

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Petersfield Town Council was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield on 10 January 2005.

PRESENT: Mr B Dutton (Town Mayor)
Mr R Ayer
Mr A Baird
Mrs J Butler
Mr V Clarke
Mr C Jenner
Mr P Molloy
Ms M Vincent
Mr G Watkinson

Also in attendance: Mrs B Macken (Town Clerk)
Mrs S McMorrان (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mrs S Watts (Responsible Financial Officer)

Mr J West (HCC Councillor)
Petersfield Herald
Petersfield Post
1 member of the public

C 0516 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor thanked and offered support, on behalf of the Town Council, to all volunteers who had contributed so much work in efforts to raise money for the Tsunami Appeal.

He also reminded members that the Chairman of the District Council, Mr Ken Graham, would be attending the meeting of Council scheduled for 7 February 2005.

Finally the Town Mayor advised those present that events were being planned in Petersfield commemorating the 60th anniversaries of the end of the Second World War in Europe and the Far East. An event was also planned commemorating the Battle of Trafalgar, which was fought on 21 October 1805. The Town Mayor stated that he believed that 2005 to be a year to celebrate and to remember, all those who fought to preserve the freedom of our nation.

The Deputy Town Mayor, Mr Clarke, was asked to outline the events.

Mr Clarke advised the meeting that on VE Day, Sunday 8 May 2005, a parade to the War Memorial, followed by a Church Service was planned. This would be followed between 2pm and 4 pm by celebrations in the Square, aimed mainly at children - e.g. Music from local schools and period armoured vehicles. VJ Day,

Sunday 21 August 2005 would involve a meeting at the War Memorial followed by a Church Service. This would be followed by celebrations in The Square, this time more adult based - e.g. Hog Roast, 1940's band and vintage cars.

Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton were expected for a stop over at the Red Lion, Petersfield on the morning of Saturday 18 June 2005.

Finally the Deputy Town Mayor reminded members that 2005 was also the 400th anniversary of Guy Fawkes it was hoped the Round Table would be planning a grand event to commemorate this.

Mr Molloy asked members to consider bringing agenda item 16 (Employment Act 2002 New Statutory Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures in the Workplace) into open session rather than confidential. Following which it was

RESOLVED to evoke standing order 36 c and alter the order of business agenda item 16, Employment Act 2002 New Statutory Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures in the Workplace would be discussed, in open session, before confidential agenda item 15, Staff Matters.

C 0517 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Hick who was on holiday and Mrs Ayer due to her wish not to attend meetings of the Town Council until the current grievance by Officers against Cllr. Bob Ayer was either withdrawn or resolved.

C 0518 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Ayer declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda items 10 C (C 0525/C and F 0504 refer) as Officers had registered a grievance against him and item 15 as the Officer concerned had registered a grievance against him.

C 0519 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Petersfield Town Council held on 6 and 21 December 2004 be approved and signed with the following amendments C 0476 ...Farmers Market C 0512 **Apologies for absence were received from Mr and Mrs Ayer and Mrs Butler.**

C 0520 APPLICATIONS TO LICENSING JUSTICES

The following application(s) were received and noted:

A. Tesco Express TO: Richard Alan HODGSON
11 Charles Street
Petersfield

C 0521 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 7 and 21 December 2004 (previously distributed) be received.

C 0522 EXTRACTS

RESOLVED that the extracts from the decisions of the East Hampshire District Council's South Planning sub-Committee, notified during December 2004 be received.

It was then

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned, in order for members of the public to discuss matters of interest with Councillors.

As no questions were forthcoming the meeting was re-convened.

C 0523 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr West wished everyone a very Happy New Year. He then took questions regarding a visit to a HCC Material Re-cycling Facility, a crossing in Pulens Lane and lights in the Mosaic in Dragon Street. Mr West advised that he would continue to investigate these matters and report back.

C 0524 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr Ayer advised those present that he had been appointed to the EHDC Licencing Committee. The committee had 15 members with licencing sub-committees of 3 who would meet very regularly on Fridays.

C 0525 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED

(a) Grounds Committee

No meeting held in December 2004

(b) Public Halls Committee

No meeting held in December 2004

(c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 16 December 2004 be received.

