

**PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Grounds Committee was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 13 April 2006 at 6.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mr C Jenner (Chairman)  
Mr R Ayer  
Mr B Dutton  
Ms M Vincent  
Mr H Sandeman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs S McMorran (Deputy Town Clerk)  
Mr P Jones (Maintenance/Contracts Officer)  
Mrs J Hick (Locum Administration Officer)  
Cllr Mr K Hick

Petersfield Herald  
Petersfield Post  
1 members of the public

**G 0839** **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mrs Hick who was taking the minutes.

The Chairman said that due to E-mail problems recently experienced by East Hampshire District he had been unable to contact Mr Tweddle (EHDC Officer) regarding the access to Bell Hill Recreation Ground, however he hoped to receive a reply fairly soon.

**G 0840** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mrs Daubney.

**G 0841** **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Following consideration it was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 16 March 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**G 0842** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following personal interest was declared:

Ms M Vincent - Footpath to pumping station from Pulens Lane, minute number G 0851 refers.

**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.

Mr John Crowhurst drew attention to a commemorative beech tree planted on the Heath which was being pushed to one side by an aggressive willow tree.

The Maintenance/Contracts Officer confirmed the position of the tree in question and could see no problem with Mr Crowhurst's suggestion that it be removed.

The meeting was re-convened.

**G 0843      MAINTENANCE/CONTRACTS OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

The MCO was now able to confirm that repair of the disabled access barrier was in hand; one estimate had been received and one more awaited.

Members were advised that a final copy of the Petersfield Heath Management Plan was now available for perusal; projects were not costed.

**G 0844      THE HEATH**

**A.      Friends of Petersfield Heath**

Members received and noted minutes of the Friends of Petersfield Heath meeting held 14 March 2006.

The Chairman drew attention to Minute 14(h) and said it was hoped that negotiations could take place to enable the two old metal seats previously situated on Sheet Green to be relocated with matching seats on the Heath.

**B. Buildings on Heath Adjacent to Little School on the Lake**

Members gave further consideration to condition of the buildings - G0769 refers - and discussed the tenant's obligations under the Lease

Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that further consideration be deferred to await quotations for repair and renewal or the demolition of building 3.

**C. Salvation Army**

Members received and considered correspondence requesting permission to hold open air meetings during the summer months.

Following consideration it was

**RESOLVED** that the Salvation Army be granted permission to hold Open Air meetings on the Heath on the following dates:

21<sup>st</sup> May; 18<sup>th</sup> June; 16<sup>th</sup> July; 20<sup>th</sup> August and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006

**D. Petersfield and District Angling Club**

Members received a request to pitch a tent for the annual teams of four fishing event on 15 April plus access for one car, Junior Festival on 2 July plus access for 3 cars and Eddie Matthews Charity Match on 18 August plus access.

Following consideration it was

**RESOLVED** that permission be so granted with the approval of the MCO.

G 0845

**PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS****A. Petersfield and District Dog Training Society**

Members received a request for permission to hold their Annual Championship Obedience Show on Sunday 3 June 2007.

After consideration it was

**RESOLVED** that permission be so granted at the normal charge.

**B. Rugby Pitches**

Members received and noted further correspondence from C G Todd of BCPE.

A full discussion followed concerning the condition of the pitches and the cause.

The MCO said it was normally incumbent upon the hirer, prior to a match, to take care of any large trips. He had not seen any but had noticed one large

hole. If caused by rabbits the only solution would be to rabbit-fence which would be difficult and very expensive. He said there appeared to have been no problem in the past and confirmed that the holes are filled by the Council's Contractor as and when they are seen. He believed the Rugby Club would also fill them when noticed.

The MCO said he was satisfied the grounds were maintained in accordance with the contract; if it was wished to amend the contract there would be financial implications.

In response to a member's question regarding the Council's statutory duty, the MCO advised that a pest control company had assessed the situation and had confirmed the cause was badgers and not rabbits. It was his opinion also that the holes on the pitch were not caused by rabbits. He was satisfied that the Council were fulfilling their obligations.

The information was NOTED.

G 0846

**THE SPAIN**

Members received and considered correspondence from a resident regarding parking.

Members discussed the ownership of the land in question and it was

**RESOLVED** that the resident be informed that although the Town Council sympathise with her parking plight, they do not own or control the land in question but in any event would seek to discourage parking in that area.

