



The Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council

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

Tel: 01564 637 607

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 01926 814491 TO REQUEST A COPY.

I HEREBY publish MINUTES for the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden Joint Parish Council which took place on Monday, 16th March 2020 at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Hall, Station Road, Henley-in-Arden.

Councillors present – R Hubbocks, V Hubbocks, E Field, J Jones, A Okey, K Easton, C Duffin, M Bainbridge, S Harfield, D Broadbent, and later T Woods.

Members of the public: 7

Signed:

Ray Evans
Acting Parish Clerk

Dated: 17th March 2020

Public Participation Session

Peter Crathorne, representing the HUB, requested the floor and spoke. This is a brief summary of his comments. Peter reported that the relationship between the HUB and the JPC Grant Team was good, and that the trustees of the HUB were grateful for the grant offer, though this would lead to a reduction in their activities and that they were planning fund raising, to meet an £18K shortfall in their financial budget. He referred to the meeting convened with the Grant team and commented on their observation that they reduce the paid staff at youth club sessions, he reiterated that they needed a minimum of three for the service to work properly. He doubted that the suggestion that the HUB might attract volunteers by offering a training package was viable, that there were just not the people out there to attract. In regard to H&S and police checks on his volunteers, he said this responsibility was covered by up to 25 policies which were updated every 2 years. Cllr Field pointed out that this should be annually, Rachel Woodbridge agreed and said the next review would be April. He thanked the JPC for their support in decorating the exterior of the building, that the HUB never had quite enough money for this work. He promised to raise their fund-raising profile and mentioned an extension to their 24/7 phone service, once limited to Thursday Club members, but now outreaching to the whole community. He promised he would coordinate with the campaign being mounted by Cllr Field to avoid cross over issues. He summarised saying that the HUB was now publicising their FREE ONLINE IT SUPPORT service. He thanked the JPC for their continued support but was rather deflated by the fact that there would be no more contractual arrangements with the JPC. Cllr Jones mentioned a PayBack option for decorating the exterior of the HUB building, Peter said he would like to hear more on this offer, as previous approaches by him had fallen short because of H&S issues with the height of the building.

A parishioner thanked the JPC for the work carried out on Becks Croft paving slabs, he asked if the timing sequence for pedestrian control of the pelican crossings might be shortened in favour of those crossing. Cllr Jones reported that this was very much on the E&M agenda.

1 Apologies for absence and acceptance of apologies

All present

2 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

The Council will receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If an interest becomes apparent to a member during the course of the meeting that has not been disclosed under this item, the member must immediately disclose it. Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussions and voting unless the interest is prejudicial. Dispensations received in writing to the clerk, or verbally at the meeting will be considered.

None recorded.

3 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor.

John Horner WCC

Report follows –

I hope that by the time you read this report the unwanted bollards in Langley Road will have been removed on March 14.

As I suggested last month the Council did increase the county council tax by 4%. This increase comprised a special social care levy of 2% and a general increase of 2%. Social care costs absorb 70% of the budget and must be considered the County's core business. Funding for all the other services (non-core) increasingly comes from special one-off grants from central government. For example, the highways maintenance budget has been squeezed so that road markings which should be refreshed every 5 years are now waiting 8 to 10 years.

I have been urging the Council to consider new ways of funding the "non-core" services rather than just accepting a smaller and smaller budget. I feel that there is the belief amongst members that the squeeze from social care is short term and somehow Government will magically find extra money to restore non-core services. My guess is that Government will find it easier to leave social care being funded by Council tax rather than raise income taxes and make continue the practice of additional contributions as a one-off payment when finances allow. One possible indication of the way Government thinking is developing is the restructure of Northamptonshire after social care costs drove the County Council into bankruptcy. It seems there is a plan for a county wide social care agency, and I will report more on this next month.

I have also been raising the issue of the Amazon warehouse at Redditch Eastern Gateway (Wynate Triangle) and the possibility that the HGV running goods into the warehouse might not follow the agreed traffic plan and route through Arden Division on the A4189. So, I have not made much headway in getting officers to take the risk seriously.

