

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Grounds Committee was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 11 January 2007 at 6.30 p.m.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk)
Mrs S McMorrان (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr P Jones (Maintenance/Contracts Officer)
Mr P Molloy
Mr I Essai (PTJFC)
Mrs J Butler (PTJFC)

Petersfield Herald
Petersfield Post

1 member(s) of the public

G 0576 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman made the following comments:

- Love Lane Car Park would be used by Petersfield Railway Station for a park and ride on 1 and 2 February whilst work was carried out to the Station Car Park and it would be suggested that a generous donation be made to the Mayor's Charity
- The Petersfield and District Dog Training Society would be holding their annual dog show at Penns Farm Playing Field on 3 June 2007
- The bid for Developers Contributions for play equipment at Paddock Way had been approved by EHDC in the sum of £55,134.

G 0577 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence.

G 0578 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members asked for an update on items resolved at G 0454. The MCO advised that he had informed the RFO that there was a water meter at Bell Hill Recreation Ground (G 0454 A refers). No action had yet been taken regarding the dog waste bins (G 0454 B refers). Members were reminded that they had received a memo regarding G 0454 C informing them that the Allotment Association were happy with the

status quo regarding the rotavation of plots. The other two items would be reported to the next meeting.

Following consideration it was

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

G 0579 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Ms Vincent declared a personal interest, as both her brothers were Allotment plot holders - minute number G 0587 refers.

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 0580 **PETERSFIELD TOWN JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB PRESENTATION**

Mr Essai gave a very informative presentation outlining the immediate requirements of the Club and also gave an insight into their vision for the Club covering the medium and long term plans. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes for information. Mr Essai was thanked for the excellent presentation. Following discussion it was recommended that the continued use of three football pitches at Penns Farm Playing Field at a charge of £400 until the end of the season (April 2007) be an agenda item for the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting on 18 January 2007, with the endorsement of the Grounds committee.

It was also

RESOLVED that the medium and long term plans of the Petersfield Town Juniors Football Club be considered further at the March meeting of the Grounds committee.

G 0581 **MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

Concern was raised at the state of the ground where tree work had recently been undertaken. The MCO reported that he had been assured that the ground would recover in time. Members were also advised

would recover in time. Members were also advised that since the bollard had been installed another entrance had been made onto the Heath. The MCO was aware and intended to install a wooden post to stop vehicular access. This was noted.

G 0582 THE AVENUE PAVILION CAR PARK

Members received a request from a resident of Toby's Garden for permission to use one or two parking spaces at the Avenue Pavilion car park during building works to their house. A fence panel to their property would be removed to allow access for building materials etc. Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that Mr Emmens of Toby's Garden, Petersfield, may use two parking spaces for a maximum of three months at the Avenue Pavilion car park. The charge would be £60 per week, which the Town Council would pass onto the Town Mayor's Charity. The fence panel must be in place at night.

G 0583 SHEET RECREATION GROUND - SHEET SCOUT HUT

Members received a request from 1st Sheet (St Mary's) Scout Group seeking agreement in principle to a new Scout Hut on the site. It was also requested that a lease of at least 25 years be agreed in principle.

Following consideration it was

RECOMMENDED that it be agreed in principle to a new Scout Hut for 1st Sheet (St Mary's) Scout Group at Sheet Recreation Ground with a lease of 25 years.

G 0584 ROTHERLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP

Members received details of planned works for 2007 to plant a new hedge between Rotherlands and the rugby pitches. Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that approval be given to the Rotherlands Conservation Group for the planting of a new hedge between Rotherlands and the rugby pitches at Penns Farm Playing Fields.

G 0585 LITTER HOT SPOTS WITHIN PETERSFIELD

Members were asked to identify litter 'hot spots' within Petersfield to enable EHDC to target an enforcement 'blitz' in the Spring. Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that EHDC be advised of the following litter 'hot spots' within Petersfield:

- Buckingham Road
- Bedford Road
- Rushes Road near mini roundabout
- Vicinity of McDonalds
- Footpath from The Petersfield School to Hylton Road
- Sub Station at footpath Tesco to Hylton Road
- Brook at Waitrose to Tor Way
- Land adjacent to Paddock Way
- Land at Railway Bridge at Frenchman's Road
- Sub Station at west side of Railway crossing at Petersfield Station.

