite nominations for 2018 and whether they wished the awards to be made at the Annual Town Meeting on 05 April 2018 or at a separate ceremony.

It was RESOLVED

that members of the public should be encouraged to make nominations through a Town Councillor. Any suitable candidates nominated should then be discussed / considered in the confidential section of the next Full Council meeting on 27 March 2018 ahead of an award ceremony to be arranged before the Annual Meeting on 14 May 2018.

98. FUTURE OF THE HENLEY MAGAZINE

Members considered a report regarding the future format and contents of the magazine.

It was **RESOLVED**

that an item should be placed on the next Town and Community on 3 April to discuss further how this Council would like move forward in the future, and

that two more issues be produced in the existing format at a cost of £1600 each.

99. PROPOSED DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2018-2019 CIVIC YEAR

Members had before them a list of proposed dates for meetings in the 2018-19 Civic Year.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the date of the Christmas Festival be reconsidered and discussions held with traders as to their preferred date as a couple of Members felt that it was too early on the last Friday in November;

that an item be put on the next Events Committee agenda to further discuss the Christmas Festival date;

that the dates of Easter 2019 be checked to make sure they do not clash with the Annual Town Meeting.

100. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND 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 publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

101. ITEM RELATING TO THE LEGAL AND HR MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2018

Nt/jw

Chairman