



The Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council

Working for the Benefit of the Residents of Henley-in-Arden

Clerk: Ray Evans: clerk@henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk

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IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE A HARD COPY OF THE AGENDA OR MINUTES FOLLOWING THE JPC MEETING AND DOESN'T HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK ON 01564 637 607 TO REQUEST A COPY.

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council that took place on Wednesday 5th February at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Hall, Station Road, Henley-in-Arden.

In Attendance: 16 members of the public.

Photographing, reporting, recording, filming or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting may occur and therefore all persons participating in the meeting should be aware that such recording, reporting or filming may take place. Members of the public attending the meeting (but are not participating in the meeting) who do not wish to be filmed or photographed in the meeting must state this at the start of the meeting.

The Chairman requests all mobile phones are switched to silent mode.

Public Participation Session

A Parishioner queried whether the Precept request will create a surplus or shortfall on the 2020-2021 spending power of the JPC. The Chair responded by saying that the JPC cannot judge the future accurately but sincerely hoped that there would not be a shortfall. Mrs Penny Stott requested the Chair that she speak on behalf of the HUB trustees, The Chair granted her request. She began by saying that an arrangement was reached in 2017 on the budget between the JPC and residents which effectively placed an additional levy of thirty-one pence per household [£33,000.00 on the request] which would be directed to funding the Library and HUB. She went on to say that both were in difficulty with core costs. The HUB in particular had needs to fund specialised staff to counsel the younger element of the HUB where failure by their parents or the school was evident. Cllr Field stated that the High School were interested in taking on the HUB. Cllr Duffin spoke about the HUB being not just a building but more importantly recognised for its activities. Mrs Stott went into further detail about the facilities for counselling, the Chair questioned how many children actually attended the sessions provided and was advised that initially up to forty students attended at 15.10 hours, [After school day] the figure reducing as they left to go home, other events include two youth club evenings where numbers were variable. Cllr Field pointed out to Mrs Stott that her earlier statement about agreement with the JPC and residents, was based on one meeting where forty residents only were present and that thirty-seven of those voted in favour of the motion, and that did not represent the agreement of the whole community. Several residents then questioned Mrs Stott on the support given by the parents of those children attending the HUB asking what input they provided. Cllr Broadbent commented that this was not relevant as poor parenting was a fact of life, and the HUB should be given the right to help in this. A resident then reported that she was connected with Henley High School and adamantly objected to Mrs Stott's statement, saying that the school did have counselling in place for children seeking personal advice. Cllr Duffin remarked that she was certain that a number of the children did not have trust in the advice forthcoming from staff of the school, regarded them as the *establishment* and were not comfortable about approaching them, but tended to be more open about their problems with the HUB specialists. A resident then asked about the JPC procedural approach to the grant applications and whether the public might have more say in the process. The Chair explained that there was a very fair process where each applicant had the opportunity to meet with a panel specifically tasked with listening and taking full account of their needs and then assessing just what support the JPC could offer. Several residents asked whether the application form would be amended, the Chair commented that the issue

would be deferred until the next application period in 2021. A resident queried with Mrs Stott if she thought the loss of the HUB would result in more vandalism in the town, but was interrupted by another resident who asked that Cllr Duffin tell the assembled what her career entailed, she replied *Prison Governor*, he went on to say that as a Trustee of the HUB, might she not be in conflict with the discussion, the Chair brought the public session to an end.

Pause for a few members to allow members of the public to leave the meeting if they wish to do so.

1 Apologies for absence and acceptance of apologies

No apologies were received.

2 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr V Hubbocks declared an interest in the Christmas lights team, the Evergreens and SCAN. Cllr Bainbridge the Memorial Hall, Cllr Harfield, Henley in Bloom, Cllr Broadbent, the HWMT Sports Ground along with Cllr Harfield, Cllr Duffin, the HUB, and finally Cllr R Hubbocks, SCAN. All subsequently left the room when their interest was discussed.

