

Minutes of Parish Assemblies - Monday 8th April 2019

Councillors Present:

Elaine Field, Peter Crathorne, Peter Cornford, Sally Harfield, Marijana Bainbridge, John Garner, David Broadbent, David Tomlinson

Apologies:

Cllrs Bill Leech, Mike Wilmott, Liz Jackson, Jane Bridges

Members of the Audience:

There were 16 residents present.

Organisations to have a stall:

The Guild Hall, The Heritage Centre, SCAN, Neighbourhood Watch, Christmas Lights, Library, The Hub, Henley in Bloom

Beaudesert Assembly

Last year's minutes were approved and proposed by Norman Kench and seconded by Jan Crathorne as being a true reflection of the meeting. This was put to the vote which was unanimous.

No further business was transacted for Beaudesert and the meeting ended.

Parking Report - Councillor Peter Cornford

See attached Report.

Questions asked:

Resident - For volunteers that do a shift at the Heritage Centre/Library etc, can they get free parking otherwise the parking charges may put people off volunteering? Peter replied that the organisations would need to have a meeting with the JPC but he thought a similar idea of the tablet in the Medical centre whereby people put in their details and could then get free parking could apply.

Eric Roy - Has the property i.e. the car parks, been surveyed? What maintenance costs would there be to the town? Peter replied that surveys have been carried out and there would be NO cost to the people of Beaudesert and Henley, of which he guaranteed.

Roger Hubbocks - How does parking work for people visiting the Medical Centre? Peter replied that there would be a tablet inside the Medical centre that people would enter their car details and these would go through electronically to the parking attendants who would see that the car was visiting the Medical centre then when the car left the Medical Centre, there would be no charge.

Councillor Stephen Thirlwell - Stratford District Council

See attached Report.

Questions asked:

David Broadbent - Spoke about the letter the residents had received from SDC regarding the Community Governance Review - Said it was very unclear IF you have any comments, people perceived that if they didn't, they didn't need to write in. Stephen replied that it was a standard letter in the process. David said the JPC should contest the decision. Roger Hubbocks added that IF meant either way, for or against the process and IF people had any comments, they should have used the opportunity to put their feelings forward. He then thanked Councillor Thirlwell for all his work for the town. Jan Crathorne added that she was ambivalent to a Town Council but did think the Mayor and Court Leet could work side by side as it does in Alcester. Carsina Goodman added that the Court Leet should not be replaced by a Mayor as they had performed ceremonial duties in the town since the 12th Century. Peter Crathorne thanked Councillor Thirlwell for all his hard work on behalf of the town for the past 12 years and a resolution was passed to thank him formally.

Councillor Peter Crathorne - Beaudesert & Henley JPC

It was stated that residents had been able to see monthly reports in Henley Focus and Henley News on all aspects of the parish council's activities. Therefore, no formal report was presented. Councillors who were present at the meeting would do their best to answer any questions from residents on any matter of parish business.

Questions asked:

Les Goodman asked why the grass cutting had not been carried out in March and April as Warwick Road, in particular, was starting to look very untidy. Was the current contractor doing it before the new tender? Peter replied that he would look into it.

Graham Smith - High Bailiff of the Court Leet

Since November 2017, he had been learning the role and had represented Henley in many ways already, opening new businesses in the town, chairing meetings and hosting a civic event. He had already attended 80 events. He was finding it a lot of work but also very rewarding. He praised the many volunteers in the town for being so dedicated and continuing the good work in the town. He also thanked the British Legion for their very successful Armistice Day event. He went on to say that currently the members of the Court are the trustees for the Guild Hall and Gardens but would change in the very near future to become a Charity Incorporated Trust, which meant that only 12 members would form the trust. There had also been a change in the Lord of the Manor, which was now David Lodder, who had been a steward for the past 30 years. He then went on to report the forthcoming events the Court Leet would be involved with:

23rd April - 1066 Bikers to visit Henley

27th April - Court Leet to take part in the Shakespeare Birthday parade in Stratford

29th April - ARTS4ALL begins and runs through to 5th May

7th May - Court Leet to visit hostelryes in Henley to sample their ales

19th May - Civic Service in St Johns at 10.00 am jointly hosted by Court Leet and JPC

1st July - Court Leet Day

All proceeds from these events would go the chosen charity of Myton Hospice, for which they had already raised £1000. He then requested that anyone interested in joining the Court Leet could become a Juror in November and would be very warmly welcomed.

Sophie Kirkwood-Horne and 4 representatives from The Hub at Henley

Each young person spoke about their experiences of going to The Hub and why they enjoyed going there. This ranged from it being fun, a fun place to hang out with their friends, they enjoyed the creative activities and they like the fact that every week was different.