Reported on lack of funding for major road projects, that 70% of the budget was allocated for social care, many meetings cancelled due to HM Gov restrictions.

Matt Jennings SDC reports as follows -

Apologies - Hip Op emergency

At short notice I had to collect someone from hospital who had just had a Hip Op - I then discovered that my 'sorry I can't make it' email got held up on an email server and never arrived in time ! So, my apologies for not being at the meeting last month

Hunger Hill

There was a request for information on Hunger Hill – This is ongoing and progressing. I will advise as and when there are new developments that I can discuss in open forum. So I appreciate your patience.

Brexit

SDC are holding drop-in sessions for residents who may be affected by the UK leaving the EU. This will be at Elizabeth House between 12.30 – 6pm on Wednesday 6th May and offers free support with the EU settlement scheme application.

Self Service

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's new self-service solution for residents and businesses has received its first 1,000 hits.

Residents and businesses can now set up an account giving them 24/7 access to Council Tax, Housing Benefit and Business Rate information.

The new self-service option provides details showing payments made, payments due and letters that have been sent. There's also an option to sign up for e-billing too, with bills being emailed rather than posted out.

To register and use this new facility visit: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/mydistrict/>

Coronavirus

For the most up to date information go to [/www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) – because the situation changes so quickly any advice, we can give goes obsolete quickly.

Obviously not everyone can get online – so if you know anyone in this situation keep them informed.

There are a lot of vulnerable and older people in Henley - There is talk of 'stay at home / self-isolation' of the over 70's within weeks or sooner – So if you think this may apply to your neighbour **get their phone number now !**

Give them a regular call to see if :

- a) Do they need anything picking up from the Pharmacy ?
- b) Do they need any shopping ?
- c) Do they just a chat ?

If you are self-isolating and you delivering anything to them :

- a) knock on their door
- b) Leave the goods on the doorstep
- c) Take a step back check (1 to 2m) - It is safe to chat to them at this distance.
- d) Tell them to wash their hands after handling the goods

Now is the time to come together as a community and help others

KEEP WASHING YOUR HANDS”

There followed a short exchange between Cllr Broadbent and both Counsellors in connection with the sale of land to the north of Henley. Both promised to investigate.

- 4 Minutes of the ordinary meetings held on 17th February 2020 to be approved and signed.**
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the JPC Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th of February 2020 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. This motion was proposed by Cllr E Field and seconded by Cllr V Hubbocks and carried by all those present at the meeting.
- 5 Matters arising from the minutes of previous meetings and not on the agenda.**
There were no matters arising.
- 6 The JPC welcome new Councillor [Chair]**
Cllr R Hubbocks welcomed Jacqueline Kingsnorth as new Councillor for Henley in Arden, she signed the register and was applauded to her seat at the council meeting.
- 7 Report by the Parish Clerk – Ray Evans**
The Clerk briefly spoke of the need for a coordinated effort, led by the JPC, in order to reach out to the most vulnerable in Henley and Beaudesert in terms of provision of food and goods needed to sustain a long period of confinement. He acknowledged the campaign being mounted by the HUB and handed over to Cllr Field who expanded on the arrangements that the JPC would making. She admitted that she was not expert in this form of distribution but would lay down plans across social media and by door posted hard copy leaflets to inform all, that this would be organised by having a contact for each road and also leaflets at SCAN, Evergreen and other social meeting places. She summarised by saying she would look at Alcester's campaign and ascertain whether Henley may learn from it.

8 To note the Council’s responses to planning applications & note minutes of JPC Planning Sub-Committee

Application no.	Proposal	Address	Submitted by	Comments due by
20/00453/FUL	Proposed stable block	Buckley Green Farm, B95 5QF	Mr & Mrs Tobin	24.03.2020
19/03289/ADV	Proposed signage on the front and side elevations including a hanging sign.	127 High Street, B95 5AY	Mr P Whetton, EH Smith Limited	20.03.2020

*** 20/00453/FUL –**

All Planning Sub-Committee members voted unanimously to support this application.