3 To discuss grant awards and consider amendments to the existing Grant Form.

The Chair addressed the Council and residents, declaring that any discussions regarding amendments to the existing application form would not be conducted and that any such amendments would need to be discussed and implemented for the 2020-2021 grant applications notice. He then went on to introduce Cllr A Okey who would give a full appraisal of the selection and award process. The salient points of her address form a support document, reference JPCSD_2020_0001, this can be found in the minutes box on the JPC website. A vote was taken by the JPC on the decisions listed in the support document, this is recorded as follows.

Voting

SCAN

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote barring those with interests who had left the room, was unanimous.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote barring those with interests who had left the room, was unanimous.

EVERGREENS

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote barring those with interests who had left the room, was unanimous.

DEMENTIA CAFÉ

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote was unanimous.

PARISH CHURCHES OF HENLEY

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, Cllr Duffin abstained, otherwise the vote was unanimous.

GUILD HALL TRUST. ARTS FOR ALL FESTIVAL

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote was unanimous.

HWMT MEMORIALHALL

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote barring those with interests who had left the room, was unanimous.

HENLEY HERITAGE CENTRE

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote was unanimous.

HENLEY IN BLOOM

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote was unanimous.

HENLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote barring those with interests who had left the room, was unanimous.

GUILD HALL TRUST GROUNDS

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote was unanimous.

HENLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote was unanimous.

HWMT PLAYING FIELDS & PAVILLION

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote barring those with interests who had left the room, was unanimous.

THE HUB

Council were asked to vote in favour of this decision, the vote was Cllrs Broadbent & Harfield against, Cllr Duffin, absent by way of conflict in interest, nine in favour.