G 0586

THE HEATH

A. Friends of Petersfield Heath

Members received and noted minutes of meeting held 7 November 2006.

B. Developer's Contributions - Erosion Control

Members received an estimate for erosion control (using safe grass) and were also asked to consider the area for the installation of the erosion control. Members agreed that a further two quotes were required. It was also agreed that contractors be asked to give their suggestions for the type of erosion control measures to be used. Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED that

- i. two additional quotations be sought for erosion control measures at The Heath
- ii. the areas, blue, green, red and orange as the plan attached to these minutes be agreed for the erosion control
- iii. railway sleepers were not acceptable for the orange area on the plan (adjacent to the jetty) and should not be used.

C. Easter Fair 2007

Members received and noted confirmation that the Easter Fair would be held over Easter 2007.

D. Tree Works - Report from MCO

Members were asked to refer to the report received from the MCO earlier in the meeting (copy attached to these minutes). The MCO assured members that the trees that had been marked would be inspected by a

tree surgeon before any action was taken. Consultation had, or would, take place with PADAC, Friends of Petersfield Heath, The Kiosk concessionaire and the Grounds Contractor. PADAC would not be undertaking clearance works. This was noted.

G 0587

ALLOTMENTS

Members received suggestions from a plot holder on the management of the Allotment sites, copy attached to these minutes for information. Some members expressed concern at the tone of the suggestions. It was suggested that the Allotment Association be approached to ascertain if they wished to take over the management of the allotments. Following further consideration it was

RESOLVED that the Allotment Association be contacted to ascertain if they had any interest in taking over the management of the Tilmore and Sheet Allotment sites with the suggestions of the plot holder also included in the correspondence. Further consideration to be given by the Grounds committee once a reply had been received from the Allotment Association.

G 0588

FOOTPATH 42

Members were advised that Hampshire County Council had advised that repairs to footpath 42 had not been included in the 2007/2008 programme of works. HCC would continue to seek alternative sources of funding to carry out repairs and also to reach agreement with the landowner regarding both the status of the path and access for construction machinery.

Members noted, with regret the correspondence. Following which it was:

RESOLVED that Buriton Parish Council be copied with the correspondence for their information and that the Town Clerk write to Hampshire County Council every three months to chase the repairs to footpath 42.

G 0589

LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND - PTJFC DEVELOPER'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Members received correspondence from PTJFC seeking Developer's Contributions for work already carried out to the Mini Soccer Pitch at Love Lane Sports Ground. Town Council Officers had sought the advice of the Senior Planning Officer at EHDC. He had advised that "the Council (EHDC) does not normally

pay for such works retrospectively. If you do wish to pursue developer funding then a strong case would have to be made to justify why payment should be made retrospectively".

Members were advised that Officers did not think a strong case could be made for this application. If new works were undertaken then a bid may be possible. This was noted, with regret.

G 0590

SHEET GRAZING LAND

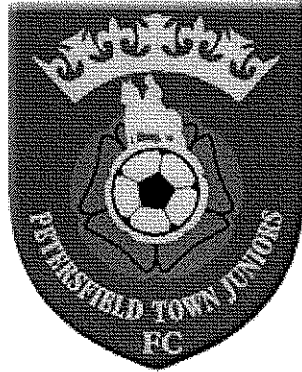
A request to use the grazing fields to the right and in front of the Sheet Millennium Meadow was received from a resident of Sheet.

Concern was raised at the safety of grazing bullocks in an area open to the public. Members generally felt they needed more information. It was also felt that the sum of £35 per annum was insufficient. Following consideration it was

RESOLVED that agreement to use the land for grazing be agreed, in principle but that the following information was required for consideration at the next meeting of the Grounds committee before a final decision was made:

- Details of the type of fencing
- Area to be fenced plus styles to be marked on a plan
- Details of applicants Public Liability Insurance cover
- Town Clerk to check details of Town Council's Public Liability Insurance cover

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.43 pm.