*** 19/03289/ADV –**

All Planning Sub-Committee members voted unanimously to support this application.

8. Finance Sub-Committee [EF]

- **To note the Schedule of recent Payments and Bank Balances** *(previously circulated)*
Cllr Field reported to Council that the financial report and outstanding invoices had been duly noted in the earlier Finance Sub-Committee meeting.
- **To discuss and if appropriate ratify the JPC Budget for 2020-2021** *(supporting document)*
Cllr Field moved to ratify the proposal that the budget was in accordance with the Council’s email agreement, this was seconded by Cllr Jones and carried unanimously.

9. Grants Committee declaration of 2020-2021 awards, and if appropriate, ratify payment of awards listed therein. [AO]

Full report given by Cllr Okey; the following comments were part of her presentation.

UPDATE OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

After reviewing the grant applications this year, it is apparent that many of our local charities have become to expect an annual grant from the JPC.

After closer examination of some of the applications it is clear that some of these grant requests cannot be justified. We must remember a grant should be used to support a group NOT to fund it in its entirety or to top up its cash reserves. Also grants should only be provided where there is a clear demonstration on how the money will be used to grow the charity and help it become a viable cause in its own right. With that in mind the Grant Application team who conducted the interviews have made the following proposals.

SCAN - £200

20 to 30 Residents attend a network group every two months.

Speakers from the Doctors surgery, District Council, Benefits office and wheelchair dancing. Own fundraising mainly through a stall at the Court Leet Day

GENERAL CONSENSUS. A WELL ATTENDED LOCAL NETWORK GROUP FOR OUR ELDERLY RESIDENTS

DECISION FROM COUNCIL **RECOMMENDED NO GRANT** TO BE AWARDED THIS YEAR DUE TO BALANCE IN BANK RESERVES AND RELATIVELY LOW RUNNING COSTS.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – two Councillors had interests otherwise council voted in favour if the motions.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - £200

34 Members in total with about 20 attending a meeting every 3 months. PCSO also invited to attend. 2 members also attend the county meetings in Stratford and report back. Own fundraising via a stall at the Court Leet Day. Advertised in Parish newsletter.

GENERAL CONSENSUS. A NECESSARY & IMPORTANT GROUP FOR OUR TOWN.

Accounts show a bank balance of £594.18. Grant of £150 in 2016, £150 in 2017, £175 in 2018

DECISION OF COUNCIL. DUE TO THE RESERVE HELD IN BANK ACCOUNT AND THE NOMINAL ANNUAL COSTS IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT JPC WILL NOT SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION THIS YEAR.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – council voted unanimously.

EVERGREENS - £300

Approximately 60 members who meet 1st Wednesday of each month in the Baptist Church Hall.

GENERAL CONSENSUS. A well-attended community group offering support to our elderly and potentially lonely residents. Supported by Johnson's coaches who funded last year's Christmas Dinner.

DECISION OF COUNCIL - DUE TO RESERVE HELD IN BANK ACCOUNT, AND THANKS TO THE GREAT FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES IT IS CONSIDERED THAT NO JUSTIFICATION FOR GRANT THIS YEAR

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – council voted unanimously.

DEMENTIA CAFÉ- £500

Unable to attend meeting but full report submitted and circulated to all Councillors.

A new group which needs support in its first year. Expectation is that the grant will be less next year due to own fundraising and from fees charged over the year.

DECISION FROM COUNCIL - APPEARS TO BE A REASONABLE REQUEST FOR A NEW START UP GROUP HELPING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS IN OUR TOWN. JPC TO WORK WITH DEMENTIA CAFE TO FIND AN APPROPRIATE MEETING ROOM IN HENLEY RATHER THAN ULLENHALL IF POSSIBLE. PROPOSE FULL GRANT SUBJECT TO A WRITTEN PROPOSAL FROM THE TRUSTEES STATING HOW THEY INTEND TO PROMOTE AND GROW THE ATTENDEES FROM HENLEY GOING FORWARD

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – council voted unanimously.

