

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 17 April 2014 at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Chairman), Cllr J Deane, Cllr Mrs S Harwood and Cllr W Organ.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs A Church (Committee Administrator) and two members of the Public were present.

### **G 0794**      CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman said that the town welcomed the Fair on The Heath over the Easter period and it was noted that the Fair was bigger than previously.

The Chairman also advised that one duck on The Heath had produced nine ducklings.

The Town Clerk advised that, following the Chairman's comments at the last meeting, the two extra bins for The Heath had been ordered.

### **G 0795**      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr G Budden and Cllr Mrs J Dickinson.

### **G 0796**      APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 13 March 2014 be approved and signed.

### **G 0797**      DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

### **G 0798**      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

### **G 0799**      PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Mr Ian Baker, proprietor of The Plump Duck, updated the Committee on his recently completed successful first year of trading. The Chairman

congratulated Mr Baker on his achievement which had attracted a lot more people to The Heath.

The Plump Duck had opened for Easter 2013 and had been open every day since then, including Christmas Day. Ian Baker and/or his chef were always at the café as the public appreciated the continuity of a familiar face. All food provided was made on the premises and ingredients sourced from local suppliers. The erection of the covered area at The Plump Duck, and shortly to be followed by the provision of two picnic benches in the vicinity of the café, attracted regular customers from local areas and from further afield. To celebrate the first anniversary of The Plump Duck and to thank customers for their support, a free family event had been held on 9 April 2014 which had been very well attended.

Ian Baker said that they would be starting Lakeside Bistro Evenings in June 2014 and were also planning to have an ice cream parlour to take the pressure off the service at the hatch. To sustain increased functions, Mr Baker would like to take on one or two more regular staff. The proposed plans would entail a considerable investment on his part and he was requesting that the Town Council consider extending his agreed contract by a further six years to make a total of ten years. This would give security to his chef and to any future staff and would also give him confidence to invest further financially and emotionally in the business. Mr Baker informed the Committee that The Plump Duck had recently been presented with the winner's cup as Café of the Year.

The Town Clerk advised that it was not possible to consider Mr Baker's request for an extension of his contract at this meeting but it could be put on the agenda for a later Grounds Meeting. The Chairman asked that Mr Baker provide an outline business plan for discussion at that meeting. Mr Baker anticipated that his audited accounts would be available during May and, therefore, it was agreed that this matter would be brought to the Grounds Committee Meeting to be held on 12 June 2014.

G 0800

#### PHASE 2 OF THE LOVE LANE SKATE PARK

Mr Nigel Wells gave a verbal presentation to the Committee concerning Phase 2 of the Love Lane Skate Park.

Following the resolution by the Town Council in December 2013 (*Minute C0528*), Mr Wells had progressed negotiations with the two skate park contractors, Wheelscape and Freestyle, to discuss with them modifications to their original designs in the light of information and suggestions he had received. Both contractors had modified their original designs accordingly and the Committee considered the updated designs now available.

Considerable discussion took place on the modified designs and it was finally agreed that the preferred design was by Wheelscape, subject to minor adjustments, at a cost of £138,000. Mr Wells would also check out the history of the company which had been subject to company name changes over the years. Phase 2 of the Skate Park would remain a Town Council project and

Council would have to approve the capital expenditure. However, without the support of Mr Wells who would be seeking outside grants and funding for the whole cost of Phase 2, it would not be financially possible to proceed further. The Chairman thanked Mr Wells for all his efforts in moving Phase 2 forward and requested that Mr Wells give his verbal presentation again to the full Council at their meeting on 24 April 2014.

**RECOMMENDED** that, following the verbal presentation by Mr Wells to full Council on 24 April 2014, the design by Wheelscape be accepted by the Town Council for Phase 2 of the Love Lane Skate Park, subject to agreed minor adjustments.

**G 0801**      **GROUNDS REPORT**

Members received and noted the Grounds Report of 9 April 2014 by the Town Clerk, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A (*Minute G 0802 below refers*).

The Town Clerk also advised that:

- o the poppy seeds, purchased as a symbol of remembrance of WW1, had now been sown on Tor Way
- o East Hampshire District Council were pursuing the illegal felling of protected trees on Borough Road Recreation Ground but were unable to share the information with the Town Council

**G 0802**      **GROUNDS REPORT AS APPENDIX TO MINUTES**

The Committee discussed whether the monthly Grounds Report by the Town Clerk, which was received and noted at the meetings of the Grounds Committee, should be added as an Appendix to the Minutes of those meetings.

**RESOLVED**                      that the Grounds Report be added as an Appendix to the Minutes of the Grounds Committee Meetings.

**G 0803**      **PAVINGS SLABS AROUND THE AVENUE PAVILION**

The Town Clerk reported that maintenance work was needed to replace broken slabs and to re-point the remaining slabs on the path from the road around The Avenue Pavilion at a cost of around £1,700.00. However, the slabs were not a trip hazard and maintenance could be carried out at a later date.