“The Bigger Picture”

Club Development Plans For Petersfield Town Juniors Football Club

Authors

Ian Essai, Chairman PTJFC
Nigel Carande, Planning Manager PTJFC

Contributors

Peter Jones, Contracts Manager, Town Council
Cllr Paul Molloy, Town Council
Christian DuPont, Voice Grounds Care Ltd

**Date 4th January 2007
Version : v1.0**



Club Development Plans for Petersfield Town Juniors FC

Grounds Committee Meeting 11 Jan 07



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Club Development Plans for Petersfield Town Juniors FC

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1 Introduction

The growth of the Petersfield Town Juniors FC over the past 6 years has resulted in the club establishing a growth strategy which needs to be inline with the Councils plans.

The purpose of this document is to provide a high level view of the Town Juniors plans, for consideration by Petersfield Town Council's Grounds Committee, regarding additional grounds and facilities over the next few years.

Town Juniors would like Petersfield Town Council to consider renting 3 additional pitches at Penns Farm, for the rest of the 2006/7 season, (*detailed in section 3.1*) and also consider a more permanent arrangement for the use of Penns Farm (*detailed in section 3.2*).

The club also want to share, with the council, its long term plans, (*detailed in section 3.3*) next 5-10 years so that there is a general understanding of the community needs and jointly seek out funding opportunities to help build the facilities for the town.



Club Development Plans for Petersfield Town Juniors FC

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2 Background to Petersfield Town Juniors FC

Town Juniors was formed in 1975 by John Wood who retired in 2004 after 27 years service. John and another parent Dr David Martin both involved in Cub-Scout football, realised their sons were becoming too old to play and the Town needed a junior football club.

From those humble beginning, the club has grown, over the past 30 years, and now provides football for around 300 (*and growing*) boys and girls of Petersfield and the surrounding areas. Not only is the club one of the largest in Hampshire, it is also regarded as one of the pillar's of the Petersfield community.

The club offers children from the ages of 5-8 years old (*mini's*) football training on Sunday's. In addition to the mini's the club also provide football for the older age groups up to the under 18's. These older groups play competitive football across a number of leagues; Portsmouth Youth, Arundel & West Sussex and the North Hants and the Winchester League's on Sunday's.

2.1 FA Chartered Development Standard

Town Juniors is proud to be a Chartered Development Community Club affiliated with the Hampshire FA, and operated totally by volunteers. All volunteers have been CRB checked and our managers have a minimum of Level 1 Coaching certificates, which includes training on the aspects of child welfare as well as encouraging children to play competitive football in a fun environment.

2.2 Girls Football

Girl's football is proving very popular since its launch in 2003. The club now has 3 teams in the Under 13's and 14's age group, with an additional interest being generated within our Mini's section.

2.3 Prestigious 6-a-side Tournament

In addition to the provision of football for the youngsters of Petersfield, the club also operate one of the most prestigious 6-a-side tournaments in the region attracting approx. 4000 visitors over a 2 day event. This is one of the major fund raising events for the club, attracting approx £5 – 7k in a season. This money is used to subsidise various expenses, like managers training equipment, kit, FA Level coaching certificates, CRB checking to name a few.

2.4 Football in the Community

Community work is **KEY** for the club's future success. Winning is enjoyable, but playing a vital part in the community is much more important. Town Juniors is very much a community club. Football should be for everyone, and the club want it to be fun for players of all ages and standards. The clubs Community Liaison Officer works with local schools, such as Herne Farm and TPS, providing after school coaching activities with qualifies FA managers.

This year, Town Juniors remembered their beginnings and donated a "full side" football kit for the Cub Scouts of Langrish.