PARISH CHURCHES OF HENLEY - £855

Grant request to illuminate St Johns Church Tower £250 and to prepare and deliver monthly newsletter to every house in Henley. £805. (actual cost £1210)

DECISION FROM COUNCIL To Grant full amount. This newsletter covers all residents and provides valuable information to residents who do not have access to online. Also promotes the local community groups.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – one abstention otherwise the council voted in favour of the motion.

GUILD HALL TRUST. ARTS FOR ALL- £1250

A passionate and inspiring pitch made by Laurence Marshall. Arts for All and Jazz festival now in its 5th year and numbers growing year on year. Also, schools are now involved in the event. Grant money to fund promotion, leaflets and publicity. Also provides an amount of tickets which can be purchased at a reduced rate where necessary.

DECISION FROM COUNCIL - GENERAL CONSENSUS. FULL GRANT TO BE SUPPORTED THIS YEAR GIVEN THE BENEFIT AND INCLUSION OF RESIDENTS AND SCHOOLS AND ALSO PROMOTION AND EXTRA BUSINESS BROUGHT INTO OUR TOWN.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – one abstention otherwise the council voted in favour of the motion.

HWMT MEMORIAL HALL - £2000

Duncan explained grant requested to contribute towards solar panels and fluorescent lighting Total cost would be £9500 with payback within 5.2 years. Energy costs are currently the highest cost to the hall at approximately £6k per annum. The hall operates as a business with income last year of £21k and costs of £15776. The request is for £2k this year and another 2k the following year. The remainder of the work being funded from their own generated income and fund raising.

DECISION FROM COUNCIL. Full Grant to be supported. High use of hall for the residents of Henley. A sustainable project which will payback for itself within 5 years and with energy costs only on the increase this is a sensible and pro climate solution to the ever-rising energy costs.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – one Councillor had an interest otherwise the council voted in favour of the motion.

HENLEY HERITAGE CENTRE - £2500

Grant requested to create a heritage trail around Henley. No representation made at the interviews so difficult to conclude at this stage. Although the idea is considered to be good and to be a benefit to the whole town and our local businesses.

DECISION FROM COUNCIL -: Following further information supplied from the GHT it was decided that due to the plans still being in their infancy and given that no quotes or date for work to commence is forthcoming at present. Decision made to not provide funds from Grant at this time. However, we very much look forward to supporting the Heritage Centre with this proposal moving forward.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – the council voted unanimously

HENLEY IN BLOOM - £2500

Interview attended by Sheila. According to the accounts HIB purchases on average 4000 plants per year at a cost of approximately £4600 last year they spent an additional £2000 on new troughs and £3400 on watering. In addition to grants of £2160 last year they also received sponsorship of £2904 and donations of £4298. Along with additional fundraising this brought in an income of £10784 with costs of £10675.

2019 show a bank balance of £14792. In addition, Go Fund Me raised £1070 which HIB has yet to receive or put in their balance sheets.

COUNCIL DECISION. This is a great community practice, however we cannot see justification to fund HIB with a grant of £2500 this year, due to the high cash reserves held in the bank. Happy to support in future years if funding proved to be necessary

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – two Councillors had an interest otherwise the council voted in favour of the motion.

HENLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - £3500

Brian Westmacott has only recently taken over the running of this committee. Brian and his team have demonstrated the many fund-raising activities they have planned to support this great event for our town. A Just Giving page last year raised £1320.

This year the grant request is mainly intended to be used for the many repairs needed to the existing lights. They are now at an age where wear and tear is taking its toll and the very wet weather, we experienced this year has seriously affected the lights.

COUNCIL DECISION This is a great town tradition that we must strive to support as a community to enable it to be continued year on year.

