

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Grounds Committee was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 16 February 2006.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S McMorran (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr P Jones (Maintenance/Contracts Officer)

Petersfield Herald
Petersfield Post
9 members of the public

G 0687 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman asked if members had seen the front cover of the Petersfield Society January newsletter. The Chairman was saddened to read this unprovoked attack from this respected society. The Petersfield Society should have contacted the Town Council and they would have been informed that The Friends of Petersfield Heath were in the process of a refurbishment of the Heath Island.

G 0688 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies.

G 0689 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 12 January 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record with the following amendment:
G 06051 April 2006 - 31 March 2007

G 0690 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

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.

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

G 0691 MAINTENANCE/CONTRACTS OFFICER'S REPORT

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

G 0692 THE HEATH:

A. Heath Kiosk Concession - Rent Review

Members were asked to give consideration to a rent review (3 yearly) for the concession to run the Heath Kiosk.

Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that the rental for the Kiosk concession be increased by 3% per year for the next 3 years.

B. Heath Boat House - Rent Review

Members were asked to give consideration to a rent review (annual) for the Boat House on the Heath.

Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that the rental be increased by 3% for the year 1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007.

C. Heath Boating Rights - Rent Review

Members were asked to give consideration to a rent review (annual) for the Boating Rights on the Heath Pond.

Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that the rental be increased by 3% for the year 1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007.

D. Petersfield and District Angling Club

Members received and noted a copy of the Clubs annual accounts.

E. Friends of Petersfield Heath

Members received a request for permission to carry out tree thinning around the Cricket Ground.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that permission for thinning of trees around the Cricket Club be granted.

F. Little School Day Nursery

Members received correspondence from Mrs Matthews regarding VAT and the condition of buildings near the School, which were not leased by the School.

Members were pleased to note that the VAT had been settled.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED

1. That the un-leased buildings be considered at the next meeting of the Grounds committee
2. That the MCO instruct the Little School Day Nursery to remove equipment currently stored in the building (which was not part of the School's lease).

G. Friends of Petersfield Heath - Minutes

Members received and noted the minutes of a meeting held on 17 January 2006.

G 0693

LOVE LANE PLAYING FIELDS - PROPOSED SKATE PARK

A. Meetings with Users

Members were advised that two very well attended and successful meetings had been held with the users of the skate park. Officers recommended that a working party comprising of the 5 nominated user representatives, MCO, DTC, Cllrs Sandeman, Jenner and Mrs Ayer (for funding knowledge and links with EHDC) be formed to take this project forward. Other experts would be asked to attend meetings when their expertise/knowledge was required.

Members raised concern that the Council resolution made at C 0350 C on 3 October 2005 had not been actioned. It was explained that Officers had tried to follow the resolution and had had a huge response from manufacturers. However some manufacturers had not been willing to meet with users. Pressures had also been made from other sources (e.g. Police). Actions since had been to try to ensure that users of the equipment were fully consulted and part of the project. Whilst members accepted this they felt they should have been better informed. Cllr Sandeman gave a verbal report of the two meetings held with users. He advised that users had indicated that concrete was the favoured material.

Mr Sandeman was wholly supportive of the work carried out so far.

Members advised those present that they were interested in the project as skating was a very good way to keep fit. Vandalism had, however been a problem.

To enable the public to participate it was

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders

Mr Ayer advised the skaters present to join the Action Team by contacting Angie Marker at EHDC. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that she would forward details by e-mail to the group. Mr Roger Park from the Festival for Young People re-iterated the groups' willingness to be part of the working party to assist with sources of funding. Following which the meeting was re-convened.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that a working party comprising of the 5 nominated user representatives, MCO, DTC, Cllrs Sandeman, Jenner and Mrs Ayer (for funding knowledge and links with EHDC) be formed to take this project forward. Other experts would be asked to attend meetings when their expertise/knowledge was required.

B. Temporary Fencing

The MCO advised members that the temporary fencing was costing the Town Council approximately £30 per week. The fencing was also being damaged and had to be repaired. He suggested, to avoid the on-going costs of the fencing, that the wooden Half-pipe ramp be removed.

Members were unhappy that the resolution not to remove the ramp was being discussed again. To enable the public to take part it was

RESOLVED that standing orders be suspended.

The users of the ramp advised members that they were in agreement that the ramp should be removed. A member of the public praised the efforts made so far and stated that it was the correct way to go (to involve the users in the project). He went on to advise that he could remove the ramp and use at another site (once repaired). The MCO reminded those present that the ramp had been taken out of use on the recommendation of three reports (Insurers, inspection and report). Following which the meeting was re-convened.

RESOLVED that the costs for the fencing be accepted.

G 0694 **BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND - ACCESS**

The Chairman reported that he and Mr Sandeman had met with EHDC Officer, Alistair Tweddle. Mr Tweddle was unhappy with any modification to the access in its current location. He suggested that the access should be closed and new access created opposite 43 Bell Hill (towards the roundabout). The Chairman had discussed this with Woodbury/Buckmore Residents Association and they were not happy with this suggestion. Residents of Buckmore Avenue would have to cross Bell Hill twice to access the proposed new access.