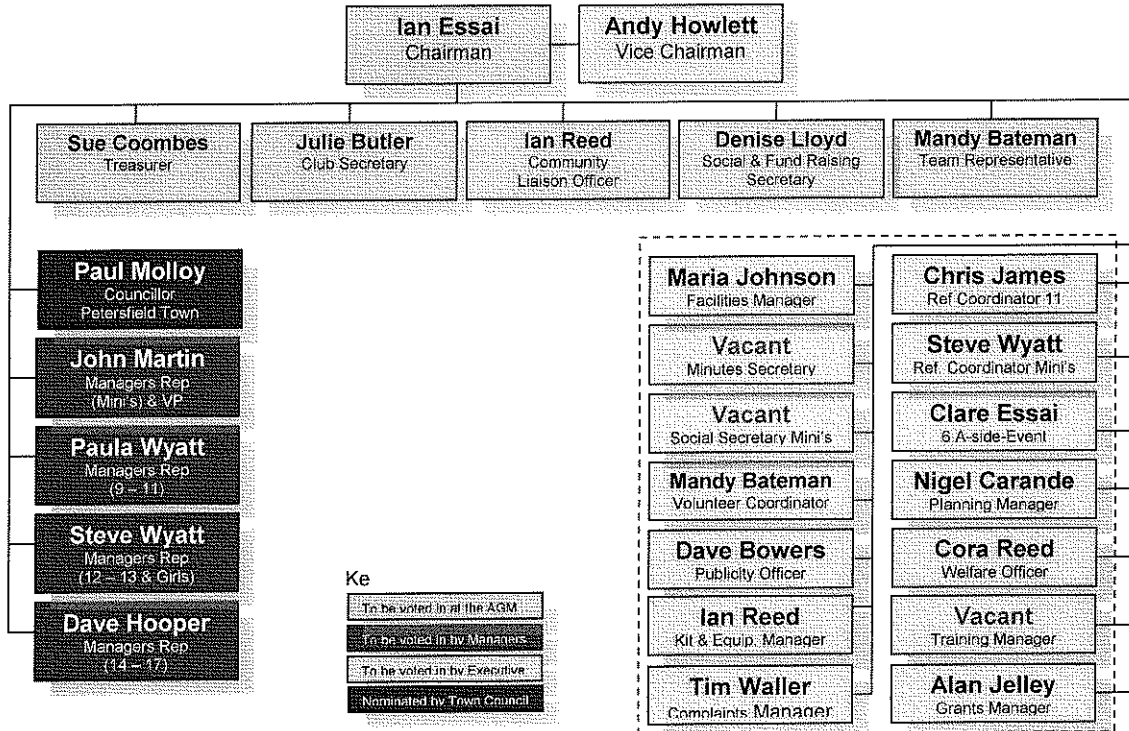
Club Development Plans for Petersfield Town Juniors FC

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2.5 Petersfield Town Juniors Organisation

Over the past 3-4 years the club has seen the administration grow along with its membership. The club relies heavily on volunteers and an organisation structure has been implemented to share the workload amongst the keen volunteers of Petersfield town. There are now 26 roles for administration and a further 60 people involved in running the various teams.



Petersfield Town Juniors FC – Organisation Chart season 2006/7

2.6 Do you know what it cost?

To operate a club of this size has many challenges, one of which is expenses. The club spend a staggering £9000 per season on training venues during the winter months. Other costs include setting up teams which cost just under £1000 per team, on kit, training equipment, balls and first aid equipment.

During this season, Town Juniors had to fund the Mini pitch redevelopment project (*the old BMX track at Love Lane*) from their own reserves which cost just over £10,000.

The club charge only £1.00 per player for a training session and £1.00 for a league match. There is an annual membership fee from £10 - £25 depending on age group. This income and our 6-aside tournament, other fund raising events and sponsorship help to balance the books - just!



Club Development Plans for Petersfield Town Juniors FC

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3 Proposed Plans

The proposed plans are broken into three sections; Immediate, Medium and Long Terms. Town Juniors have worked with Town Council's Contracts Manager, Peter Jones, the Ground Maintenance Contractor, Christian DuPont and Cllr Paul Molloy to help position a win win situation for both the Council and Town Juniors.