**RESOLVED**                      that maintenance work on the slabs around The Avenue Pavilion be included as a budget item in next year's budget 2015 - 2016.

**G 0804**            **INSTALLATION OF A KICK WALL AT THE AVENUE PLAYING FIELDS**

The provision of a kick wall at The Avenue Playing Fields had first been discussed at the Grounds Meeting of July 2013 (*Minute G0193 refers*). The Town Clerk advised that the cost of providing a kick board of mesh fencing (so that no-one can hide behind the wall) was around £4000.00.

The Committee felt that it was important to know whether a kick wall would actually be used and canvassing the views of the young people using the Avenue Pavilion had not been conclusive.

**RESOLVED**    to defer further discussion of the possible provision of a kick wall at The Avenue Pavilion Playing Fields until 2015.

**G 0805**            **FRIENDS OF PETERSFIELD HEATH**

The Committee received and noted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Friends of Petersfield Heath held on 4 March 2014.

The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Budden was the Council's representative and, consequently, at the moment there was no Council representative at the Committee Meetings. Cllr Deane and Cllr Farrow offered to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Petersfield Heath to be held on Tuesday 6 May 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Rose Room.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a letter of thanks had been sent to Churcher's College for their part in the construction of the first raised footpath on The Heath. Churcher's College would also be taking part in the construction of the second raised footpath and work would commence towards the end of May 2014.

**G 0806**            **ANNUAL CHARITY FIREWORKS EVENT - 1 NOVEMBER 2014**

The Committee received and considered a request from Petersfield Round Table for approval to hold their annual charity fireworks event at Bell Hill Recreation Ground on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014.

**RESOLVED**    that approval be given to Petersfield Round Table to hold their annual charity fireworks event at Bell Hill Recreation Ground on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014.

**G 0807**            **FOOTPATH FROM THE BOTTOM OF RIVAL MOOR ROAD ACROSS THE HEATH**

Concerns had been raised by the East of Petersfield Group on the state of the footpath from the bottom of Rival Moor Road across The Heath.

The Committee agreed that the footpath did need upgrading and advice should be sought from the South Downs National Park Authority.

**RESOLVED** that advice be sought by the Town Clerk from the South Downs National Park Authority on the upgrading of the footpath from the bottom of Rival Moor Road across The Heath.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10 pm*

## Grounds Report April 2014

*This report seeks to inform councillors of matters of interest affecting any of the public open space land which we own or manage. Members are reminded that its contents are not available for debate, but questions can always be asked and we will seek to answer them, however it should be borne in mind that if they involve the need for investigation or would be complex or lengthy, answers will need to be given outside of the meeting. If councillors consider that any matter on the report is in need of debate, the subject can be added to a future meeting's agenda for this purpose.*

### **The Heath**

- An application for Scheduled Monument Consent has been submitted and acknowledged with regard to the silver birch that fell on one of the burial mounds surrounding the cricket. No work can be done until consent has been received.
- Following a meeting with the Friends of Petersfield Heath, councillors and some Heath Road residents it was agreed that the two small areas of scrub between the Pond and Heath Road were to be cleared. Before this work could be done there was evidence that ground nesting birds were present in one of these sites so the work has been delayed until after the nesting season.
- The turf in the toddler play area now seems to have 'taken' and the security fencing has been removed.
- I am advised that a party was held over the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March on one of the barrows on The Heath that has resulted in some plastic and tin on site plus some fire damage.

### **Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

- Evidence of continued anti social behaviour continues to be seen in various parts of this recreation ground culminating in one of the picnic benches within the play area being destroyed.

### **Love Lane Recreation Ground**

- The problem with the overflowing manhole in one of the gardens in Lower Heyshott has been resolved in the short term at least. Finally South East Water called to visit the resident and after taking tests confirmed that there was tap-water amongst the flowing water at the site. This has been tracked down to a leaking water main in Readon Close which has now been repaired and the ceaseless flow of water has been terminated.

### **Woods Meadow**

- Southern Water has recently re-seeded a couple of areas next to the brook which were damaged by sewerage effluent overflowing during the winter rains.

### **Penns Farm Playing Fields**

- A letter has been received from Robinson Low Francis Construction and Property Consultants giving notice that Gravesend RFC are applying for planning permission on the site to erect 6 new 15 meter high galvanised steel columns for floodlighting around the existing pitch 2.
- East Hampshire District Council propose holding an event on a Sunday during July that will utilise all of their car parking area and potentially the car park to the rugby club. The event is to promote safe driving for young people and will be run by a licensed motorsports club with the Police also being present. The rugby club has outlined any events planned during July and confirmed they are happy for the event to proceed so I have indicated there will be no objection to the event from our perspective.

Neil Hitch  
Town Clerk  
9th April 2014