Following further consideration it was

RESOLVED that the Chairman arrange a site meeting inviting the Residents Associations, Mr Guy Stacpole (EHDC Councillor) Mr Tweddle (EHDC Officer) and any Town Councillors who may wish to attend.

Mr Sandeman left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

G 0695 **ALLOTMENTS:**

A. Users Meeting

Members were asked to set a date for the Users Meeting. The suggested dates were Tuesday 6 or 20 September at Sheet Village Hall.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the meeting be held on Tuesday 19 September 2006 commencing at 7 pm at Sheet Village Hall.

B. Newsletter

Members received a draft of the newsletter, prior to distribution.

RESOLVED that the newsletter be approved with minor amendments as discussed.

G 0695 **DEVELOPER'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

Members received an update on available funds from EHDC. Members were also asked to give consideration to suitable projects for the future.

Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that EHDC be advised that the following projects were to be discussed:

1. Improvements to the surface at the Heath (erosion control with geo-textiles) to enable access for disabled users of the play equipment.
2. Improvements to playing fields/pitches
3. Play Equipment suitable for Disabled Users for the Heath play area
4. Additional funds for skate park (£20,000 currently earmarked)

G 0696

SUITE ONE, FESTIVAL HALL OFFICES

Members received correspondence from Boutler Mossman requesting that the trees adjacent to their offices be lopped back.

Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that this work be carried out with virement of funds if necessary.

G 0697

PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS

Members received correspondence from the Managing Director of BCPE regarding pitch maintenance.

The MCO advised members that he had visited the site with Apollo pest control, who were experts in rabbit control. The photographs provided by the Director of BCPE were difficult as no indication of location was given. Apollo's view on the holes and scrapes were that they were caused by Badgers, not rabbits. A very small number of rabbit holes were identified very close to the boundary with Rotherlands which were not close to pitches. Apollo advised that there was not a particular problem with rabbits, not enough to warrant any immediate treatment.

The MCO advised members that the maintenance of the pitches was being carried out to the specification of the current Grounds Maintenance Contract. The MCO voiced his concern that the Managing Director (MD) of BCPE had made an unjustified personal attack on him and the Chairman of Grounds.

The MD of BCPE was (or had been) an Officer of the Petersfield Rugby Club. Members were concerned that his correspondence had been received from Mr Todd as MD of BCPE. It was felt that the correspondence should have been received from the Rugby Club.

Following which it was

RESOLVED that the Deputy Town Clerk write to Mr Todd of BCPE advising him that the scrapes were made by Badgers (not Rabbits) and that the maintenance was carried out to the specification of the current Grounds Maintenance Contract.

G 0698

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

Members received and noted summary of income and expenditure reports to 31 December 2005.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Maintenance & Contracts Officer's Report
to PTC Grounds Committee.
February 2006
Peter Jones.

Grounds & Litter Maintenance contracts:

I am not currently aware of any major problems concerning either of these contracts.

Heath & Pond:

Flagpole

A flagpole which was retrieved from the pond by a member of the public has been left on the bank, My attempts to locate the owner of this mast have failed. I believe it possible that it may have been taken from the scout hall in Heath Road, I have informed the Scouts but they have not, so far responded. The wooden pole is not in very good condition being quite rotten at one end and I have now asked our grounds contractor to dispose of it.

Disabled access barrier

The timber barrier along the boundary of the disabled drop of pull-in, adjacent to boardwalk has been damaged, maybe by a car. On inspection parts of it appear to be rotten. I am seeking estimates of cost of repair/replacement. HCC Highways do not accept ownership or responsibility.

Fly Tipped

Removed rubbish dumped near lay-by Heath Road East. Mostly large quantity of used fireworks. I understand that this has occurred in previous years.

Friends Of Petersfield Heath

FoPH have again carried out more voluntary and very welcome work which is of great benefit to the Heath.

English Heritage

In my absence the Chairman of Grounds Committee accompanied a representative of English Heritage and members of FoPH to survey and discuss maintenance and preservation of the Tumuli and the effects of any works on or adjacent to these historically important monuments. I do not yet have a written report that I can provide to this Committee but I am hopeful that I can provide more information to a future meeting.

Love Lane:

Air Gun Attack

Our grounds contractor's operatives were again shot at with air guns while carrying out their work at the site. The police were informed and are taking the matter very seriously.

Football Pitches.

The grounds contractor has concerns in the way that the Town Juniors are using the pitch. Because of the increased usage and that they do not appear to be rotating the pitches it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a reasonable standard of pitch maintenance. I intend to arrange a meeting with the juniors to discuss this.

Bell Hill Common Pond.

A gentleman (Mr Heinz) who lives adjacent to the pond has asked me for permission to dredge the pond, which has silted up, at his own expense. Unless this committee objects, I would like to give authorise this, subject to certain conditions (precedence, health & safety, method, etc).