3.1 Immediate Term

Town Juniors currently occupy the Love Lane playing field, a Mini pitch (*the old BMX track*) and Herne Farm School. There are 20 teams amounting to approx 300 players.

The Mini pitch has been out of action for three seasons due to unsuitable ground surface, mainly sharp flint and stones, which was deemed a safety hazard by the club. The club have embarked on a major redevelopment, costing over £10,000 and are looking forward to re-using the mini pitch in the 2007/8 season.

Herne Farm School has also been key to hosting the Under 7&8's players, for at least the past seven years, since space at Love Lane was being used for competitive league matches by the older players.

The recent problems with pitch maintenance and usage misalignment, at Love Lane during the 2005/6 season, resulted in the 11-aside teams being temporarily moved to Penns Farm. These playing fields had not been utilised to its full revenue potential. These grounds have been recognised by both the Council and Town Juniors as an ideal area for playing 11-aside football, because of its flat surface and open space.

The current plan is to move Town Juniors back to Love Lane during January 2007, which would result in dismantling 3 sets of Goals and installing them at Love Lane, leaving one pitch for the Council to rent out (*currently rented to Liss Athletics Football Club*).

The Club would like the Council to rent 3 of the Penns Farm pitches to Town Juniors for the rest of the 2006/7 season, leaving the goal posts as they are. This would save the Council the cost of dismantling and installing the goal posts at Love Lane. Town Juniors would use their own portable goal posts and establish pitches at Love Lane. Town Juniors would re-locate from Herne Farm School to Love Lane attracting parents, family and friends to spend money in the "tuck" shop, restarting the revenue stream for the club.

The table below shows a current view and the proposed view for pitch venues.

Teams	Number of Teams	Currently Venue	Proposed Venue
Under 5&6's	30 Players*	Herne Farm School	Love Lane
Under 7&8's	4*	Herne Farm School	Love Lane
Under 9&10's	3	Herne Farm School	Love Lane
Under 11 & 12's	4	Penns Farm	Love Lane
Under 13 & 14's	6	Penns Farm	Penns Farm
Under 15 – 18's	3	Penns Farm	Penns Farm

(Note: * Expected Growth 2007/8 Season)



Club Development Plans for Petersfield Town Juniors FC

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The table below shows the potential revenue the Council will receive from renting the pitches to Town Juniors for the rest of the 2006/7 season. Town Juniors would expect a discounted price, since they will in essence be renting 3 pitches with no goals. In addition, the Council will save money because there will be no requirement to dismantle and install the goal posts at Love Lane.

Pricing of Pitches at Penns Farm	Number of Pitches	Price per pitch	Potential Revenue
Half Seasonal - Full Price	3	£169	£507
Half Seasonal - Discounted Price	3	£133	£400

(The Council charge £338 per pitch per season which includes goal posts and line marking 6 times per year)

3.2 Medium Term

Town Juniors would like to make the use of the 3 pitches at Penns Farm a permanent arrangement. This would require the council to purchase additional goals for the 2007/8 season. However, Town Juniors would like to work with the Council and secure funding from other source to purchase 3 sets of goal post.

The Mini pitch is a growing concern, due to its separate lease and maintenance contract. Town Juniors would like to investigate the maintenance of this pitch as an addendum to the current maintenance contract. The club have been in discussion with the Contracts Manager and grounds Contractor; however the facts and figures are not yet established.

The perceived benefit of using more pitches would reduce the use of Love Lane and help towards balancing usage and maintenance inline with the current maintenance contract. This reduces the risk of undergoing major maintenance, similar to the outlay the Council kindly paid for during this year (*approx £6500*).

The club propose to work through these details during the early part of 2007 and report back to the Grounds Committee the action plans and decisions required.

3.3 Long Term

Town Juniors would like to build a social aspect that attracts ownership from the players and provides a career line to senior football; similar to that of the Petersfield Rugby club.

