

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

The thirty-sixth Annual Town Meeting was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield on Monday 29 March 2011 at 7 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr C Jenner (Town Mayor), Cllr P Aiston, Cllr R Ayer, Cllr V Clarke, Cllr W Organ, Cllr C Shore, Cllr Ms M Vincent and Cllr G Watkinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr J West (EHDC and HCC Councillor), Petersfield Herald and 9 members of the public

MINUTES

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Ayer, Hick, Molloy and District Cllrs Mrs Butler and Stackpoole

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 29th March 2010 be authorised to be signed as a correct record.

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor gave his report - a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Following which he invited the Chairmen of Committees to give their reports.

CLLR MS MARY VINCENT - CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman gave her report to those present - a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

CLLR CLIVE SHORE - CHAIRMAN, GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman gave his report to those present - a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Questions were asked concerning the skatepark vandalism and maintenance of Heath Pond where it was suggested that the Heath Management Plan had been abandoned as far as the Pond was concerned. The Grounds Committee Chairman advised that corrective measures were being taken to improve the security of the skatepark and that Heath Pond had not been forgotten or 'abandoned' as suggested in that soil erosion measures were being taken, the Millennium Path had been repaired and the Maintenance & Contracts Officer was due to submit a report to the committee during the summer concerning maintenance to the Pond.

CLLR GEORGE WATKINSON - CHAIRMAN , PUBLIC HALLS COMMITTEE

The Chairman gave his report to those present - a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

CLLR BOB AYER - CHAIRMAN, FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Chairman gave his report to those present - a copy of which is attached to these minutes

Questions were asked concerning a payment to a University in the previous financial year and the responsibility for litter collection along the footpath leading from North Road. The Town Clerk advised that it was presumed the payment was for tuition fees for the Community Engagement & Governance degree that the Council had sponsored him through and that this footpath was believed to be the responsibility of East Hampshire District Council regarding litter collection.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

CLLR VAUGHAN CARKE

Cllr Clarke gave his report to those present - a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

CLLR JOHN WEST

Cllr West gave his report to those present - a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

CLLR JOHN WEST

Cllr West gave his report to those present - a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

CLLR BOB AYER

Cllr Ayer gave his report to those present - a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. A question was asked about the future of the HCC Depot in Borough Road and whether it would be closed as it had become very intrusive to parishioners in bad weather and has outlived its useful life.

Cllr West replied advising that highway engineers would be working out of the Depot under the current co-location policy so the Depot would remain where it is for the foreseeable future.

2. The state of the Central car park was raised as an issue. The area from the Mobility Centre to the crossroads in the centre of the car park was in very poor condition. The state of the car park was worse now and more dangerous than it had been before the recent maintenance work and needed urgent positive action.

Cllr Ayer promised to report the matter to the appropriate District Officers.

3. The Sandringham Road parking area was mentioned with people asking at what stage the consultation was currently at on the project.

There was a little confusion on the exact status of the consultation process. The Town Council had already been consulted on the recommendations for revised parking restrictions but the wider consultation with residents was widely believed to be imminent. It was noted that the parking review was originally going to cover the town in six areas but HCC had now agreed to reduce this to five blocks because this first section was bigger than originally planned that would enable the rest of the town to be covered in a shorter than originally envisaged timescale.

4. The question of a possible new Sheet parish was raised and what implication this would have on the finances of the Town Council.

Cllr Jenner advised that the Town Council had not yet been officially informed and consulted on the matter. Cllr Clarke commented that the proposed new council consisted of 300 properties and approximately 650 people with the aim of being 'cost neutral'. Cllr Ayer advised that the 'Terms of Reference' for the process had been agreed and that there would be a full and comprehensive consultation with the creation of a new council not being the only option. The proposed boundaries of the proposed new council were also questioned. Cllr Shore confirmed that the 'Terms of Reference' went before EHDC recently but what the consultation process would look like had not yet been agreed.

Councillors were thanked for the time they spent on council business and the disappointing turnout was commented upon. A brief discussion followed on how the meeting could be better publicised for the future. It was suggested that it be advertised on the Town Council web site, although the Town Clerk reminded the meeting that it was not a Town Council meeting as such, but a meeting of the town and it was also suggested that a reminder be placed in the January edition of the Town Council newsletter in future.

The Town Mayor noted this was the last Town Meeting of this council term and thanked all his colleagues and members of the public for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.31 p.m.