Following discussion in which Mr Ayer advised members of new advice from the Internal Auditor which stated that funds for employees not currently in the pension scheme could be drawn from general funds and not earmarked funds it was agreed that the resolution at F0499 "that funds for superannuation for employees not currently in the scheme be shown as earmarked reserves" be rescinded.

F 0500 Strategy Document

RESOLVED that paragraph 5 be amended to read The Council supports moves towards improvements in public transport system. Further "....." and that with this amendment the document be agreed and approved for the ensuing year.

Prior to discussion of the following item Mr Ayer left the meeting

F 0504 South East Employers

RESOLVED that funds not exceeding the sum of £2,000, if needed, be allocated for an organisation (South East Employers) to advise the Town Council during the forthcoming grievance procedure.

Mr Ayer joined the meeting

C 0526 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES - MEMBERS' REPORTS

Mr Watkinson - Petersfield Open Air Pool

Ms Vincent - Petersfield in Bloom

C 0527 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS MADE IN DECEMBER 2004

RESOLVED that the Schedules of Accounts paid, as attached to these minutes, be approved.

C 0528

BUDGET 2005/2006

Mr Ayer proposed that the budget for 2005/2006 and financial projections be agreed and accepted by Council. He then advised members of the current situation - a copy of his report is attached for information.

Mr Baird then voiced his objection to the budget for 2005/2006 - a copy of his report is attached for information.

Ms Vincent raised concerns regarding funding for Christmas Lights she suggested that the funding should be used in-house. Mr Watkinson advised the meeting that it had been hoped to hold a meeting with APE prior to the Council meeting but this had not been possible. He suggested that funding should still go to APE with the proviso that accounts are presented and also plans for the Christmas Lights 2005 before funds were released. Mr Ayer advised that he agreed with Mr Watkinson that a meeting with APE was required. He felt that it would be recommended that a contractor be put in place, who had also erected Christmas lights for other Towns. This was noted.

Mr Watkinson expressed concerns that he still did not understand where the funds had been drawn down from, earmarked reserves had not been shown. He did not see where the Internal Auditor was getting this from. He advised those present that the Grounds budget for 2005/2006 had increased by 17% from the previous year and Halls budget had been increased by 7%. He proposed that the funds re-allocated to Grounds in the sum of £8,000 (from Petersfield in Bloom Grant) be removed from the budget together with the contingency amount halved to £8,000 and the bad debt provision to be reduced to £5,000. The proposal did not receive a seconder.

Mr Ayer expressed his disappointment that it had been proposed to alter the budget at this stage. All members had had many opportunities to discuss the budget. Mr Jenner advised that the Grounds committee had worked very hard on their budget - projects had been gone through with a fine tooth comb.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED that the budget for 2005/2006 be agreed and accepted with the precept set at £398,867.

A recorded vote was requested:

FOR: Cllrs Dutton, Clarke, Molloy, Jenner, Ayer (Mr), Butler and Vincent.

AGAINST: Cllrs Watkinson and Baird.

C 0529 **QUALITY INVESTMENT FUND**

Members gave consideration to suitable items for a bid for funds. The following items were suggested by members, delivery of newsletter, website development, specialist advice on employment and funding applications. Following consideration and discussion it was

RESOLVED to select Specialist Advice for Funding Applications for a £15,000 bid to the Quality Investment Fund with Town Council Officers seeking advice from EHDC Officer, Neil Slatter on the application.

C 0530 **EMPLOYMENT ACT 2002**

A proposal was received from the Town Mayor that the Staff panel institute the Employment Act 2002, New Statutory Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures in the Workplace. Advice was also received from HAPTC (previously distributed) informing members that the new legislation did not take precedence over the Town Council's Grievance Procedure as adopted by Council and laid down in Contracts of Employment but could amplify the current procedure. (copy of HAPTC correspondence attached for information).

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the staff panel review the current document (contracts of employment) and amend if necessary taking into account the latest legislation and bring back to Council with their recommendations.

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed it was

RESOLVED to evoke standing order 36 m to exclude the public and press.

Prior to discussion Mr Ayer left the meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL

C 0531 **STAFF MATTERS**

Members received a recommendation from Finance and General Purposes committee regarding the post of Maintenance/Contracts Officer.

RESOLVED that the hours for the post of Maintenance/Contracts Officer held by Mr Peter Jones be increased to 4 days per week from 1 April 2005.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.44 pm