David Jackson - Henley War Memorial Trust

He spoke about the fact that the War Memorial Trust looks after some community assets and the sporting facilities. He spoke about the new ARC project in delivering new changing rooms, facilities and a new scout hut but explained that this had a £300,000 price tag. They had already raised over £100,000 towards the project but needed to raise more awareness around this to ensure the funding came in quickly.

Questions asked:

Alistair Price asked why there would be a bar there as he did not feel that it was appropriate. David replied that there was already a bar there which was well used and that when asked, people wanted to keep a bar area there.

David Jackson - Neighbourhood Plan

SDC had approved the draft of the plan that day (8th April 2019). He then said they would be given some questions about the plan for clarification and that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would meet to discuss and report back to SDC. There would then be another town meeting and eventually a referendum to vote in the plan, which needed a majority to carry it. Councillor Thirlwell interjected and said that it also needs to go before the Planning Inspector.

Questions asked:

Sheila Roy - Requested that the name of the Jubilee Park be put into the plan as it was still reported as Chingley Bank Park, which doesn't exist. David replied that he thought it had been amended but he would ensure it got changed.

Reports from Community Organisations:

Rachel Sykes-Tucker - The Hub at Henley

Rachel spoke about the different groups that use the Hub, including the Youth Club, that had been met earlier, Hubba-Bubbas, an informal session for parents and children and the Thursday Club for over 60s. The venue could also be used as a party venue and had recently been home to language and Shakespeare classes.

Ginny Mattheou - Henley in Bloom

Ginny showed some photos to demonstrate this year's colour theme. They have very few volunteers and would like some new people to join. Through grants and fundraising, they were staying afloat but as the water bowser was not a viable

option any more, the yearly contract for watering would cost £3000 a year, which was a lot of money to raise. She asked everybody to enjoy the display this year.

Elaine Field - Bi-Monthly Litter Pick

Last year, litter picks had been monthly from April to the end of the year. As the new year began, the town was looking better, so picks moved to bi-monthly. Most of the rubbish collected is found at the train station. Last pick, 10 buckets of rubbish were collected from the verges of the M40 slip-road, as it felt that this was an entry point for the town and should be kept tidy.

Les Goodman - Christmas Lights Committee

This year the control gear in the lampposts needs to be replaced along with more plugs and sockets which is going to cost between £3500-£4000 so the Committee were looking at ways in which to raise the funds. The switch-on for 2019 would be Saturday 7th December, starting with carols at 5.00. The switch-on can be a health and safety problem with the huge numbers of people attending and needs 10-12 stewards on site to maintain this. They are looking for new stewards to close the roads this year.

Jonathan Dovey - Heritage Centre

Explained that it was a museum of Henley heritage. It was going into its 22nd year of being open and had opened its doors for the first time this year, last week. It is led by a team of volunteers, each doing a 2 hour shift per fortnight and they are always on the look-out for new volunteers. He urged everybody to visit this fantastic resource if they had not done so already. It is open between April-September each year from Tuesday through to Saturday. In September, they will be taking part in a national event called Open Heritage Day and he requested that people keep an eye out for further information.

Katy Steele - Henley Community Library

See attached Report.

Henley Flower Club

Peter Crathorne spoke about this organisation on behalf of Annette Walker. He showed some photos of displays the Flower Club had been involved with and reminded people that they meet in the Baptist Church Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Armistice Day

Peter Crathorne showed some photos of the event taken by Steve Young. He added that the work by the British Legion was excellent. He thanked them on behalf of the town. Sheila Roy thanked Les Goodman for organising the event.

Penny Stott - Henley Badminton Club

This club runs between September and April each year in The Memorial Hall on a Friday and Sunday evening between 8-10 pm. They play a social standard of badminton and are a friendly bunch and are always keen to recruit new members.

Penny Stott - Ullenhall and Henley Gardening Club

This club meets in the Baptist Church Hall on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7.45 pm. They have speakers attend the meeting between 6-7 times a year and they visit gardens around the country on a regular basis. They currently have around 50 members. They are going on a coach holiday in September in partnership with the Wildlife Society.

Resolution forwarded by Peter Crathorne to thank all the volunteers in the town.

Open Forum

No additional items to be discussed.

Henley Assembly

Last year's minutes were approved and proposed by Jem Jones and seconded by Robin Rumbles as being a true reflection of the meeting. This was put to the vote which was unanimous.

Robin Rumbles gave thanks to the JPC for the last 4 years.

No further business was transacted for Henley and the meeting ended.

Meeting closed at 8.17 pm.