This objective is key to securing support from the FA in helping develop football facilities in Petersfield. The FA will match funding up to £1 million, because the Town Juniors has the highest accreditation under the Charter Status programme.

The club propose to continue driving links with the Petersfield Town Football Club (*seniors*) and together formulate plans for re-developing the stadium and senior club house.

Other aspects being considered are:

- Re-developing the car park at Love Lane.
- Investigating the possibility of an extension to the Taro Centre for changing room facilities and store rooms to cater for 11-a-side teams playing at Penns.
- Working with the FA to help secure funding.
- Seeking out funding sources from places like lottery funds.



Club Development Plans for Petersfield Town Juniors FC

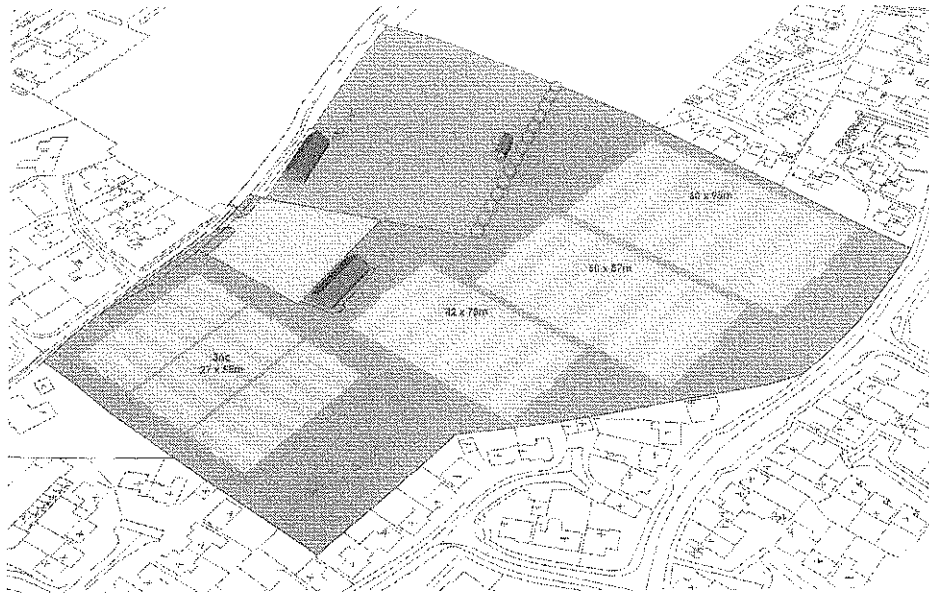
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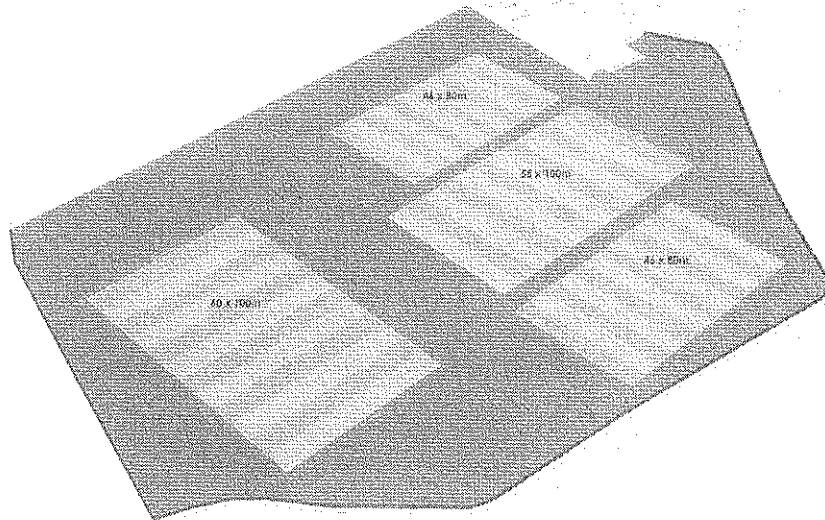
- Working with the Petersfield Tomorrow committees to engage interest.

