

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Grounds Committee was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 16 June 2005.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs B Macken (Town Clerk)
Mrs S McMorran (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr P Jones (Maintenance Contract Officer)
Petersfield Herald
Petersfield Post
2 members of the Public

G 0101 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman advised those present that the swing (Sheet Green) was back up, allegedly with the Town Council's permission. He read an article from the Petersfield Herald to the meeting. He went on to inform those present that the Town Clerk had not given permission and that he, as Chairman, was very unhappy with the situation. However the Town Mayor had stated that the swing should stay up. The Chairman was concerned that no copy of the necessary insurance had been produced (by Sheet Village Association). The Maintenance Contract Officer advised the meeting that he had just (2 minutes prior to the meeting) been given evidence that the swing was insured. Concern was expressed that the Town Mayor had powers to decide that the swing should stay up. The Chairman advised that nothing could be done at the present time and asked that this be an agenda item for the July meeting of the Grounds committee.

G 0102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members being present there were no apologies.

G 0103 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 19 May 2005 be approved and signed as a correct record with the following amendments:

C 0033....Cllr Ayer.....

G 0036/B RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in Mr d'Este Hoare's report be received and passed to the Author of the Integrated Management Plan.

G 0028A - ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
RESOLVED that Mrs Butler be elected Deputy Chairman
for the ensuing year.

The Chairman also asked that a copy of the statement
referred to in his Chairman's comments be attached
to these minutes.

G 0104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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.

G 0105 MAINTENANCE/CONTRACTS OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Mr Ayer enquired if the incident in St. Peter's Churchyard had been reported to the Police. The MCO assured the meeting that it had been.

The Chairman asked if the MCO had actioned work to the sewer pipe at Bell Hill Recreation Ground and was assured that this was in hand. Concern was also raised regarding the current cutting of the hedge at the Heath. The MCO stated that he would make enquiries.

The Chairman expressed concern regarding the clearance of the site at Tilmore Allotments after the asbestos shed had been removed. He produced a bag of pieces he had personally removed from the site. The MCO stated that he would follow this up.

Prior to the next item it was

RESOLVED to evoke standing order 36 C and alter the order of business. The Festival for Young People would be discussed prior to the Spain

G 0106

THE HEATH - FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 2006

Members received a request to use the Heath for a BBQ and events day over the August Bank Holiday (Saturday 26 August 2006).

Prior to discussion it was
RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow Mr Wells and Mr Heppell to speak.

Mr Wells outlined the plans for the proposed Festival. He advised that early permission had been sought to enable the forward planning for the event. Roughly the area of the Taro Fair would be required but the final area would depend on numbers. Mr Ayer advised that he would be able to give Mr Wells advice on insurance for the event. The Chairman suggested that Mr Wells ask for a grant application form from the Town Council. He also felt that there should be no charge for the event and advised Mr Wells that the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service would be willing to be involved in the event. Mr Heppell advised that he was happy with the proposals he had heard and was willing to assist with the raft race.

Following which the meeting was re-convened.

RESOLVED that the Heath (area to be confirmed once numbers are known) and Heath Pond (part of) be allocated to the Festival for Young People on 26 August 2006 with confirmation by the organisers by February 2006 that the venue would be required. The use of the Heath was subject to the following: Litter Clearance of the site, re-instatement of any damage, adequate insurance cover, all necessary requirements for Health and Safety (to the satisfaction of the MCO) being met e.g. risk assessments.

It was also

RECOMMENDED that there be no charge for this event.

G 0107

THE SPAIN - INSTALLATION OF POSTS

Members received a verbal report from Mr Dutton (G0033 refers). He advised that an EHDC Enforcement Officer had advised that there was nothing they could do. The MCO confirmed this was the case. A letter had been received from Heritage Wessex Limited (copy attached to these minutes), which was noted. It was agreed that the situation would continue to be monitored.

G 0108 **LOVE LANE PAVILION - PETERSFIELD TOWN JUNIORS FC**

Members received and noted a certified copy of the Deed of Appointment of the new trustees.

G 0109 **SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

Members were asked to review the current sub-committees and working parties. The Grounds committee currently had the following: Anti-Social Behaviour Working Party, BMX Working Party and the Bylaws Working Party.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

A. Mr and Mrs Ayer be appointed to the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Party (in addition to the Chairman of Grounds) and that Officers prepare terms of reference for the working party

B. Mr Ayer be appointed to the Byelaws Working Party (in addition to the Chairman of Grounds and Mr Dutton) and that Officers prepare terms of reference for the working party.

