

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Grounds Committee was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 14 April 2005.

PRESENT: Mr C Jenner (Chairman)
Mr R Ayer
Mr A Baird
Mr V Clarke
Ms M Vincent

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs S McMorran (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr P Jones (Maintenance Contract Officer)
Mr J Crowhurst (PADAC)
Mr K Law (PADAC)
Mr J Pike (FoPH)
Mrs V Pike (FoPH)
Mr K Heppell (FoPH)
Mr A Catchpole (FoPH)
Petersfield Herald
Petersfield Post

G 0766 CHAIRMAN' S COMMENTS

The Chairman thanked everyone for their work in the last municipal year, including the stakeholders. He reiterated that he would continue to allow stakeholders to have their say at meetings. Finally he stated that he hoped for a peaceful meeting.

G 0767 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mrs Butler.

Prior to discussion of the following item Mr Baird stated that he had a prejudicial interest and left the meeting.

G 0768 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 17 March 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record with the following amendments:

G 0700 ...Standing orders were, however, suspended and the views of the stakeholders present...

G 0705 (C) ...The Chairman suspended standing orders to allow the opinions of the stakeholders to be heard.

Mr Baird re-joined the meeting.

G 0769 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Ayer declared a personal and prejudicial interest as his grandchildren were members of Steep Lawn Tennis Club - minute number G 0773 refers.

G 0770 MAINTENANCE/CONTRACTS OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr Jones gave his report to those present, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

It was then

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 questions were forthcoming.

Following which the meeting was re-convened.

G 0771 THE HEATH**A. Heath Pond - The Island**

Members received the reports from Petersfield and District Angling Club (PADAC) and Friends of Petersfield Heath (FoPH). It was suggested that no work should be carried out until after the Integrated Management Plan had been compiled. This was agreed by those present.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow PADAC and FoPH to discuss both reports with members. Concern was raised regarding the opposing views regarding the Willow Tree on the Island.

The meeting was re-convened.

It was agreed that the MCO would discuss the Willow Tree on the Island with a tree expert and report back to committee.

B. Railway Sleeper Survey - Heath Pond

Members received the railway sleeper survey from FoPH. The Chairman advised those present that the informal meeting scheduled for the 12 April had had to be re-scheduled and would now take place on 19 April. All members were welcome to attend this informal meeting.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the May meeting of committee.

C. Clearance of Oak and Willow Tree by PADAC

Members received and noted correspondence sent to Mr Heppell regarding the clearance of trees undertaken by PADAC.

The MCO stated that he felt such work should be undertaken and overseen by the Town Council. Health and Safety and Insurance issues also had to be borne in mind.

Standing orders were suspended to allow PADAC to discuss the matter with members. PADAC stated that the Town Council had been informed of all scheduled works and that this had been the first year that the Town Council had not inspected works to be done. The Chairman stated that he had gone around the Pond with the plan provided and had thought it was only minor works. He expressed concern at a pile of arisings near the sluice and Music Hill. PADAC stated that they would be willing to assist in the removal of the arisings.

The meeting was re-convened.

It was generally agreed that the Town Council should regain control of all tree work around the Pond and the Heath. PADAC were assured that the Town Council were very grateful for all their work on and around the Pond.

The MCO agreed to investigate the pile of arisings and, if necessary, arrange for their removal.

D. Junior Fishing Promotion

Members received a request for permission to use the Heath for a Junior Promotion Day in either April or May.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that permission for the event be given with no charge.

E. Taro Fair Agreement

Members received a request from John Wall and Son for a meeting with Town Council representatives, representatives from the Showman's Guild and Mr and Mrs Wall to discuss the Town Council's proposal for the new Taro Fair Agreement.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that a meeting with the Chairmen of Finance and General Purposes and Grounds committees, Officers, Showman's Guild and Mr and Mrs Wall be arranged.

F. Friends of Petersfield Heath

Members received and noted minutes of the FoPH committee meeting held on 14 March 2005.

G 0772 DEVELOPER'S CONTRIBUTIONS - USE OF TRANSPORT MONIES

The Chairman advised those present that he had spoken to the EHDC Officer and had been advised that the opinion given to Town Council Officers (that transport monies could only generally be used for the provision of 'alternative transport initiatives') was correct but that he hoped to be able to facilitate a change. The Chairman was hopeful that this may happen but stated that there was no action to be taken (by Town Council officers) at the present time. This was noted.

G 0773 AVENUE PAVILION TENNIS COURTS

Further correspondence was received from Steep Lawn Tennis Club regarding the possible use of the courts by the Club.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that Mrs Butler and Mr Jenner meet with representatives of Steep Lawn Tennis Club to discuss this matter and report to a future meeting of Grounds committee.