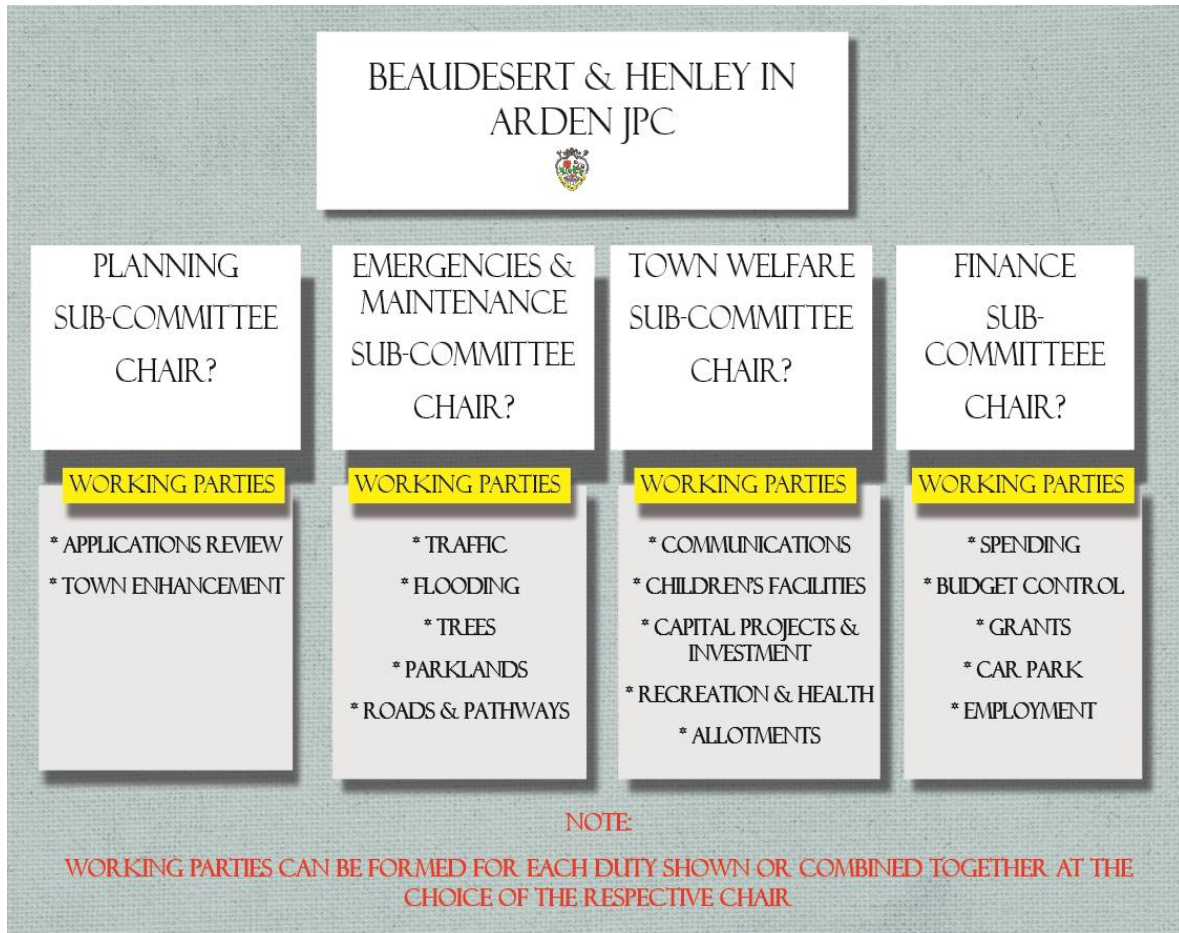
Following the Voting

Cllr D Broadbent asked what might the £25K normally awarded to the HUB would be used for, Chair responded that with the acquisition of the Croft car park and many other needy projects, would benefit. further consideration by the JPC, there would be a distribution of any funds in accordance with direction given by the new Sub-Committees. Cllr Broadbent said that he thought that grants might be better served by aligning with Section 133 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Clerk said he would draw down the text of this section and report back to the JPC.

- 4 To approve a revised infrastructure for the management of the JPC, to appoint a Chair for each of the Sub-Committees, and Chairs for each of the working parties operating within each Sub-Committee using the template following and taking account of any additions or amendments to the final nomenclature requested by Councillors.**

Cllr Ray Evans opened this item by saying that the previous JPC had built up a culture of working parties, who for the most part, were unaccountable for their activities and had created a feeling of mistrust from residents. The new infrastructure, based on FOUR Sub-Committees would ensure that all decisions would, in future be accountable and transparent.

A copy of the suggested infrastructure was circulated to Councillors and interested residents. This is as follows –



The Chair asked Council for nominations and the following were recorded –

- PLANNING – Cllrs R Hubbocks, D Broadbent, M Bainbridge.
- FINANCE -Cllr E Field
- TOWN WELFARE – Cllr A Okey
- EMERGENCIES & MAINTENANCE – Cllr J Jones

The voting, by *anonymous* ballot papers revealed the following results

- PLANNING Cllr R Hubbocks, 3, Cllr D Braodbent, 3, Cllr M Bainbridge, 6. Cllr Bainbridge elected.
- FINANCE -Cllr E Field – unanimous. Cllr Field elected.
- TOWN WELFARE – Cllr A Okey – unanimous. Cllr Okey elected.
- EMERGENCIES & MAINTENANCE – Cllr J Jones – unanimous. Cllr Jones elected.

It was therefore confirmed that the above form their various teams and working parties and that the outcome of their deliberations be posted on the agenda for the next Parish Ordinary Meeting on the 17th next.

5 To discuss appointment of Clerk and vacancy for a Councillor by way of the resignation of Ray Evans.

Cllr Evans passed his formal resignation to the Chair, who thanked him for his service to date with the JPC and announced that ex-Cllr Evans had been selected and appointed to the office of Clerk. The new Clerk thanked the Council and promised the residents he would

do his very best and that following the past Clerk, Gill Peacock would be a hard act to follow.

6 To discuss and approve Stephen Thirwell signing off the JPC accounts.

This item was subject to some misunderstanding as this request was raised in the period between the past Clerk leaving and the newly appointed Clerk starting. It was agreed that any action by Mr Thirwell may not be required but the Chair would investigate further if deemed necessary. The Chair finalised business by asking if the Councillors would be agreeable to more frequent meetings so that business can be done more hastily and effectively, all agreed, and this will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Next Finance Sub-Committee Meeting – Monday 17th February at the Memorial Hall at 6.00pm.

Next Parish Ordinary Meeting – Monday 17th February at the Memorial Hall at 7.00pm.

Signed

Date.....