G 0110 **LITTER PICK**

Members were asked to consider an alternative date for the annual litter pick as the previous date clashed with the "Lord Nelson" event. Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the litter pick be held on 16 July 2005 from 10 am - 12 pm. Streams, rivers and river banks would again be targeted. Members to meet at the Town Council Car Park (near Petersfield Open Air Pool). The MCO to arrange suitable collection of litter collected.

G 0111 **DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT - PLAY SITES**

Members were informed that site visits had been carried out on 5 May and reports were currently being compiled for the July meeting of committee. This was noted

G 0112 **BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND - ACCESS**

The Chairman advised that he had, in October 2005, approached EHDC Planning Department in his own time to discuss this matter. He had been advised that the plans were not acceptable and advised to contact the HCC Highways Department. He stated that HCC had

already been approached and was then advised to speak to the Footpath and Highways Officer, Ian Ayres, at EHDC.

Mr Ayer outlined the situation regarding Developer's Contributions for this project, which was noted.

Following further debate and consideration it was

RESOLVED that Messrs Jenner and Sandeman compile and distribute a questionnaire (together with the advice from the Landscape Officer at EHDC) to the properties in the area of the Bell Hill access to seek their opinions on this matter. If feasible a report would be given to the July meeting, if not then a report would be given to the September meeting.

G 0113 **ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER**

Members were asked to discuss the Allotment Newsletter which was produced twice a year.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the newsletter be copied to all members of the Grounds committee for comment prior to distribution.

G 0114 **DEVELOPER'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

Members considered and discussed the current situation regarding Developer's Contributions. A report would be received from EHDC in due course. It was suggested that additional funds be allocated for the provision of skateboard facilities. Members were advised that funds may need to be allocated for any necessary works from the report on the Disability Discrimination Act and for possible movement of the un-official BMX track to the ex-Grazing Land adjacent to Sheet allotments.

RESOLVED that further consideration be given at the next meeting when the Best Value Improvement Plan would be available to consider possible projects.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm

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

June 2005

Peter Jones.

General Grounds Maintenance:

Our grounds maintenance contractor continues to satisfactorily meet the terms and conditions of the contract and, I am pleased to say, I have not been any major problems so far this month.

Heath & Pond:

Seats: New seats have been delivered and are being installed (I hope) this week.

Water level: Despite the apparent abundance of rain throughout May, the water level in the pond still appears to be dropping and continues to be a concern.

Burning: A certain amount of controlled burning was carried out over three days; this consisted mainly of the smaller remains from the tree work which I had recently commissioned.

Integrated Management Plan: The plan remains on course and I am expecting the first draft to be available by mid July, hopefully in time for the next Grounds Committee meeting.

Town Hall Surrounds:

Finally got EHDC to cut the grass outside the Town Hall!

Love Lane:

Work starts on the mini-pitch this week, ploughing - then a stone-pick by the Juniors.

Field adjacent to Sheet Allotments & Millennium Meadow:

Overgrowth: The fields have been topped and the cut arisings taken away for silage. This work has been kindly carried out FOC by Mr S. Bridger of Ash Farm.

Fencing H & S: Regrettably a dog was killed when it ran through a hole in the fence and onto the railway line. The dog was a beloved pet of a resident of Sheet. I have contacted Network Rail and asked them to repair the fence (next time it could be a child!).

Penns Farm Playing Fields:

Dog Show – Sunday 5th June: The Dog Show apparently went off very well and was a big success, no problems have been reported and the site was left very clean and tidy.

Condition of pitches: The extra work put in by Philip Voice would appear to be paying off; the condition of the grass is showing a marked improvement and I have received a number of complementary comments from various sources.

Pennsfield 2: Unfortunately, the field adjacent to Pennsfield is heavily infested with ragwort and other weeds. I understand that we have never cut this second field however, as the seeds are spreading across and causing a problem, I am looking into the possibility of “topping” this field the same as Pennsfield (1).

PTJFC Six-a-side Tournament – 11th & 12th June: As this report had to be sent out on Friday 10th I am unable to comment on the success of this event. However, there has been much preparation and, judging by the plan and the arrangements; it promises to be bigger and even more successful than last year.

Continued at 2: over >

Bell Hill Recreation Ground:

Children's Play Area: Cllr Jenner has brought my attention to a potential hazard that exists in the children's play area. It seems that contractors responsible for removing the old ATC hut have left an open soil pipe which is broken off at ground level and is open to the main drainage. The 100mm pipe opening is concealed by long grass which has grown over it. This is especially dangerous since a small child's foot and leg could easily fit down this pipe sustaining injury to the child, it also provides a possible port for rats to traverse. I have effected a temporary safeguard while I endeavour to make contact with the original contractor.