Proposal to pay the full amount of grant requested subject to the committee reporting the true cost to the town residents following receipt of tenders this year.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – the council voted unanimously

THE GUILD HALL TRUST GARDENS - £6900

The Jubilee gardens have in the past been tended for by volunteers of the town. Unfortunately, this volunteer group has now ceased and the GHT have now been handed back the responsibility to maintain the grounds.

The JPC met with the Trustees of GHT. We have also been instrumental assisting the Trust with gaining estimates / quotations for the works required.

Following several meetings, it has been decided that a local contractor will take over the contractual maintenance of the gardens and general repairs as and when required. In addition, the Community Payback Team will be scheduled to assist with general gardening duties as agreed directly with the contractor. This means that the financial support required to maintain the gardens has been dramatically reduced

DECISION A grant to be awarded of £4500 to cover costs for the first year. Recommendation that GHT hold a fundraising activity to try to secure at least 50% to cover next year's costs, thus reducing the reliance on the JPC.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – the council voted unanimously

SPORTS PAVILION & PLAYING FIELDS - £7000

Again, an on-site meeting has been held with the Trustees to understand the need for support of this facility. The main concern is currently the pavilion which requires a new roof. This is what the Trustees will use the grant money to put towards total cost which is estimated to be in the region of £13k.

DECISION A grant to be awarded for £7000 to contribute to the cost of roof repairs of the Pavilion. This decision was opposed by Cllr Broadbent due to the reasons given for the use of the grant. Decision postponed subject to further clarification from the Trustees and will be brought to the next JPC meeting for a final decision

HENLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY - £7000

Full report provided from the trustees and circulated to all Councillors.

Detailed report showing monthly visitors has been provided. The library is actively involved with the local schools and nurseries and able to demonstrate monthly attendances. It also provides a summer project for local primary school children. Considered to be an essential addition to our community. Profit last year £1787 and reserve at the bank £4300.

DECISION to support the library with the full amount of grant requested £7000 as per reasons stated on original recommendation. No salaries are involved, the grant has reduced from last year, strong fund-raising activities and plans a foot to potentially find a new home for the library in the future.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – the council voted unanimously

THE HUB - £28000

Due to lack of data being made available by The Hub we have scrutinised the Charity Commission Report in order to base our recommendation for the amount of grant to be awarded. This report provided clear evidence of attendance and associated costs set up to 2017, but since then, costs have been amalgamated so as to make it difficult to apportion any particular cost to any particular session or event.

Cllr Easton attended The Hub on Thursday and was only given access to 2019 attendance figures. The JPC therefore have still not been provided with the registered attendees for each activity for 2020.

The JPC have sought guidance from both SDC and WALC and were provided with the following advice: "any form of contractual engagement between a Council and a social group gave rise to potential ethical challenges and allegations of a breach in protocol and should be avoided. However, the JPC have the General Power of Competence and are free to fund freely as any individual may, provided it is within legal boundaries. For this reason, the JPC cannot justify setting up a separate contract as requested by The Hub and the grant will be awarded on the same basis as all other applications.

Peter Crathorne raised an objection to the Hub being classed as a "social group". Cllr Okey acknowledged his objection but pointed out that we had not referred to the Hub in that format and the reference was taken from comments the JPC received from SDC and WALC as a general term.

It has to be noted that The Hub has received the following grants from the JPC

2014	£1500
2015	£1500
2016	£8500
2017	£25000
2018	£25000
2019	£25000
2020	£28000. (Requested)

No extra activities have been added to The Hub's activities following the significant increase in council financial support. In fact since the increase in 2017 The Hub has reduced its Youth Clubs down from 3 sessions to 2, replacing it with one extra after school coffee session. 3 other sessions were lost and not replaced.

We acknowledge the signed petition, which was presented to the JPC, however, many of the signatures are under the age of 16 and many more have since made it known to several Councillors that they were not given the full facts before being asked to sign the petition. That said, we acknowledge what great work both the Trustees and the Hub supporters and volunteers continue to do for the benefit of our town.