G 0774 PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB (PRFC) - FUNDING

Members received a request from the PRFC for funding in the sum of £15,000 to match the bid made to the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) at EHDC.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Grounds committee had agreed in principle to the extension.

Mr Ayer informed those present that to facilitate the CIF application the Town Council were looking at a grant in the region of £7,000. Members were advised that £2,500 was in the current budget for CIF funding. Mr Ayer asked that the RFO be asked to advise if Capital Funds would be available for this purpose.

RECOMMENDED that this matter be referred to Finance and General Purposes committee for discussion and that the RFO be asked to report to that meeting on the possible use of Capital Funds for this project.

G 0775 **ROTHERLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP**

Members received and noted the Spring newsletter from the Group.

G 0776 **COIF CHARITY FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT**

Members received and noted the COIF Charity Funds Annual Report.

G 0777 **LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND**

Members were advised that a request had been made for permission to scatter ashes at the Sports Ground.

RESOLVED that permission be given for the scattering of ashes at Love Lane Sports Ground with the proviso that this be done discreetly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm

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

April 2005

Peter Jones.

Heath & Pond.

Integrated Management Plan: I am meeting with Mr Mike Gray of Heathland Management Services on Tuesday 12th April to discuss how best to proceed with the new Heath & Pond Integrated Management Plan.

Trees: A tree in the old golf club car park is unsafe and I am having it removed. A tree at the rear of the Cricket Club pavilion has become a problem and is being removed at the request of the Cricket Club.

Gate – Heath Road: I have found the new gate at Heath Road was open and the padlock missing although all keys are accounted for and in their normal place in the Town Hall. When last I checked (after the Easter Fair) the gate was secure, I am assuming that either the padlock was not properly locked or someone has forcibly removed it. I can throw no further light on this but I have put a new padlock in place and secured the gate. Also I have on several occasions had to re-secure the chain at Heath Rd East where the bollards are becoming loose.

Tumuli: Alison James of English Heritage visited the Heath in my company on April 4th with the purpose of inspecting the tumuli. Ms James was generally pleased with the condition and management of the tumuli and will keep in communication with me regarding same.

Millennium Path: Contractors started work to repair sections of the Millennium Path on Friday 1st April. On my arrival into work on Monday I discovered that the work had not been started or carried out in accordance with my instructions and I had to call a stop to the work. The material used was not as specified and is not appropriate for this site furthermore the contractor had not made proper arrangements with me prior to starting the work. I am satisfied that this was due to genuine misunderstandings by the contractor who is undertaking to completely re-do the work in accordance with my instructions and to our satisfaction using the specified "Coxwell Path Dressing".

Heath Gates: I have asked two contractors to furnish me with details/prices to manufacture and supply gates to match the existing galvanised fence along Heath Road East. I hope to have this information ready for the next meeting of the Grounds Committee.

Ducks & Badgers: A member of the public contacted me to say that he had spotted several "Apricot Silver Call Ducks" on the heath pond. Apparently these are bred domestically and may have been deliberately left on our pond; I am told that they are worth money!

During my visit to the tumuli we visited the badger set and Alison James, who claims to be something of an expert on badgers, having closely examined the set, assured me that our badger set is very much live and in current occupancy. This may be born out by the fact that a local resident who lives adjacent to the set has telephoned to complain that he has witnessed badgers in his garden digging up vegetables!

Borough Road.

The gate at Borough Road Rec has been repaired.

Tillmore Allotments.

Asbestos Shed: An old disused shed at the bottom of the allotments is collapsing. I have inspected the shed and sent a sample for analysis the result confirms my opinion that the shed is constructed from asbestos containing cement sheet (crocidolite & chrysotile). Since the structure is in a bad condition and represents a health risk I shall arrange for a licensed asbestos specialist contractor to carry out safe removal and disposal of the shed.

Love Lane Sports Field.

Some more fly tipping has occurred at Love Lane and this has been dealt with by our Grounds contractor.

Penns Farm Playing Fields.

Our grounds maintenance contractor is about to start extra renovation works to improve the quality of the playing fields, similar to the work carried out at Love Lane.

Play Area: At the Chairman's request I have asked the advice of two contractors as to the viability of repairing the (removed) play equipment and to give me quotations for comparison. I now have more catalogues at the Town Hall which show alternatives similar in style to the existing, should members wish to view these I can make them available.

Desirable property; large garden, excellent views!



Petersfield Heath & Pond for sale?

Is there something the Town Council isn't telling me?

Needless to state, I have removed the sign and contacted the agent responsible - but not with an offer to buy!