

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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

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)

Petersfield Herald
Petersfield Post
5 members of the public

G 0764 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman had no comments.

G 0765 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mrs Daubney.

G 0766 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following consideration it was

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

G 0767 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.

Mr John Crowhurst requested a response to his query (11.11.04) regarding the risk of pollution to the Heath Pond from the gully drains. He had received a response on 14.7.05 stating that his query had not been addressed due to pressure of work but would receive attention soon. He was still awaiting a response. The MCO advised Mr Crowhurst that he would reply to him in the next week.

Mr Crowhurst also enquired if any works had been undertaken from the new Heath Integrated Management Plan. He was advised

that no work had been undertaken and that funds were not available until 1 April 2006. Mr Crowhurst was also advised that the plan had not been costed - it was project based and therefore difficult to make financial plans.

The meeting was re-convened.

G 0768 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 asked, following the recent press coverage given to the Angling Club, to advise on the measures taken regarding Avian Influenza.

Mr Jones reported that he had researched the necessary procedures and had produced posters, which had been erected around The Heath and on the Boat House and Kiosk. The posters clearly informed the public to report any unusual bird deaths immediately to the Town Council and/or Defra and asked the public not to go near or attempt to move dead birds. Mr Jones advised those present that the Angling Club had not contacted the Town Council for advise prior to the press article. This was noted.

G 0769 THE HEATH:

A. Petersfield and District Angling Club (PADAC)

Members received a request for work on the Heath to be carried out by a Club Working Party. Members were concerned that a plan of work had not been submitted with the request. To allow Mr Crowhurst to address the meeting it was

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders.

Mr Crowhurst advised that this work was carried out annually in the Spring and involved removing debris (branches etc) from the Pond.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that permission for this work be granted subject to a satisfactory method statement and risk assessment to be approved by the MCO.

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

Members received a report from the MCO on the condition of the buildings G 0692 F (i) refers.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that this matter be considered at the April meeting of committee once members had studied the lease (available in Town Council office for members perusal).

C. Petersfield Cricket Club

Members received and considered correspondence regarding maintenance of the Outfield from the Petersfield Cricket Club.

Members generally felt this matter was between the Cricket Club and Voice Grounds Care Ltd. The maintenance contract had another two years, with an option for a further two years to run.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that, in the future, if the work was carried out to the MCO's satisfaction, Voice Grounds Care Ltd be asked to pay the Petersfield Cricket Club.

G 0770

PADDOCK WAY RECREATION GROUND

Members received correspondence from Hampshire County Council regarding maintenance of Paddock Way and a proposal that HCC increase the rental for this land to £120 per annum in advance commencing from 22 December 2006 (currently rental is £100 per annum).

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

A. Mr Ayer investigate who owns the land where the litter is accumulating (strip of land adjacent to housing and trapezium shaped area).

B. The new rental charge be accepted and agreed.

C. Permission be sought to place play equipment on the site.

It was also

RESOLVED that relinquishing the lease on this land be considered at the April meeting of Grounds committee.

G 0771 ANNUAL REPORT - COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Members received and noted the above report.

It was also

RESOLVED that the funding opportunities be considered and discussed at the April meeting of committee.

G 0772 BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND ACCESS

Members received an update from the Chairman G 0694 refers. Mr Jenner advised the meeting that he, Mr Sandeman and Mr Tweddle (EHDC Officer) had met with residents of Woodbury Avenue in January, who agreed with the proposal. The Buckmore Avenue residents were not in agreement and now the Woodbury Avenue residents had changed their minds and were not in favour of the proposal. The Chairman went on to inform those present that he had heard (this evening) that the residents have proposed their own scheme to the District Council without consultation with the Town Council. The Chairman also informed the meeting that the resident's scheme had already been suggested and had been turned down. Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED that Mr Jenner and Mr Sandeman organise a meeting with both Woodbury and Buckmore Residents Associations, Alistair Tweddle (EHDC Officer), Sam Payne (HCC Councillor) and Guy Staccpole (EHDC Councillor) to decide what scheme is possible for the access to Bell Hill Recreation Ground.