In deciding on the amount of grant that should be awarded to The Hub we have reviewed each activity individually.

The Thursday Club

A hugely popular activity which allows for 25 of our elderly residents to attend The Hub once a week for social interaction.

We are led to believe that this session is volunteer led and that attendees pay £3 per session to attend. We support this approach and believe that the £75 The Hub receives in weekly subscriptions more than covers the cost for the rent of the facilities. We would like to see this session extended to twice weekly in order that more of our town residents could benefit from this great service.

The balance sheet provided shows a shortfall of circa £700 between income and costs of running this club

DECISION - As this is self-funding and volunteer led, The JPC would like to propose a grant for the Thursday club of £1000 to help cover the shortfall in costs and to help fund any additional activities they would choose to carry out throughout the year.

Hub a Bubbas

From the figures available we believe at best this group supports circa 3/4 families. The sessions are managed by limited paid staff from The Hub. As a council we struggle to see why this activity requires paid staff.

Within the town we have another Mother and baby group, Jolly Tots, this group meets at the junior school every week and has an attendance of a health visitor every fortnight. This group is volunteer led and has requested no grant from the council.

Recommendation - We consider this group a duplication and if the Trustees continue to run this group with a paid member of staff, we cannot see how this group can be financially sustainable and viable.

DECISION After holding a meeting with one of the Trustee's and Centre manager of the hub and hearing their rationale for the need of this group the JPC are prepared to grant £500 to support the session for this year. This will provide The Hub with time to review how they can run this session moving forward.

Youth Club

As mentioned previously this activity has been reduced from 3 sessions a week to 2. According to the figures reported at best these groups appear to average 6 children per session. However, the registers for 2019 show 36 sessions with a total of 376 attendees averaging 10 children per session.

The JPC is at a loss as to why figures for 2020 have not been made available for viewing? We can see no justification for funding 3 paid youth workers for such a small group of children. Even if the numbers increased significantly, we can only see the need to fund one paid youth worker for each activity, with the rest of the support coming from volunteers. We base this opinion after visiting Wooten Wawen which runs a youth club every Tuesday and has an average of 15 children attend. This is run purely by two volunteers and has been successfully running for over 30 years. The main difference appears to be the age group. WW Year 6 onwards, The Hub aged 8 - 16.

We understand that the Trustees feel the need for a trained youth worker, and we are happy to support one paid work per session.

DECISION - Subject to The Hub providing the JPC with a report every 3 months showing number of attendees and subs collected for each youth club session, we propose to support this activity with a grant of £3800.

COFFEE BAR

We consider this to be an excellent facility for the young people of our town. We do not however believe that there is enough justification to support a paid worker to be present at these sessions.

Nicky Thompson, Head of Pastoral care at Henley in Arden High School, has provided the JPC with a very detailed report showing how they successfully manage the vulnerable children of our town with a very organised and well documented pastor care led team at the school. Nicky also documents how the school curriculum and community work has a very proactive approach with drives on Mental Health, kindness, character, information on healthy relationships, including education on Sex, Drugs, Social Media etc.

The High School pastoral care consists of a Team leader, 3 progress leaders, 4 pastoral managers, a life space mental health mentor, a compass mentor and an attendance officer.

The school also offers a confidential email where help can be sought. The school reports that it has had very few referral interactions with The Hub in the last four years.

For the above reasons we believe that our town has adequate support for its youth and vulnerable children. We do not therefore see the need to provide for paid staff at this activity.

The JPC do however think that this is a very useful initiative to keep our children safe after school and to provide them with refreshments before dinner time. We would question whether this activity needs to be free or should the children who attend pay a small fee for the service to cover some of the costs? This has been discussed in our joint meeting with The Hub.

DECISION, we would like to continue to support this activity, ran by volunteers and would like The Hub to ask for a small contribution by the children attending. To this end we would be prepared to provide a grant of £3000 to cover associated costs of this session. Caveat of grant:

GENERAL UPKEEP

DECISION - In addition to the above recommendations, we feel that The Hub building is unsightly and is not the best advert for our town. We therefore propose to grant a further £2200 for the uplift renovation of the building. We are also happy to help The Hub with the redecoration of the building through use of the Community Pay Back Workers.

A discussion was also held whereby the JPC have offered support to assist with the training of volunteers for The Hub Sessions. We are also hopeful that given the number of residents who signed the petition to save the Hub a number of them will now come forward and show their support to the Trustees with the offer of volunteer assistance.

Chairman asked for a vote in favour of this motion – one Councillor abstained, two objected, otherwise voted in favour carrying the motion.

In addition to any caveats placed against the Grant applications. All Grants in excess of £1500 awarded to be paid in two instalments across the year. Any payments after the initial payment, will be subject to the conditions applied above and a financial review at 6 months.

- 10. Beaudesert & Henley in Arden NDP - update. [DB & RR]**

Mr Robin Rumbles ask for the floor and reported on his visit to SDC offices to discuss progress with Louisa Slator, where clarification was sought and given. In summary small amendments were needed in the publication before a full re-consultation, he asked if members of the JPC might comment on any changes by week ending 20th next. He and Cllr Broadbent will then consult with the Clerk on distribution, publicity and town consultation moving forward to adoption in due course. Note: A notice by Tanworth Parish Council was sighted as a possible template for Henley.
- 11. Update on WASPS/WCG acquisition. [Chair]**

Cllr Roger Hubbocks reported that the initial application lodged by WASPS had been rejected as carrying insufficient or incorrect data and been returned to them for re-application. He said the JPC would respond when the application was lodged with the Planning Sub-Committee.
- 12. Croft Car Park update. [Chair]**

Cllr Roger Hubbocks reported that a whole raft of upgrades, signage and crash barrier inserts were planned for the car park over the coming months and that more information will be posted on the JPC website.
- 13. Henley railway station buildings adoption update. [CD]**

Cllr C Duffin reported on a very successful meeting with WMR and that news had been received that the Clerk's request for adoption of the platform areas had been successful. She mentioned that approaches would be made to Henley business concerns to sponsor planters and posters aimed at making the otherwise dull façade more cheerful and inviting for visitors to Henley. She summarised by saying that the route from Stratford to Birmingham would be named the Shakespeare Line operating soon on a frequency of every 30 minutes instead of an hourly service – all good news. The Clerk added that despite several attempts to contact the Officer handling car parking at the station had failed but that he would continue to seek a report on what must be a poor return for WMR in parking fees.
- 14. VE celebrations update. [KE]**

Cllr K Easton sadly reported that all planned celebrations for this event, in line with HM Gov guidance, had been cancelled. She went on to say that she had spoken with Mr Cox, Henley RBL, and that there was a possibility of combing the Christmas shop window competition in some way to raise funds etc. She would report back to Council as events develop.

15. **Emergencies & Maintenance Sub-Committee [JJ]**

* **Drains in Riverlands**

Cllr J Jones advised the Council that he had sought and obtained a quotation for the drain upgrade and that it was £1,000.00. The Chair of Finance SC, Cllr Field advised Council that a motion to increase emergency payments had been adopted and ratified and that the finance regulations would be amended, thus allowing Cllr Jones to proceed with this urgent work. A copy of the quotation for the drain works will be passed to the Clerk. Cllr Jones volunteered to create a form of enquiry for monitoring charges for tree care. Cllr Field mentioned that the current contractual arrangements ended in April

* **Christmas lights survey**

Cllr Jones confirmed that he would join members of the Christmas Lights group in August to survey the present lighting fittings which are thought to be in poor condition. He will report back on his findings at that time.

Cllr Jones summarised his contribution to Council by saying that the PayBack scheme continued to move on with increasing success and at one point, there were up to three work groups operating in Henley. He mentioned to Peter Crathorne [Public Arena] that help on painting the exterior of the HUB building may be an area where the PB team might be helpful.

