

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Grounds Committee was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 12 January 2006.

PRESENT: Mr C Jenner (Chairman)
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

1 member of the public

G 0600 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Daubney to her first meeting. He also advised members that Mr Crowhurst had reported that cyclists were using the boardwalk on the Heath. Concern was expressed that this had occurred. A number of no-cycling signs were on the Heath but the problem was difficult to "police".

A copy of a letter sent to the Headmaster of Churchers College by Mr Ayer was available in the Town Council office for members perusal.

Finally the Chairman advised that a response had been received (and copied to all members) from the Dog Warden regarding dog fouling at Penns Farm Playing Fields.

G 0601 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mr Ayer.

G 0602 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 17 November 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record.

G 0603 **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 0604 MAINTENANCE/CONTRACTS OFFICER'S REPORT

Members received and noted the MCO's report, a copy is attached to these minutes for information. The MCO took questions regarding the closure of the Heath Toilets, seats on The Heath and the hedge on The Heath.

G 0605 REVIEW OF CHARGES

Members were asked to consider charges for the next financial year - 1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007.

Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that all charges be increased by 5% from 1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007

G 0606 FOOTPATH 42 - BOROUGH ROAD TO LANDPITS COTTAGE, PETERSFIELD

Members received a report from Mr Sandeman and a letter from a resident regarding the continued closure of this footpath. The footpath had been closed for 4 - 5 years. It was a well-loved footpath and should be protected.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Hampshire County Council seeking a plan of repair and a date for commencement of works for footpath 42. The letter to be copied to Buriton Parish Council.

G 0607 PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS - RUGBY CLUB PITCHES

Members received a report from the MCO regarding the standard of pitches. The Rugby Club had written requesting work to improve the pitches. This work would cost in the region of £2,000. The MCO stated that in his and the Grounds Contractor's opinion not all the requested work was necessary. The pitches were maintained to the appropriate standard as stated in the Maintenance Contract.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the Rugby Club be informed that the Town Council did not have budget funds available for the requested work and that it was the opinion of the Town Council that the pitches were in a satisfactory condition.

G 0608 **BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND - ACCESS**

Mr Jenner advised those present that he had hoped to meet with an EHDC Officer prior to the meeting. Unfortunately this had not been possible. It was hoped that a meeting would be arranged in the near future. This was noted and it was

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

G 0609 **PLANTING SCHEME IN PETERSFIELD**

Members received a planting plan from Voice Grounds Care Limited (C 0546 refers). Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the planting plan be accepted with the proviso that the rocks in the College Street bed be anchored down or be of a sufficient size and weight to prevent moving so as not to compromise highway safety.

The MCO was asked to advise the contractor that the Petersfield Arts and Crafts Society had originally donated the shrubs on Bell Hill Roundabout.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.12 pm

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

January 2006

Peter Jones.

Grounds & Litter Maintenance contracts:

Despite the weather there are no major problems to report. Our grounds contractor, now officially named 'Voice Grounds Care Ltd.' returned to work on the 8th January and have been catching up on grounds work and extra litter following the Christmas break.

Heath & Pond:

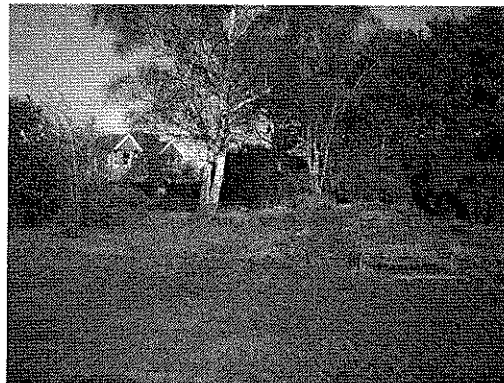
Boardwalk: I have had to close the boardwalk once, so far, because of weather conditions. I plan to install signs to warn the public to take care when using the boardwalk in slippery conditions.

Play Equipment: A new climbing net has been installed on the adventure equipment.

Toilets: The toilets have become blocked on two occasions and, on one of these occasions, had to be closed over a weekend for health and safety reasons. I have had to call in contractors to clear the drains. This has highlighted the need to carry out a survey of the location of drains, sewers and water services which pass through our land particularly those which serve the toilets and kiosk.

Hedges: A section of hedge has been ripped out. The Heath boundary hedge, located alongside Sussex Road about 60M from the junction with Heath Road East, has a large section completely missing. This looks to be the result of a vehicle having veered off the road and ploughing through the hedge. The matter has been reported to the Police but they have not been able provide any fact or detail concerning a likely incident involving a vehicle accident. I will, of course, need to make some arrangement to close the gap and secure the Heath against vehicular intrusion.

Work by FoPH. The Friends of Petersfield Heath have again be active, carrying out more work to clear bramble, saplings, gorse and bracken. Working with young volunteers from Churchers College, they have opened up a large area and, near Heath Road adjacent to the old tennis courts, uncovered two nearly hidden seats which now have great views across to the pond.



Continued at 2: over >

Love Lane

Skateboard Park: The security fencing surrounding the defunct skateboard equipment has had to be re-instated by contractors 5 times so far, each time following removal by unauthorised persons. It is evident that some are ignoring the warning signs, gaining access and using the equipment. A number of the 'Heras' fence panels, which are on hire to us, are now severely damaged.

Pitches: The current condition of the football pitches is poor. I am advised that this has been largely due to a combination of very wet weather, heavy use and the fact that the pitches do not appear to have been adequately rotated. I shall be meeting with a representative of the Town Juniors and our grounds contractor Voice GC Ltd, to discuss what remedial action can be taken.

Trees: The self-seeded willows which compromised a resident's property have been removed. I shall be searching available budgets in order to request possible virement so as to carry out essential tree work in the lane.

Drainage ditch: The drainage ditch which takes water off of Love Lane around the mini-pitch has been cleared and deepened. This has improved drainage somewhat.

Penns Farm Play Area

Climb Net: The new climbing net has now been installed in the children's playground.

Avenue Playing fields

Shrub Beds: The shrub beds around the pavilion car park have been cleaned up and re-furbished. Looks a lot better!

Fences: I am gathering quotations to replace/repair the section of fence adjacent to Weston Road.

Woods Meadow

Fences: Vandals have made a number of large holes in the chain-link fence which surrounds the children's play area.

Sheet Common

There has been more activity at the unauthorised Dirt Bike/BMX Track, with modifications extending beyond the previous layout. I am still awaiting feedback from our insurers and ROSPA among others before being able to progress this issue further. Hopefully it wont be too long before I have enough information to be able to usefully set up another meeting of the Working Party.

Sheet Village Green.

The Town Mayor has very kindly donated a new seat beneath the tree on the village green.

The solid oak, circular seat is very attractive and has been expertly installed.

All traces of previous metal and concrete have been removed.

It is a very pleasing sight, thanks to Councillor Clarke.