G 0847

**BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND**

Members received a request from the Petersfield Ex-Tablers Club seeking permission to hold the Annual Bonfire and Fireworks event on 4 November 2006 with setting up on 3 November 2006.

After discussion and consideration it was

**RESOLVED** that permission be so granted.

G 0848

**PADDOCK WAY**

Members considered a request to relinquish the lease on this land - G0770 March 2006 refers.

Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED**

that this matter will be reconsidered after receipt of the investigations by Mr Ayer - G 0770 refers.

Following further discussion it was

**RECOMMENDED**

that a rubbish bin be provided at Paddock Way if a suitable virement can be found.

**G 0849 COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM**

Members received details and considered the funding opportunities - G0771 March 2006 refers.

Members were asked to consider the content of the scheme and to come back to committee with ideas. The opportunities should be made known to other stakeholders, e.g. Friends of Petersfield Heath, Rotherlands, Sheet Village Association.

Possible applications were:

- Repair of the Heath's Millennium Path
- Additional benches for the Heath with parking areas beside seats for the disabled
- Timber shoring and steps for the Heath's Music Hill

The next deadline for applications was expected to be 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and a further deadline in September.

Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the funding opportunities be reconsidered by members at a future meeting of this committee

**G 0850 WATER SHORTGAGES**

Members received information from the MCO concerning possible effects on the Summer 2006 planting scheme.

Members noted the implementation of a watering strategy in order to conserve water. It was also considered important for the public to know that the

water used had been collected and was not from a mains source.

**The information was NOTED**

**G 0851 FOOTPATH TO PUMPING STATION FROM PULENS LANE**

Members considered a request for repairs to a footpath which had been reported by a member of the public.

Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) this item be reconsidered when the Sewage Authority have confirmed their ownership of the land in question
- (ii) the Rotherlands Trust be consulted regarding the extent and proper treatment for the footpath

**G 0852 THE AVENUE PLAYING FIELDS**

Members received correspondence from a resident asking for consideration to the provision of a stile over the wire fence.

Members discussed the request. Although it was said that the path was used by schoolchildren on a daily basis to and from school, they were mindful that provision of a stile could create a right of way and that there is already a nearby gate.

Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** that the fence be repaired and that the matter be considered at a future time if necessary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.07 pm

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

**April 2006**

Peter Jones.

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## **Grounds & Litter Maintenance contracts:**

No major problems with these contracts. Weather conditions have meant that grass has been slow to get started however despite this, main cutting has begun this week with box mowing to specified area's commencing next week.

## **Heath & Pond:**

### *Disabled access barrier:*

I am still awaiting estimates for repair/replacement of the wooden barrier

### *Toilets:*

All work should be complete by next week

### *Island:*

Clearance work is complete; timber cladding of the island will take place in the autumn.

### *Swans:*

Swans are nesting close to the sluice. I am considering temporarily fencing the area since passers by can easily disturb the swans. Swans are very protective and become quite forceful and belligerent when defending their nests and young from perceived threats.

### *Hampshire Heath Week 2006:*

This event will be marked by a 'walkabout' on the Heath to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Hosted by the Friends Of Petersfield Heath, the walks will be lead by Mr Alf Smallbone (wildlife), Mr Peter Price (Archaeology) and Ms Hilary Bonney (botany). The event will be publicised by Hampshire County Council.

### *Easter Fair:*

The Easter Fair takes place this weekend on the Heath. It is hoped that all goes well.

### *Bollards:*

The bollards have now been installed at the entrance adjacent to the junction of Heath Rd and Heath Rd West. The ground has been cleared of trip hazards and a mound of earth has been placed at the end of the hedge to prevent access at this point, this mound has been seeded and will grass over.

## **Avian Influenza**

I have, to date, received reports from members of the public, of eight incidents of dead birds around the Heath. All incidents have been passed to the VLA and all have tested negative to H5N1.

## **Vandals:**

Vandals have been at work again at The Avenue as well as Love Lane.

## **Love Lane:**

Work has resumed on the 'mini-pitch', the ground is being levelled and graded. Seeding is scheduled to take place on 24<sup>th</sup> April and the pitch should be playable by the end of the year.