These plans are probably 3-10 years, and will require lots of energy from the club and its members.

Below are some sample sketches of what we can have longer term at both Penns and Love Lane



Potential usage of Love Lane



Potential usage of Penns Farm



Club Development Plans for Petersfield Town Juniors FC

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4 Conclusion

This document has outlined the immediate, medium and long term plans for the club and would like the following agreement with the Town Council.

- Council to allow PTJ to continue playing at Penns Farm for a fee of £400.00 for the rest of the season 2006/7.
- PTJ to work with the Council during Feb/Mar 2007 to finalise costs and charges for using Penns Farm and Love Lane.
- PTJ to work with the Town Council and the FA to secure extra goals at minimum cost to the council
- Propose Medium plan details at next Grounds Committee.
- PTJ to formally engage Senior Club in to long term plans.

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

January 2007

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:

A large number of trees have been felled east of the Cricket square adjacent to Heath Road East. This work, which has the approval of the Forestry Commission and English Heritage will improve the view of the Pavilion from the road and opens up the area to allow better air flow across the green and facilitate better development of the remaining trees. The remaining felled timber will be cleared over the next few weeks and the ground treated and tidied up.

I have carried out a survey of trees and saplings which may require work around the pond banks. The inspection was carried out on 13th December in the company of our grounds contractor and a representative of Petersfield & District Angling Club. Possible works identified form part of our Grounds Contract annual maintenance of pond bank trees & shrubs as well as some additional works which are in line with our approved Management Plan. This may include reduction of bank growth in some areas to encourage reed growth thinning and maintenance of willows etc in order to improve views from existing seats and the removal of dangerous, dead or unhealthy trees or branches as necessary. Before undertaking any of these works I shall be taking advice from a qualified arboriculturist. Any work will be strictly in accordance with our management plan and will only be carried out by an approved qualified contractor who has expertise in this field.

Access Bollards:

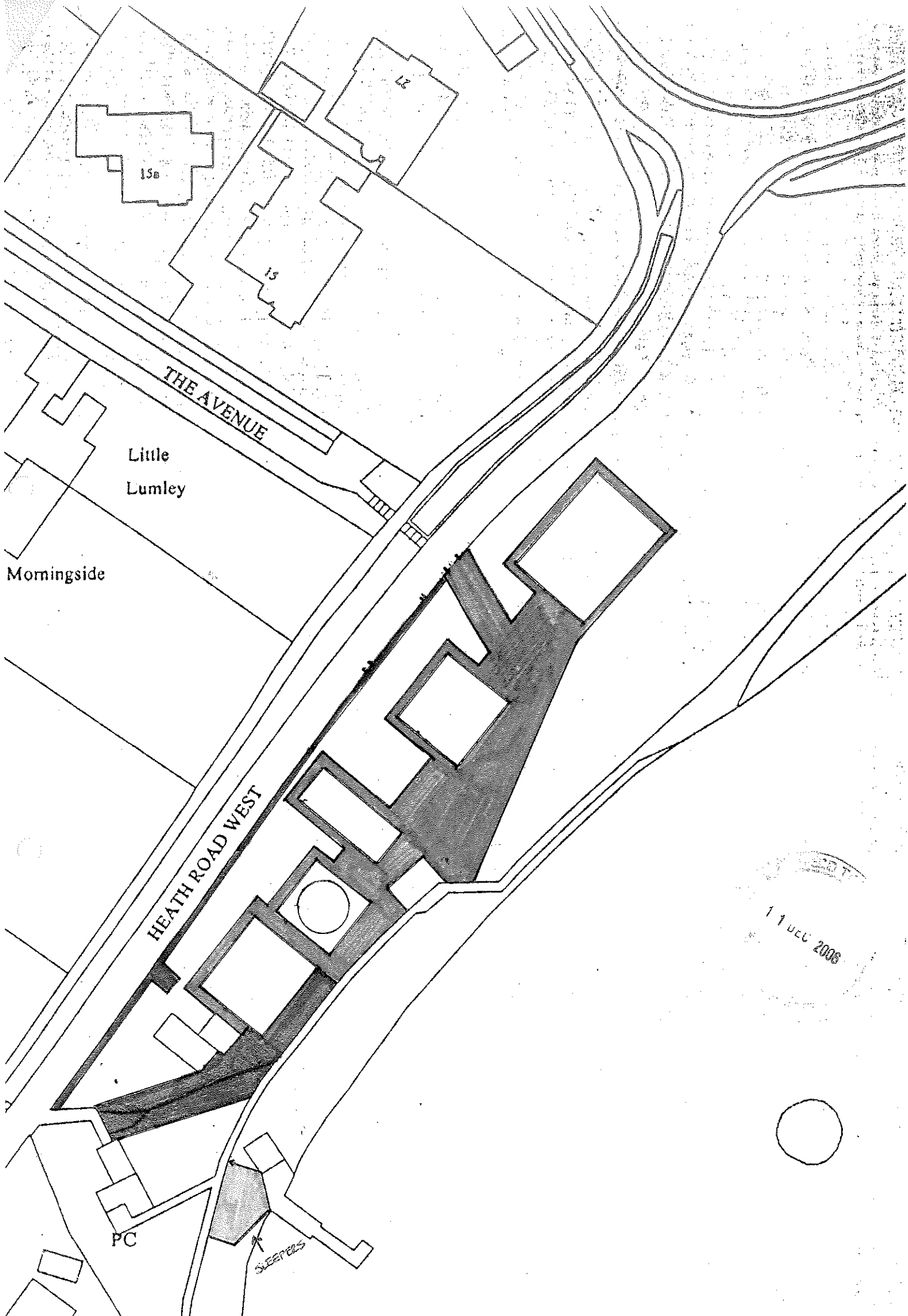
Locking bollards have now been installed to restrict unauthorised access onto the Heath, particularly around the Cricket Pitch. The bollards are installed adjacent to the old golf club house. Keys are to be made available to approved persons i.e. The Cricket Club, Grounds Contractor, Emergency Services etc.

Tumuli:

More maintenance and clearance work has been carried out on the burial mounds. All work is in line with our approved management plan and have been agreed with English Heritage.

Sapling, gorse & bramble clearance:

Several areas of the heath have been cleared of saplings, gorse and bramble. The work continues.



THE AVENUE

Little Lumley

Morningside

HEATH ROAD WEST

PC

SLEEPERS

11 DEC 2006

Mary

Enclosed, other authorities, what they provide and what they charge.
Seems most others are very similar.

1. We have, or did have on allotment site, people who have skills, who maybe the Council could hire at advantageous rates. (And the jobs would probably be done). There is a plumber for taps, a demolition person for scalping, a garden company for sit on mowers, and probably all the skilled people needed to keep the allotments up together, at reasonable prices.
2. Suggest buying some rabbit traps, and get "grounds" to inspect every day. Would save a huge amount of money, eradicate the rabbits, and be a diminishing expense.
3. Buy rat poison and allocate to allotment holders as necessary, instead of hiring ineffective, and very expensive rat catchers.
4. Get Council to inspect Council fence and maintain, rather than, my understanding, at present just leave to rot.
5. Spend a little bit of Council money on the allotments, instead of huge amounts on the Operatics, and it would be interesting to calculate amount spent on Town Hall facilities and Allotments, for comparisons, both being "community" items
6. If Council talk to our new committee before deciding things, and the committee then talk to allotment holders, the rest of us, good ideas will flow.
7. When asked, it seems to me that the allotment holders hold the view that the Council have, in the past, been charging very highly, for low quality to zero services, were very picky and patronising and generally unhelpful, and it might appear, some services were not even checked to see if they had been carried out.

So, a bad press THEN, but with most dead wood gone this might be an opportunity NOW for the Council to demonstrate what a good Council really can do.