16. **Town Welfare Sub-Committee update. [AO]**

Cllr Okey, Chair of Town Welfare, reported as follows –

KEY CONCERNS

HOW TO MAINTAIN THE HUB, WHILST MAKING IT LESS RELIANT ON JPC FUNDING
RESOLVED FOLLOWING JOINT MEETINGS AND DECISION OF GRANT COMMITTEE
TO CONTINUE TO BUILD RELATIONS BETWEEN JPC, THE HUB & THE HIGH SCHOOL

CLOSURE OF GYM AND SPORTS FACILITIES & POTENTIAL LOSS OF 3G PITCH
MEETINGS HELD WITH HSAL, SPORTS FIELD TRUSTEES & LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL
EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES OF GRANTS, COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING EFFORT &
POTENTIAL COUNCIL BORROWING TO SUPPORT ANY INITIATIVES GOING FORWARD IF
THE NEED FOR A NEW PITCH BECOMES NECESSARY

LACK OF GENERAL SPORTS FACILITIES & LIMITED SPACE FOR PASTORAL CARE AT THE
HIGH SCHOOL MEETING WITH HEAD, DEPUTY AND SCHOOL GOVERNOR. PLANS TO NOW
BE PUT INTO PLACE

RUNNING OF ALLOTMENTS & PUBLISHING OF WAITING LIST
CURRENTLY WORKING TO DETERMINE AVAILABLE PLOTS AND DEVELOP A MORE ROBUST
APPLICATION PROCESS

BETTER INTERACTION WITH DOCTORS SURGERY TO SAFEGUARD OUR MOST
VULNERABLE MEETING HELD WITH SOCIAL HEALTH CARE NURSE. PLANS NOW BEING
PUT INTO PLACE TO PROMOTE LOCAL GROUPS AND MANAGE MENTAL HEALTH
CONCERNS WITH NEW OUTDOOR INITIATIVES

PROGRESSION OF PLAYGROUND & RECREATIONAL AREAS STARTING TO PROGRESS
THIS

QUICK WINS

SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION OF RAILWAY STATION PLATFORM
NOW TO PROGRESS WITH LICENCE FOR WASTELAND & ADOPTION OF BUILDING
PLANS TO WORK WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES TO SHOWCASE THEIR BUSINESS THROUGH
PLANTING

HAPPY TO CHAT BENCH

THE GARDEN FURNITURE GARDEN CENTRE HAVE KINDLY DONATED A BENCH
DANNY NORMAN OF DANNY NORMAN PAVING IS TO DONATE THE HARD MATERIAL
REQUIRED FOR BASE

COMMUNITY PAY BACK TEAM TO PREPARE AREA FOR THE PLACEMENT OF BENCH IN
PARK NEXT TO THE DOCTORS
DOG POOP DISPENSERS
APPROVAL OBTAINED AND DISPENSERS ORDERED JUST AWAITING DELIVERY AND
PLACEMENT

- 17. Communications Sub-Committee update. [TW]**
Cllr T Woods, commented that much of her time was expended on her professional role due to the viral crisis. Plans to meet with website people had been stalled but would be re-planned and that she hoped soon her Sub-Committee would be actively networking with other sub-committee's and townfolk alike. More information will follow.
- 18. Annual Parish Assembly Meeting – 6th April 2020, discuss event structure and preparations. [EF]**
In accordance with HM Gov guidance, this meeting has been cancelled. The Clerk will post appropriate notices.
- 19. Consider Henley's involvement with the TIMEBANK project. [EF]**
A short report by Cllr Field following her conversation with Mike Spicer, TIMEBANK she reported that this is a unique service where a person with one skill, can offer time to others on their specialised service in return for a reciprocal offer from others offering their unique service. More information to follow, an invitation to Michael to speak to the JPC will be arranged.
- 20. Reports from Councillors – exchange of information only.**
- 21. Items for private session**
No items.

Next Meetings: IN ABEYANCE