

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 13 March 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). No members of the Press or Public were present.

### **G 0721**      CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman reported that, following an informal meeting she had had on The Heath with members of Friends of Petersfield Heath and Heath Road residents, two extra bins would be put in place - one along the shore of the Pond near the seat by the sluice gate and one in a gap by the road. The Town Clerk confirmed that the funds were available for these in the current year's budget.

The Town Clerk also advised that two bins would be replaced out of the current year's budget - one on Penns Farm playing fields and one at Love Lane.

The Chairman and the Town Clerk had agreed that the contract for the monthly inspection of all the Town Council's play equipment should be renewed for a further three years as it continued to represent very good value for the cost of approximately £200 per month.

### **G 0722**      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

### **G 0723**      APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

### **G 0724**      DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0725      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

G 0726      PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

No requests to speak had been received.

G 0727      GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and noted the Grounds Report of 5 March 2014 by the Town Clerk. The following points were discussed:

Borough Road Recreation Ground: It was requested that the Town Clerk contact Adele Paulton, tree specialist at East Hampshire District Council, for a progress update on the illegal felling of protected trees that had been reported by the Town Council.

Love Lane Recreation Ground: With reference to the sodden ground which was beginning to dry out, it is up to the umpires/referees to decide if the field is fit for play.

Bell Hill Recreation Ground: The Committee agreed that the Beckham Lane, leading to the recreation ground, was in an extremely poor state of repair. It was unclear who was legally responsible for the repair of Beckham Lane and the Town Clerk was investigating this with East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council.

The Heath: The Town Clerk advised that the agreed clearance of the two small scrub areas would probably have to be delayed until the autumn as the nesting of the ground birds had already started. The approved costs for the work involved with the clearance would be saved as an accrual in next year's budget.

Additional Item – Scout Association: The Town Clerk reported that, since preparing his Grounds Report, he had received a request from the local Scout Association to hold a St Georges Day Camp Fire and renewal of 'Our Promise' on The Heath on Saturday 26 April 2014 from 6.30 – 8.00 pm. This would involve building a camp fire in the late afternoon, on the section of The Heath off Heath Road close to the parking, as a focus of the ceremony for campfire songs, etc. They would lift the turf, extinguish the fire that night, and return the following morning to remove the ashes and replace the turf. The expected numbers were 150 young people plus parents.

The Committee agreed to grant the request from the Scout Association on the proposed area of The Heath, which would give easy vehicle access in the event of an emergency, and subject to the Scout Association taking all necessary fire precautions and advising the police of the event.

G 0728

**JAPANESE KNOTWEED AT LOVE LANE**

The Committee received and considered the proposal dated 20 February 2014 from Weed Management Ltd, a company that was used and recommended by the Town Council's ground maintenance contractors, for the further control of Japanese knotweed in the Love Lane area. The Town Clerk advised that a first investigation of the knotweed would need to be made in April.

Members agreed that, before accepting the proposal from Weed Management Ltd, a further, comparable quotation should be obtained from the local company used by Hampshire County Council for the control of knotweed.

**RESOLVED** that the proposal from Weed Management Ltd, dated 20 February 2014 for the further control of Japanese knotweed in the Love Lane area, be accepted only if their price is comparable to a second quotation to be obtained for the work.

G 0729

**THE PLUMP DUCK**

(a) *Mothering Sunday Celebration event:* The Committee considered a request from the proprietor of The Plump Duck to hold an event, with entertainment, on The Heath to celebrate Mothering Sunday. Members felt that it was a very suitable event and one that would bring more people to The Heath. Obtaining the necessary licence would be the responsibility of the proprietor.

**RESOLVED** that permission be granted to the proprietor of The Plump Duck to hold a Mothering Sunday Celebration event on The Heath on 30 March 2014, subject to the necessary licence being obtained by the proprietor.

(b) *Storage Shed:* The Committee considered a request from the proprietor of The Plump Duck to erect a shed, approximately 6ft square, at the rear of the premises between the kiosk and the toilets to store additional tables and seating. It was proposed that the shed would be slatted. Members had no objection to the erection of the proposed shed for storage which would be helpful for the proprietor.

**RESOLVED** that permission be granted to the proprietor of The Plump Duck to erect a storage shed, approximately 6ft square, at the rear of the premises between the kiosk and the toilets for the storage of additional tables and seating; that any planning application requirements be the responsibility of the proprietor.

G 0730

**THE HEATH MANAGEMENT MEETINGS**

Cllr Organ advised that, at their meeting on 20 February 2014, The Town Council had resolved that the Grounds Committee set in place and managed

meetings twice a year for all stakeholders for The Heath Management (*Minute C0686 February 2014 refers*).

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that representatives from the Friends of Petersfield Heath, The Heath Pond Association and South Downs National Park Authority should be invited to the bi-annual meetings which would be chaired by the Chairman of the Grounds Committee and attended by 1-2 other members of the Grounds Committee. It was agreed that these Heath Management meetings should be held in January and July each year, with the first one to be held as a scope meeting to ascertain the remit of The Heath Management meetings.

The Town Clerk advised that the South Downs National Park Authority were currently looking at the latest version of "The Management of Heath Pond" and their input and expertise would be of valuable assistance in updating that document.

**RESOLVED** that the Heath Management meetings be held in January and July each year; that the meetings be chaired by the Chairman of the Grounds Committee and attended by 1-2 further members of the Grounds Committee; that the meetings have representatives from the Friends of Petersfield Heath, Heath Pond Association and South Downs National Park Authority.

G 0731

**RAISED PATHWAY EXTENSION ON THE HEATH**

The Committee received and considered plans, submitted by the Friends of Petersfield Heath on 8 February 2014, for the construction, in collaboration with Churcher's College, of a second raised footpath across the boggy section of ground immediately to the west of the Sussex Road car park. All the work would be voluntary and there would be no costs charged to the Town Council. It was anticipated that work would commence on 24 May 2014 and would last for just over four weeks.

The Committee noted that, in September 2013, the Friends of Petersfield Heath had been permitted to retain a grant cheque of £1,000 from the Town Council with the proviso that it be spent only for maintenance or additional improvements to the path, and that the Town Council be advised on how the money is spent (*Minute C0324 September 2013 refers*). Owing to the generous voluntary work now being proposed and which was much appreciated by the Committee, The Friends of Petersfield Heath would still have this grant money available for future work on the two paths.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given for the voluntary work to be carried out by the Friends of Petersfield Heath and Churcher's College to construct a second raised footpath on The Heath to the west of the Sussex Road car park at no cost to the Town Council, the work to commence on 24 May 2014.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm*