

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Grounds Committee was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 18 May 2006 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr C Jenner (Chairman)
Mrs H Ayer
Mrs L Daubney
Mr B Dutton
Mr H Sandeman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S McMorran (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr P Jones (Maintenance/Contracts Officer)
Petersfield Herald
0 members of the public

G 0037 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Ms Vincent was proposed by Mr Jenner and seconded by Mr Dutton following which it was

RESOLVED that Ms Vincent be elected as Deputy Chairman of the Grounds committee for the ensuing year.

G 0038 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman advised those present that he had attended a meeting of the Penns Farm Sports Development Group. He hoped to report to the next meeting of committee.

The half-pipe at Love Lane had been removed. The Chairman stated that he was now fully aware that young people had not caused the vandalism. He went on to advise the meeting that the Skate Park Working Party were carrying out "sterling work". It was hoped to report to the June or July meeting of committee. The Chairman asked to go on record in support of Mr Well's work.

Finally the Chairman reported that a meeting had been held with Steep Lawn Tennis Club regarding the Tennis Courts at The Avenue.

G 0039 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Ms Vincent.

G 0040 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 4 May be approved and signed as a correct record.

G 0041 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned for a 5 minute period, in order for members of the public to discuss matters of interest with Councillors.

No public present.

The meeting was re-convened.

G 0042 **MAINTENANCE/CONTRACTS OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members received and noted the MCO's report; a copy is attached to these minutes for information.

G 0043 **THE HEATH:**

A. Buildings on Heath Adjacent to Little School

Members received a quotation in the sum of £2,600 for the demolition of the building from the MCO. Quotations for repair we still awaited. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED to defer this item until costs were available for the repair/renovation and replacement of the building were available.

G 0044 **B. Cricket Ground**

Members were asked to give consideration to a means of stopping unauthorised vehicular access to the Cricket Ground on the Heath.

Members were in agreement that this was necessary. It was also necessary to reinstate the ground, which currently dropped away steeply. Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED that the ground be re-instated and one bollard installed with a bid for Developer's Contributions being sought for this project.

G 0045 **BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND ACCESS**

The Chairman advised those present that a meeting date had been set for 31 May 2006. Local Councillors, the two residents associations and Mr Tweddle of EHDC would be present. This was noted.

G 0046 **PADDOCK WAY**

Members received notification from Hampshire County Council that the Officer dealing with Paddock Way would be happy to consider the Town Council's proposal for play equipment on the site, once the type of equipment was proposed.

Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that

A. Officers ascertain the amount available from the 106 agreement from Moggs Mead Development and then add enough from Developer's Contributions to total £25,000 for play equipment at Paddock Way.

B. Officers seek quotations for play equipment (including a basket swing as at Penns Farm Playing Fields) for the site.

Mrs Ayer advised those present that the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Party had discussed this area.

The Chairman expressed his concern that the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Party did not report to the Grounds committee; he felt that the committee should have dialogue with the working party. The Deputy Town Clerk reminded members that it had been a resolution of the Town Council that the working party reports directly to Council. This was noted.

G 0047 **BELL HILL COMMON**

Members received a request from a resident of Bell Hill Ridge to carry out work on the pond.

Some members expressed concern at the "urbanisation" of this area but could see no harm in the dredging of the pond. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that permission for the work be given under the supervision of the MCO to ensure the pond remained within the control of the Town Council and was not brought into the curtilage of the property.

G 0048 **SHEET ALLOTMENTS**

Members received a request from a plot holder to keep ducks on a plot at the site.

RESOLVED that permission be given for ducks to be kept on a plot at the site.

G 0049 **LITTER BIN LINERS**

Members were advised that litter bin liners were required at various sites. A total of four liners at a cost of £177.80 were required. Budget was not available and virement would be required if members wished the liners to be purchased.

RECOMMENDED that four liners at a cost of £177.80 be purchased with Officers seeking virement.

G 0050 **PARISH PATH POLL**

Members received information regarding a one day survey of people using local paths to be held on June 18 2006 together with a request for an "expression of interest" to be returned by 19 May 2006.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the form be returned indicating that the Town Council would take part on a date to be decided to survey one site but would not undertake to enter data.

G 0051 **COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM**

Members gave further consideration to the funding opportunities from the Countryside Access Forum (G 0849 April 06 refers).

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED to apply for funding for improvement to the Millennium Path (extend path to seats to enable wheelchair users to sit alongside benches) and for a seat on the Heath.

G 0052 **FOOTPATH TO PUMPING STATION FROM PULENS LANE**

The MCO reported that he had contacted Southern Water and had been informed that under the lease (copy to be obtained) they were not responsible. The Town Council were the land owners and therefore responsible. However when workmen were on site recently they were asked (by a member of the public)

to sort out the problem. A trench was dug and the flooding subsided. The MCO would monitor the situation. This was noted.

G 0053 **SOUTH DOWNS JOINT COMMITTEE**

Members received and noted annual reviews 2004/5 from the Sussex Downs Conservation Board and East Hampshire AONB.

G 0054 **DEVELOPERS' CONTRIBUTIONS: PARISH PRIORITIES FOR
COMMUNITY AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES**

Members were asked to give consideration to long-term projects. Discussion took place regarding the requirement for an ATP pitch. Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that an Artificial Turf Pitch be placed on the list of requirements for Petersfield.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Maintenance & Contracts Officer's Report
to PTC Grounds Committee.

May 2006

Peter Jones.

Grounds & Litter Maintenance contracts:

Our contractor has experienced some difficulties particularly with grass cutting where the somewhat changeable weather conditions have caused sporadic and rapid growth in some areas making it difficult to keep up to schedule, despite this I am pleased to say, they do appear to be getting on top of the work.

There has been a marked increase in litter and some fly-tipping but, again, our contractor has been dealing with this adequately.

I am not aware of any other major problems with either of these contracts,

Heath & Pond:

Disabled access barrier:

Replacement of the fence has been ordered, the specification calls for it to be fabricated in oak in place of the existing softwood.

Swans:

A pair of black swans can be seen on the pond.

Easter Fair:

The Easter Fair has come and gone. The ground was left in a reasonable condition and, happily, I have no complaints to report.

Cricket Ground:

I have had several complaints of cars being parked around the Heath cricket ground and on one occasion I had to eject some young people who were playing football on the actual cricket square.

Town/Festival Hall:

Two trees have been removed adjacent to the Rose Room. This has opened up the area and allows more light into the building

We now have a contract with Severnside Recycling to collect and recycle our waste paper.

Love Lane:

The timber half-pipe ramp at the skate park has been removed.

FoPH AGM

At the AGM of the Friends of Petersfield Heath, a "panel of experts" invited questions from the floor. I was honoured to have been invited to be part of this panel and was in very fine company as other esteemed panellists were; Cllr C Jenner (Chairman PTC Grounds Committee), Alex Cruickshank (HCC Ecology, Heathland Project Officer), Stephen d'Est Hoare (EHDC Principal Landscape Officer) and Alison James (English Heritage Field Monument Warden). It was a most interesting and informative event.



Black swans on Heath Pond