G 0773 SKATE PARK WORKING PARTY

To receive notes of the first meeting held 2 March 2006, copy attached to these minutes for information.

Mr Well's offer of help regarding funding was welcomed and it was

RESOLVED that Nigel Wells', Festival for Young People (F4YP), offer to investigate funding for this project be gratefully accepted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40 pm

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

March 2006

Peter Jones.

Grounds & Litter Maintenance contracts:

No major problems with these contracts.

Heath & Pond:

Weed Killing – Playground Area:

Once again it appears that EHDC have been spraying glyphosate based herbicides on our land, I have again asked that they make sure their operatives know which area's they are and are not responsible for.

Disabled access barrier:

I am still awaiting estimates for repair to the damaged wooden barrier

Toilets:

Work is starting on the cleaning, decorating and refurbishment of the toilets.

To keep inconvenience (in the convenience) to a minimum it will be carried out in stages using the disabled & family toilets as male or female while each one of the main offices is closed. It is estimated that the work should be completed in about 8 days

Cricket Pitch - trees:

Clearance of tree's surrounding the cricket pitch is nearly complete and the results are looking excellent. Another good effort by the Friends of Petersfield Heath!

Island:

I am pleased to report that FoPH have been awarded a grant of £1000 towards the cost of renovating the pond island.

English Heritage:

A report from the visit of English Heritage (18th January 2006) has been copied to Member's pigeonholes for information.

Hampshire Heathland Project:

The Hampshire Heathland Project will come to the end of its five year, Heritage Lottery funded phase in July 2006. I am informed that the Heathland Project will continue in some form after this time; Alex Cruickshank and his team are currently working on the role that the Project will fulfil in the future. The Project has been successful in delivering large scale habitat restoration to heathland across Hampshire. Petersfield Heath has been able to benefit from the Project's help; providing both financial support and expert advice for various ecological and restoration tasks not least, the planning and partial funding of our new Heath and Pond Integrated Management Plan. I am personally grateful to Alex and his team for the help and advice which they have been more than happy to provide over the last 20 months.

I have the Project's Annual Report for 2004/2005. If any Member would like a copy I will be pleased to provide one. A Final Report will also be available in July.

Heath & Pond Continued:

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu):

A dead Canada Goose was discovered on the pond and, in line with official procedure, we immediately contacted both Defra and the VLA (Veterinary Laboratory Agency) who made arrangements to collect the bird for analysis. When the inspectors arrived at the pond they were unable to locate the bird and, after spending some time searching, finally gave up and left.

The next day I was informed that, despite information and warning signs with instructions to the contrary, a member of the public had waded into the pond, collected the dead bird, taken it home and then delivered it to a local vet in the town!

I had to contact the VLA who had to call again to collect the animal. Not only was this waste of the VLA's valuable time but it could, potentially, have proved a health risk to members of the public as well as other animals.

There are signs displayed and distributed around the Heath Pond, on the notice board and at the boat house and kiosk. These signs give clear instructions to telephone PTC and/or DEFRA and warn members of the public not to remove or go near dead birds. I shall however put more signs up and have suggested that we ask the local press to publish information and instructions to inform the public.

Fortunately, I am pleased to say, that I have received the analysis report from VLA and the dead Goose was NOT infected with any strain of avian influenza.

Fence repairs:

I have received quotes to repair holes in fences at the following sites:

Woods Meadow - play area, **Paddock Way** - chain-link, **Avenue Playing Fields** - replace/repair the section of fence adjacent to Weston Road

Love Lane:

Removed a dangerous tree house adjacent to Herne School. The tree house which was quite high up had large pieces of timber overhanging the lane which were perilously in danger of falling and injuring pedestrians using the footpath below.

