

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Grounds Committee was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 16 November 2006 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr C Jenner (Chairman)
Mrs H Ayer
Mrs L Daubney
Mr H Sandeman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk)
Mrs S McMorran (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mrs S Watts (Responsible Financial Officer)
Mr P Jones (Maintenance/Contracts Officer)
Mr R Ayer (Town Mayor)
Mr V Clarke (Chairman Finance and General Purposes Committee)
Petersfield Herald
Petersfield Post

5 members of the public

G 0450 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman had no comments.

G 0451 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Dutton and Ms Vincent.

G 0452 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 12 October 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record.

G 0453 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

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 0454 BUDGET/ESTIMATES 2007/2008 - SECOND DRAFT BUDGET

Mr Ayer left the meeting at 7 pm.

Members received and considered the Second Draft Budget for 2007/2008. Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that the second draft budget be agreed with the following amendments:

Code 19 (Equipment Maintenance) Dept 400 (Misc Grounds) budget to be increased to total of £3010

Code 19 Dept 412 (Paddock Way) Add sum of £150

Code 17 (Grounds Maintenance) Dept 409 (Tilmore Allotments) delete sum of £800 (fencing amount entered twice)

Code 17 Dept 404 (Sheet Allotments) increase sum for Access Road Repairs to £103

Code 17 Dept 419 (Love Lane Sports Ground) delete £200 (Vandalism Repairs)

Code 18 (Litter Clearance) Dept 412 (Paddock Way) increase sum to £556

It was also

RESOLVED that

a. the RFO investigate and inform members why water rates were budgeted at Bell Hill Recreation Ground (11/402) and Avenue Playing Fields (11/418)

b. the MCO investigate and inform members on possible savings on the Animal Waste Contract if bins suitable for both litter and animal waste (including emptying) were installed

c. the Administration Officer contact the Allotment Association to ascertain if plots should be rotavated or regularly strimmed for new tenants and inform members.

G 0455 VIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY WORKS

Members received details of virements from the RFO, copy attached to these minutes for information. Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that the virements pertaining to the Grounds budget heading be approved.

G 0456 **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE UP TO 31 OCTOBER 2006**

Members received and noted income and expenditure reports up to 31 October 2006.

Mrs Watts left the meeting at 7.28 pm

G 0457 **MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS OFFICER REPORT**

Members received and noted a report from the MCO, copy attached to these minutes for information. Concern was raised that the proposed bonfire and barbecue on The Heath had not come to committee. The Chairman advised that the MCO had contacted him regarding this matter and had agreed the event.

G 0458 **PETERSFIELD AND DISTRICT ANGLING CLUB**

Members received correspondence from the Vice Chairman seeking permission for the Pond to be open for all fishing from 1 January 2007.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that the Petersfield and District Angling Club be given permission to open the Heath Pond for all fishing from 1 January 2007.

G 0459 **LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND****A.** **Site for Skate Park**

Following the site visit held on 24 October 2006 members were asked to agree the proposed site.

To enable Mr Geoff Kerr to address members it was

RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended.

Mr Kerr outlined the proposed site on a plan but apologised that actual dimensions were not available.

The meeting was re-convened

RESOLVED that the site as marked out for the site visit on 24 October 2006 at Love Lane Sports Ground be agreed for the proposed new skate park.

B. **Petersfield Town Juniors Football Club - Mini Soccer Pitch Annual Rent Review**

Members were asked to give consideration to the annual rent review for the Mini Soccer Pitch.

Prior to discussion regarding this matter the Chairman asked the Town Clerk if, by increasing the rent for the mini soccer pitch by 10%, this would resolve the problem with the proposed increase in allotment rents. The Town Clerk confirmed that this would be the case, explaining to members that allotment rents could not be increased at a higher rate than other services provided by the Town Council. This matter would be discussed at Finance and General Purposes committee.

It was proposed that the rent for the mini soccer pitch be increased by 10%. An amended proposal that the rent be increased by 3% was not seconded.

Following which it was

RECOMMENDED that the Petersfield Town Juniors Football Club rental for the mini soccer pitch at Love Lane Sports Ground be increased by 10% to £23.34.

G 0460 PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS - PETERSFIELD RUGBY CLUB

Members noted that the Rugby Club would be using advertising banners between the temporary safety barrier erected on the far side of the 1st XV pitch.

G 0461 NATIONAL PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Members received an invitation to attend the 80th AGM of the National Playing Fields Association to be held on 29 November 2006 at the Winchester Tennis and Squash Club at 1.45 pm.
Any Member interested in attending was asked to contact the Town Clerk.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Virements needed for Emergency work 2006-2007

Code	Centre	Description	Order No.	Supplier	Money needed
17	419	Extra work to Pitches	64030/32	Voice Grounds	6450
17	419	Anti-Vandal & Ramp removal	3853	Travis & Voice	1278
17	419	Repair to pump control	64021	AS Electric	88.5
17	419	Unblock drain, sump. & Temp repair	64018	Seismic	157.5
17	419	Clear Blockage to drain	62033	Kates	44
17	419	Emergency Call-out to drains	62046	EHDC	88.52
17	408	Remove contaminated waste	64034	Voice Grounds	1550
17	420	Install skts and new posts	64039	Voice Grounds	420
17	406	Emergency removal lights	64064	AS Electric	50
19	406	Insurance claim (Lights)		Insurance claim	250
17	419	Broken fences			150
17	213	Broken fences			100
17	213	Broken gate			100
17	213	Lifted slabs trip hazard			432
16	213	Repairs to wood to fascia			249
16	213	Roof		Insurance claim	250
16	213	Guttering		Insurance claim	
16	219	Fire alarm			307
19	212	Smoke detector & Emergency lights			50
29	400	Carriage for goal posts			128
16	213	Over budget			1163
				Total needed	13305.52

