

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Thursday 24th May 2007 at the Town Hall, Petersfield.

PRESENT: Mr V Clarke (Chairman), Mr R Ayer, Mr K Hick, Mr G Watkinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr P Molloy, Petersfield Herald, 0 members of the public

F 0066 **Election of Deputy Chairman**

Mr R Ayer was proposed by Mr V Clarke and seconded by Mr K Hick. As there were no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED: that Mr R Ayer be elected as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year

F 0067 **Chairman's Comments**

The Chairman had no comments

F 0068 **Apologies For Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs H Ayer.

F 0069 **Declarations Of Interest**

Mr V Clarke declared a prejudicial interest concerning Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool due to his work with the Pool's solar panel project.

Mr R Ayer declared a prejudicial interest concerning Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool due to his personal membership of the Pool Management Committee.

RESOLVED: that Standing Orders be suspended for a 5 minute period in order for members of the public to discuss matters of interest with Councillors.

As no members of the public wished to speak, the meeting was re-convened.

F 0070 **Approval Of Minutes**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2007 be approved.

F 0071

Recommendations From Other Committees**A. Grounds Committee****G 00047 A. Petersfield and District Angling Club rent review**

Members considered the annual rent review for the fishing rights at the Heath Pond, and

RECOMMENDED: that the rental for the fishing rights at Heath Pond be increased by 5%.

G 0049 Sheet Village Green - Posts around the Green

Members noted the Council's responsibility for the maintenance of the posts around the Green, although were aware that Sheet Village Association may be raising some funds towards their replacement. The Clerk reminded members that the Green is within the Conservation Area so replacement posts are likely to have to be in the same style.

RESOLVED: that the project to replace the posts be supported subject to the advice of the Maintenance Contracts Officer and the availability of funds within the budget

G 0053 Penns Farm Playing Fields - Festival of Play

Members noted that the date of the event has been altered to 25th August. After discussion, support for the event was confirmed, although volunteers for running the stall remained to be decided

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council man a stall for the Festival of Play at Penns Farm and members interested in attending to contact the Town Clerk.

G 0054 Carbon Footprint

Members considered this matter but were unsure what it would entail. The Clerk advised that it would require the Council to consider carefully the impact that all its activities and services has on the environment and seek to mitigate any adverse effects. It was recognised that this would be a long-term project.

RECOMMENDED: that the Public Halls Committee look at this matter and that Council also considers an addition to the Council Strategy Document.

B. Public Halls Committee

PH 0063 The Avenue Pavilion Proposed Baby Changing Unit

Members noted that a virement for these funds had already been identified from the lower than expected cost of sanding the Festival Hall floor. Concern was expressed over the ongoing cleanliness of the Unit with a suggestion being made that an appropriate notice be placed next to the Unit reminding users of their obligations in this respect.

RESOLVED: that a baby changing unit be purchased and installed in the Avenue Pavilion disabled toilet at a cost of £250.

PH 0065 Capital Reserves

RECOMMENDED: that the allocation of the Precepted sum of £10,000 for the current financial year be approved together with the removal of the Festival Hall floor project from the original funds allocation exercise.

F 0072 To Confirm The Town Clerk's Authorisation Of Emergency Work

The Clerk had approved emergency work within the Town and Festival Hall totalling £451.11. The work had been to board up the broken windows, replace the windows plus replace switches and fittings.

RESOLVED: that the emergency work be approved

F 0073 To Consider Membership Of The Grants Panel

Following discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED: that Councillors Mrs H Ayer, Ms M Vincent and G Watkinson be appointed to the Grants Panel with a Deputy being appointed from one of the new Councillors once the co-option process has been completed.

F 0074 To Appoint Three Members plus the Town Clerk to the Staff Panel Sub-Committee

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that Councillors K Hick, C Jenner and Ms M Vincent be appointed to the Staff Panel with the Deputy being Councillor G Watkinson

F 0075 **Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool request for the solar heating CIF grant to be used for urgent tiling repairs to the pool**

Following the declaration of prejudicial interests by two members, there were insufficient members remaining to form a quorum. The Clerk advised that he would add the item to the next Council agenda for discussion.

F 0076 **Petersfield Marketing Limited - withdrawal from organising Christmas Lights from the end of 2007**

Members received correspondence advising that the Directors and volunteers will be resigning from Petersfield Marketing Limited from the end of the 2007 season and will be handing over the accounts and itinerary of goods purchased to the Town Council to enable the illuminations to be continued into 2008. A full discussion followed with members considering the reasons why the illuminations are arranged and who benefits from them. The following points were then made:

- members were grateful to Petersfield Marketing Limited for the work they have done over the last few years in continuing with the illuminations
- members noted that Petersfield Marketing Limited received little help from certain sections of the town when arranging the display
- concern was expressed over who was liable for the remaining money owed to Blachere due for payment in March 2008

RESOLVED: that the Clerk obtain sight of the current contract with Blachere Illuminations

RECOMMENDED: that a Christmas Lights Working Party be created to consider the illuminations for 2008.

F 0077 **NALC Conference 2007 - to consider agenda motions**

Members considered this matter, noting the deadline for submission of motions would need to be the July Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED: that Council consider potential motions for the NALC National Conference

F0078 **To Consider the purchase of a Petersfield Flag for the Town Council**

Members were advised that a previous Councillor, Hugh Sandeman, had offered to purchase a flag for the town. Discussion centred on the design and appearance of the flag, and ensuring that future replacement copies would be available.

RECOMMENDED: that the offer of a town flag be accepted, with the Council purchasing two further copies for

our twinning towns. The flag to be a 1.5 yard flag made from polyester, to be double sided and printed with the design matching that on the floor of the Town Hall vestibule and produced in standard colours.

F 0079 To Consider Registering the Town Council's Title to the Greensword in The Spain

Members were reminded that the Town Council and its predecessors had maintained the greensword in The Spain since 1958. The Council's ownership of the land is believed to be supported by documents at the County Records Office.

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council pursue registering its ownership of the Greensword in The Spain with a view to registering ownership in the name of Petersfield Town Council.

F 0080 To Consider the Provision of a Bus Shelter at Broadway Park

Members noted that no written request had yet been received from the residents at Broadway Park following the verbal comment to a Councillor. It was understood that the proposed site of the bus shelter is already Highway land.

RECOMMENDED: that the Council should support in principal a request from the residents of Broadway Park for a bus shelter

RESOLVED: to evoke standing order 36m to exclude the Press and Public for the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

CONFIDENTIAL

F 0081 To receive notes of the staff panel meetings of 2nd April and 1st May 2007.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meetings of 2nd April and 1st May 2007 be received

RESOLVED: that the Swan and Grange Surgeries be appointed as medical practitioners to the Council and form part of the Town Council's future policy on staff management.

RECOMMENDED: that all future staff appointments will be based on the revised 2004 Model Contract of Employment, and the Clerk will ascertain the process to be followed for adjusting current

officers contracts to the revised 2004 Model Contract.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.56 p.m