Borough Road Rec:

The hedge which runs along the southern boundary with Borough Road has become overgrown and is restricting the view to motorists who cannot clearly see children exiting the Recreation Ground. I have issued instructions to cut the hedge back so as to improve the view and enhance the safety of both motorists and pedestrians using the Rec.

Rotherlands Footpath:

A large willow tree has fallen across the footpath which runs alongside the river, causing walkers to take a wide detour through the undergrowth or, to commence an extreme form of limbo dancing in order to pass below the trunk. I am pleased to report that Hants Footpaths & Rights Of Way Dept have agreed to clear the tree from the path asap.

St Peters Churchyard:

During a recent visit to the Churchyard, I was checking out some loose tombstones which are propped against the south wall when, to my surprise and dismay, I was subjected to verbal abuse from a group of young people (18,19,20-ish) who had evidently been drinking and were loudly shouting obscenities most of which was apparently aimed at me! I asked them what the problem was and suggested that they keep the noise down and desist from the use of foul language particularly as, it being a fine day, there were many other people in and around the Churchyard. Obviously their response to this was not particularly encouraging and I resolved to finish what I was doing and leave *poste haste*, discretion being the better part of valour! Imagine my alarm when, as I was walking away, I was attacked from behind with water guns (toy water cannons) by at least two of the youths who were stealthily darting about the trees and bushes like some sort of commando force! Being somewhat stunned (not to mention soaking wet) all I could find to say was (hysterically) "How old are you?" whereupon one of the young men proceeded to dance about pulling faces and doing acrobatics like a bizarre clown or jester and all the time chanting "maybe I'm six, maybe I'm ten, maybe I'm hundred and eighty four" !!!!

This behaviour confirmed my speculation that these were probably not people with whom one would be able to hold any sort of conversation! I contacted the police who arrived rapidly and apprehended and detained at least one of them, the rest very quickly disappeared.

In the light of the foregoing I am requesting that I be allowed to budget for a wet suit and ear defenders as part of the Contract Managers protective clothing (only joking!).

Attendances:

LCAS Annual Health & Safety Seminar: Farnborough - 1st June 2005

BM for file.

40029.

Dear Chris

Below is a draft of text to be read out at the next Grounds meeting in May. If you wish to change it please do so and return to us for our agreement.

We hope we will be able to agree suitable wording as soon as possible as I am sure you agree we wish to draw a line under this episode.

Chairman's Comments 19 May 2005.

Grounds Meeting 17 March 2005

There was an unfortunate misunderstanding at the Grounds meeting on 17 March 2005 regarding a memorandum from a councillor. The Town and Deputy Town Clerk are very sorry for this misunderstanding, as is the Chairman of Grounds.

All parties have discussed this matter and apologies have been accepted. The complaint against the Town and Deputy Town Clerk has been withdrawn.

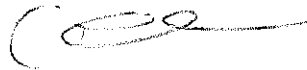
Barbara Macken

Barbara Macken

Sue McMorran

Sue McMorran

3 May 2005



Chris Jenner

4/5/05

HERITAGE WESSEX LIMITED

The Clerk
Petersfield Town Council
The Town Hall, Heath Rd,
Petersfield,
Hampshire
GU31 4EA

16th June 2005

Dear Sir

Moreton House , The Spain, Petersfield

We refer to our recent telephone conversation with your Mr Jones in respect of the white posts that we have placed immediately adjoining the parking area in front of Moreton House. By way of explanation, the posts have been put in position so that they can be occasionally linked by chain with the replacement posts that run in front of the property with a view to discouraging car parking in front of the Listed Building. A similar arrangement exists in front of No 8.

It is our hope to be able to reduce the area parking area created for the former school at the time of carrying out the restoration and refurbishment works to Moreton House itself which will be reverting to a single residential property. In the meantime we do wish to curtail the parking on a temporary basis as this has already caused some problems for our contractors. We trust that the Town Council will support our endeavours to remove eyesore of parking from the frontage of the historic building.

Prior to taking any action we had made enquiries through our solicitors, Thomas Eggar of Chichester, who were unable to find any information on legal ownership of The Spain. If, as indicated to us, The Spain, other than our access and parking area, is owned by the Town Council then we apologise for our failure to seek approval from the Town Council in advance. In those circumstances we would be pleased to apply for a temporary licence in respect of the posts.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Sturt
Director

c.c. Thos Eggar