

**PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 17 October 2013 at 6.30 pm.

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs A Church (Committee Administrator), Mr G Elkins of Greenspan Projects and two members of the public.

**G 0354**      **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman had no comments.

**G 0355**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk).

**G 0356**      **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 12 September 2013 be approved and signed.

**G 0357**      **DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)**

No requests for dispensation were received.

**G 0358**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**G 0359**      **PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

No requests to speak had been received.

**RESOLVED** that the order of business be altered, allowing the three items concerning the Greenspan Projects to be discussed next.

G 0360

**REVIEW OF THE FINAL PLANS AND COSTINGS OF THE PROPOSED PLAY AREAS AT BOROUGH ROAD AND WOODS MEADOW**

*(Minutes CO319/G0286 G 0190 September 2013 refer)*

Mr Garth Elkins of Greenspan Projects had been invited to attend to provide further details or answer any questions from the Committee. Mr Elkins explained that play equipment was costly because it had to be of very rugged construction and comply with strict development and safety regulations. However, Greenspan had been able to make some savings for these schemes.

Woods Meadow:

The costings in the final plans had been reduced by losing the ball wall and outdoor gym equipment. The Town Clerk had advised that the possibility of grant funding was currently being explored to enable these items to be restored to the plans.

Borough Road:

Mr Elkins confirmed that the zip wire, which was located near to the path, was a very robust piece of equipment and, following concerns previously expressed, modifications to level it out had been made.

It was noted that, as requested, the seating and the play equipment had been moved to leave a clear space near the boundary.

Members felt that, following the Consultation Event held on 20 August 2013, the views of the public had been incorporated into the final plans.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Finance & General Purposes Committee discuss and approve that an application be made for Developers Contributions to pay for the total cost of the proposed play areas at Borough Road and Woods Meadow, as outlined in the final plans provided.

G 0361

**TO CONSIDER A QUOTATION DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 2013 FOR EROSION CONTROL IN THE HEATH TODDLER AREA**

Members considered the proposals from Greenspan Projects to control The Heath Pond erosion in the toddler area.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Finance & General Purposes Committee consider the quotation dated 10 September 2013 from Greenspan Projects for the erosion control at the toddler area at The Heath Pond.

G 0362

**TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE LOGWORLD UNIT ON THE HEATH** *(Minute G 0292 September 2013 refers)*

Members considered the ideas and concepts put forward by Greenspan for the replacement of the Logworld unit, following the view of S D Playground Services that it would need to be replaced.

In response to a question about the possibility of the refurbishing the Logworld unit, Mr Elkins confirmed that it would be more cost effective to replace the unit than to totally refurbish it. Greenspan would welcome comments on whether, if the equipment were to be replaced, it should be with something similar or a new design which included an element of the current unit.

Members queried again whether the whole Logworld unit, which still appeared to be in good order, needed to be replaced. After discussion with Mr Elkin, members felt that another option would be to obtain a second safety check opinion on the Logworld unit to ascertain whether only those logs, deemed to be unsafe, could be replaced.

Should the whole Logworld unit still need to be replaced, it was felt that the replacement play unit should be at least as challenging as the current one. Mr Elkins said that this could be done and Greenspan would follow the Town Council's directives.

The Committee thanked Mr Elkins for attending and for his helpful comments.

**RESOLVED** that a second opinion from a playground safety company be obtained on the condition of the Logworld unit on The Heath.

G 0363

**GROUNDS REPORT**

Members received and noted the Grounds Report of 10 October 2013 by the Town Clerk.

The recent vandalism damage at Bell Hill Recreation Ground was noted and concern was expressed at the cost of repairing damage caused by anti-social behaviour. The Committee requested that they be provided with a report on the total annual expenditure on all sites by Petersfield Town Council to repair such damage

Members agreed that goal posts should remain at Woods Meadow as they were much wanted and well used. It was also agreed that some goal posts in general were in need of repainting and these should be identified and treated.

G 0364

**TO CONSIDER A REQUEST THAT THE EVENT 'SECRETS OF THE HEATH' BE APPROVED TO BE HELD ON THE HEATH ON 30 & 31 AUGUST 2014** *(Minute G 0194 July 2013 refers)*

Members felt that the 'Secrets of the Heath', held in August 2013, had been a well-organised and very enjoyable event and they would approve the event taking place again next year. However, it was felt that it would be useful to ask the organisers to hold a review meeting, with two Councillors invited, of this year's event before the planning for August 2014.

It was noted that the weekend of 30 & 31 August 2014 was not a weekend when the Farmers' Market was held; this year's event had been on a Farmers' Market weekend. The Farmers' Market brought in extra people to Petersfield which, in turn, could result in more people attending the 'Secrets of the Heath' event. It was agreed that the organisers should be made aware of this should they wish/be able to change the date to the first weekend of September when there would be a Farmers' Market.

**RESOLVED** to approve the request that the event 'Secrets of the Heath' be held on 30 & 31 August 2014; the organisers to be advised that there was no Farmers' Market in Petersfield on their chosen weekend.

**RESOLVED** that the organisers of the event 'Secrets of the Heath' be requested to hold a review meeting of the 2013 event and that Cllr Deane and Cllr Organ be invited to attend.

G 0365

**TO CONSIDER HOW RAGWORT ON THE HEATH SHOULD BE TREATED FOLLOWING A REQUEST FROM THE FRIENDS OF PETERSFIELD HEATH**

Members agreed that ragwort was an invasive plant, not native to heathland and a danger to livestock. Considerable discussion took place on how ragwort on The Heath should be dealt with.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Council give consideration to the removal of ragwort on The Heath.

G 0366

**TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE PROPOSED PLANNING APPLICATION FOR ERECTING WEATHER PROTECTING CANOPIES AT THE PLUMP DUCK ON THE HEATH** *(Minute G 0188 refers)*

Members supported the application for erecting weather protecting canopies at The Plump Duck which they felt were in keeping with the building. There were no cost implications for The Town Council.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve the proposed planning application for erecting weather protecting canopies at The Plump Duck on The Heath.

G 0367

**TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE REPORT ON THE ALLOTMENT HOLDERS MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Members received and noted the report on the Allotment Holders meeting held on 10 September 2013.

Members were advised that the allotment holders were happy with the running of the allotments and had thanked The Town Council. Some concerns had been raised about the low water pressure and the South-East Water Board would be contacted by The Town Council and requested to investigate the problem.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30 pm*