Virements found for the emergency work

46	Various	Insurance saving			2500
41	210	Postage			400
48	207	Legal fees			5000
48	208	Legal fees			2000
47	210	Advertising			73
47	210	Advertising			42
47	210	Advertising			50
30	404	Fixtures and fittings			384
30	408	Fixtures and fittings			300
29	205	General Purchases			65
16	201	Property Maint.			900
16	210	Property Maint.			70
17	408	Grounds Maint.			100
10	200	Rates			989.17
10	212	Rates			83.05
10	213	Rates			134.6
				Total found	13090.82
				Total needed	214.7

Although this is showing a short fall of £214.70. In the current budget, under 16/213 is £600 for roof repairs.

'I would suggest £214.70 is used from that.

This can then boost the £250 needed against the Insurance claim for Ave. Pavilion.

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

November 2006

Peter Jones.

Grounds & Litter Maintenance contracts:

I am not aware of any major problems as far as the grounds and litter contracts are concerned.

Heath & Pond:

Trees:

Some tree clearance work has begun (on the barrows – see below). I am waiting to receive approval from the Forestry Commission to start the major tree work between the Cricket green and Heath Road East. It is expected that work will commence during the next two weeks.

Tumuli:

Following meetings with English Heritage, we have started to clear a number of selected trees from some of the burial mounds. Further discussions and negotiations have indicated that we may be successful in securing financial assistance (matched funding) from English Heritage to help with the future maintenance of these important monuments.

Seats:

A total of five new seats have been installed at various locations around the Heath and pond.

Heather Regeneration:

Several areas have been seeded with heather toppings obtained from Iping Common and I am grateful to FoPH and Rob Free of Sussex Wealden Greensand Heathland Project for their combined efforts concerning this project

Work Parties:

I was pleased to have been invited to meet the team at the Leydene Sustainability Centre and having made several useful contacts there, I feel that future collaboration with them will be of great benefit to the town. I am particularly grateful to Sean Reeves who is Woodland Manager at the centre, for his help in clearing trees during recent work parties. Sean and colleagues provided expertise, labour and equipment on Sunday 5th November. The Friends of Petersfield Heath were instrumental in arranging this event and continue to hold and organise regular volunteer work parties around the Heath.

We should not underestimate the work that the 'Friends' carry out on our behalf. At my request, the Chairman of FoPH has produced a breakdown and summary of works carried out over the past year along with associated cost values, this shows that the value of these works in monetary terms equates to approximately £6,500 in a 12-month period!

Interpretation Boards:

The Heath management plan asks for the provision of improved interpretation boards on our Heath. With this in mind, I met with Mr Toby Williams of Sussex Downs Conservation Board & SWGHP to talk about the provision of such boards. Why Sussex? – The 'Serpent Trail', which runs mostly through the South Downs begins (or ends) on Petersfield Heath!

Negotiations are underway and it seems we may be able to receive professional design and, importantly for us, financial help in providing high quality interpretation boards that will meet all requirements. Naturally, I will keep this Committee informed of developments.

Fair:

I have not been made aware of problems regarding this years Tarot Fair apart from some damage to two of the fold-down posts at the Heath Road West entrance. The cost of repairs will be born by the fair organisers.

Love Lane Pitches:

Both our Contractor and I were deeply upset to discover that vandals had driven through the barriers at the Love Lane car park, driving onto the newly seeded pitches, they appear to have driven around at speed carving deep circular gouges in the new turf. It is a complete mystery to me why some individuals derive so much pleasure from destroying property and facilities and undoing other people's hard work! Needless to state the matter has been reported and I have ordered the re-instatement of the posts. I wish to commend our contractor who has managed to repair the pitch damage at his own cost

Heath Bonfire & Barbeque 19th November:

There has been much activity over the last few months clearing gorse, saplings, bracken etc. and large amounts of arisings have been generated. The best way to dispose of this is to burn it on site and it seems a good idea to combine this with a social event. To this end we have arranged a Bonfire & Barbeque to take place on the Heath.

The event, which is a collaboration between FoPH and Voice GC Ltd, coincides with a FoPH winter work party. Our contractor, Voice Grounds Care, have kindly offered (FOC!) to take care of the bonfire and organise the barbeque. We are not providing food so people are asked to bring their own. It will not be publicly advertised since we need to keep to manageable numbers of responsible persons.

This is a 'bit of fun' a small 'thank-you' to our volunteers and a chance for people to get together and maybe learn more about what the 'Friends' and VGC do.

Sunday 19th November: Between 10AM and about 2.30PM

Location = South of the Old Golf Club (Little School), in the space between Music Hill and the Cricket ground.

All are most welcome to come along, bring friends and family, bring some sausages, burgers, or whatever you like (and don't forget some rolls to put them in!).

Note: If it pours with rain it will be cancelled.

P.S. No one will be expected to help with the morning work party but if anyone makes the offer I'm sure it will be gratefully accepted!