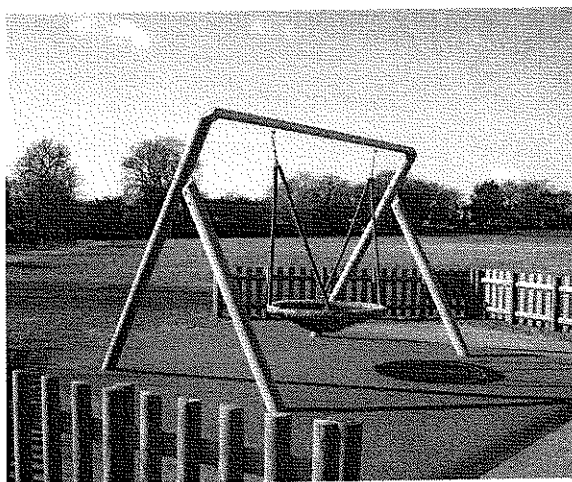
Bell Hill Recreation Ground:

Reports of dogs gaining access to the recreation ground – I have asked contractor to inspect the fencing and repair as necessary. The gate to the playground also requires a new latch and an effective closing mechanism (spring).

Penns Farm Play Area:

The new cradle swing is now installed and is attracting a lot of positive comments.

It is proving to be very popular with the children, so much so, that I had difficulty finding a moment when it has not been in use so that I could take this photo:



Petersfield Town Council

SKATE PARK WORKING PARTY

A meeting of the Skate Park (SP) Working Party was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield on 2 March 2006 commencing at 6 pm.

PRESENT: Peter Jones (MCO PTC)
Sue McMorrان (DTC PTC)
Chris Jenner (Chairman of Grounds, PTC)
Hugh Sandeman (Councillor, PTC)
Joe Smither (SP User)
Kieran Parkin (SP User)
Jamie Ashwell (SP User)
Sam Wilkins (SP User)
Richard Atkinson (SP User)
Elliot Kite (SP User)

Also in Attendance: Nigel Wells Festival for Young People (F4YP)

1. Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and was given a name badge.

2. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Hilary Ayer.

3. Terms of Reference

The working party considered terms of reference, which had been prepared by PTC Officers (SM and PJ). These terms of reference were agreed (copy attached to these notes for information).

4. Rough Outline of Requirements

Following discussion and consideration it was agreed that the following requirements be agreed:

- In - Situ Concrete
- Sunken Bowls - Tear drop/hip/volcano with ledges on rims
- Split Level
- Everything to flow and link
- Moguls
- Hipped Flat Bank
- Grind Box
- Stairs
- Ledges to be angle ironed (metal)
- Seats that you can also ride
- Bins within the site

- Lighting

Further discussion took place regarding fencing. The original questionnaire had indicated that fencing was required. This was now under review.

It was agreed that Peter Jones measures the site.

It was also agreed that Grounds committee consider extending the site (if possible).

5. Companies to Approach for Initial Plan for Park

Following discussion it was decided that the following companies be approached:

- Blakedown
- Fearless
- Bendcrete
- Whitesnake
- Altic
- RampChild (if concrete available)

6. Funding

Sources of funding had been investigated and the working party were given information on Lottery funds available. Nigel Wells (F4YP) was keen to take on the funding aspect of the project. It was agreed that this needed to be in partnership with the working party which would avoid "doubling up" on applications.

RECOMMENDED to Grounds committee that Nigel Wells, Festival for Young People, investigate funding for this project in partnership with the Skate Park Working Party.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 6 April 2006 commencing at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Petersfield Town Council

Skate Park Working Party - Terms of Reference

This working party was set up by resolution of the Grounds committee at their meeting on 16 February 2006 - G 0693 A refers. This working party will report to the Grounds committee on a monthly basis.

Aims of the Working Party

- To decide plan for the proposed new skate park.
- To recommend final plan and contractor to Council.
- To investigate sources of funding, make applications for funding and to obtain funding for the project.

Membership of the Working Party

Kieran Parkin - User of the Skate Park
Jamie Ashwell - User of the Skate Park
Elliot Kite - User of the Skate Park
Sam Wilkins - User of the Skate Park
Joe Smither - user of the Skate Park
Chris Jenner - Petersfield Town Council - Chairman of Grounds committee
Hugh Sandeman - Petersfield Town Council - Town Councillor
Hilary Ayer - Petersfield Town Council - Town Councillor
Peter Jones - Petersfield Town Council - Contracts Monitoring Officer
Sue McMorran - Petersfield Town Council - Deputy (Acting) Town Clerk

Other experts will be asked to attend meetings when their expertise/knowledge is required.

Sue McMorran
2 March 2006