

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 12 September 2013 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), the Petersfield Post and Petersfield Herald, and eight members of the public.

G 0278 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman had no comments.

G 0279 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

G 0280 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 11 July 2013 be approved and signed.

G 0281 DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0282 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

G 0283 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Two requests to speak had been received:

1. Mr John Crowhurst concerning The Head Pond.

Mr Crowhurst advised the Committee that the beech tree, that the Council had agreed should be planted on The Heath in memory of Mrs Molly Worthy, was sited too near to the willow trees by the Pond.

The beech tree was being damaged by the willows which were in a dangerous state, some having fallen onto the footpaths. Also, some roots of the willow trees were coming up through the footpaths. Mr Crowhurst said that the problem of the willow trees needed to be addressed and the beech tree saved.

The Chairman said that the tree situation on The Heath was being taken very seriously. The Town Clerk advised that two trees would be taken out shortly and 20% of the trees would be trimmed back year on year to deal with the problem.

2. Mr S Alexander concerning the Outdoor Fitness Classes (OUT-FIT)

Mr Alexander advised the Committee that the OUT-FIT classes on The Heath were going well.

The Saturday morning classes (10 am) and the Wednesday evening classes (7.30 pm) were attracting 4 - 6 people. The cost was £10.00 per session, with a reduced charge of £30.00 per month to include all sessions, and payment was by Standing Order.

Mr Alexander confirmed that the main green areas he used to the right of the road was well lit with no potholes. He wore clothing with appropriate recognition lights for the safety of the OUT-FIT members during darkness. Mr Alexander commented that he was concerned about the safety of the trees in the playground near the Pond.

RESOLVED that the order of business be altered, allowing the item concerning the Outdoor Fitness Classes on The Heath to be discussed next.

G 0284 **TO REVIEW THE OUTDOOR FITNESS CLASSES ON THE HEATH**

The Committee reviewed the free trial period granted to OUT-FIT at their meeting of 13 June 2013. Members felt that the classes provided a very worthwhile service for the town. They noted that the class numbers should increase but that, at present, numbers were still low.

RECOMMENDED that the free trial period granted on 13 June 2013 to OUT-FIT be extended and reviewed again at the end of January 2014.

G 0285 **GROUNDS REPORT**

Members received and noted the Grounds Report of 4 September 2013 by the Town Clerk.

The Heath:

The Town Clerk advised that he would ensure that the willow trees along the board walk also received attention and that the two dead trees on the Pond would be removed.

Penns Farm Playing Fields:

The Committee requested that Burleys be asked to provide a method statement for the treatment of the pitches so that Councillors were aware of what and when treatment would be taken.

G 0286

PLAY AREAS AT BOROUGH ROAD AND WOODS MEADOW

(Minute G 0190 July 2013 refers)

Following the Consultation Event held at The Avenue Pavilion on 20 August 2013, the Committee reconsidered the proposed development plans for the play areas at Borough Road and Woods Meadow. They wished to record their thanks to the Town Clerk for the considerable time and effort he had given to these projects.

Borough Road:

All feedback was very positive.

Woods Meadow:

The Committee considered the comments made at the Consultation Event and by Councillors with particular regard to:

- Moving the multi-wall
- Making the landscaping less 'fussy'
- Moving the toddler area
- Moving the seating and rock area away from the housing
- Lighting issues

The Committee agreed further advice would be needed from Greenspan on these and other general comments made at the Consultation Event before Greenspan draw up a final plan and costings. The Committee considered that savings could be made by simplifying the landscaping. The Town Clerk would instruct Greenspan that their final costings should be within the original budgets of £50-£60K for Borough Road and £70-75K for Woods Meadow.

The Town Clerk reported that another item of play equipment that would need replacing was the Logworld Unit on The Heath which was considered irreparable. The cost of a replacement unit was £20-£25K. The Town Clerk would first investigate the possibility and cost of its refurbishment.

The Town Clerk advised that there was approximately £145K in the Developers' Contribution Fund and there was also some money in the Town Council Earmarked Reserve.

RECOMMENDED that there be a review of the final plans and costings and that the matter be discussed further at the next meeting of the Grounds Committee

G 0287

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER A PRESENTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT FROM MR NIGEL WELLS IN RESPECT OF PHASE 2 OF THE LOVE LANE SKATEPARK PROJECT

Mr Wells gave a detailed presentation to the Committee on the progress to date on Phase 2 of the Love Lane skatepark project.

Following successfully having received a grant of £50K for Phase 1 from The Lottery two years ago, a further £1,940 had been offered to be used for an event to promote the skatepark. As a result, a picnic event was to be held on Saturday 16 November 2013 and it was expected that up to 300 young people would attend. Posters would not be needed to advertise the event as the youngsters would use facebook.

Phase 2 would be user friendly for people in wheelchairs and youngsters on scooters and, because of this, it was planned to go back to the Lottery to apply for further funds if Phase 2 could be joined to Phase 1.

Mr Wells suggested that the money needed to be raised would be in the order of £120K. The Town Council had already made a contribution to the skatepark. Mr Wells was actively applying for other grants. He had been contacted by the Director of one organisation who had then visited the skatepark, had been most impressed and had pledged a contribution of approximately £30K. With this positive start, it would be easier to approach other grant organisations for funding.

Mr Wells advised the Committee that the provision of toilets near the skatepark was essential, particularly for disabled users of the skatepark. The Committee discussed this matter in some detail and Mr Wells said that he would report back to Committee with proposals for the siting of the toilets.

The Committee wished to record its thanks to Mr Wells for all the work that he had undertaken for the skatepark.

RESOLVED that permission be given for the picnic event to be held on Saturday 16 November 2013.

RESOLVED that approval be given for the tender process to be initiated for Phase 2 of the skatepark.

G 0288

TO REVIEW THE NOTES OF THE HEATH POND WORKING PARTY
(Minute G 0120 June 2013 refers)

Cllr Organ updated the Committee on the report from the latest meeting of The Heath Pond Working Party held on 25 July 2013 which had also been attended by the Friends of Petersfield Heath, the Contracts Officer at EHDC responsible for Buriton Pond, Mr Dan Cornell of South Downs National Park and Ms Carolyne Haynes from Buriton.

Ms Haynes had been involved in the successful bids for the funding of Buriton Chalk Pits and Burseldon Brickworks and she had outlined the process required for obtaining funding. Subsequently, Cllr Organ had gone round The Pond with a recommended, experienced person who will give an outline plan of the steps to follow and likely cost of the work. The Heath Pond Working Party will review the report before submitting it to the Grounds Committee.

The Heath Pond Working Party is aiming to run a better system of monitoring what is happening on The Heath and Pond – in the short term, in the long term refurbishment, and in the application for grants which start in 2015. The Management Plan will be updated to be more appropriate for current use.

G 0289

TO CONSIDER THE REPORT ON THE QUOTATIONS FOR THE THINNING OF THE TREES ON THE HEATH *(Minute G 0120 June refers)*

The Committee considered the quotations received from four companies for the thinning of the trees on The Heath.

RECOMMENDED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee accept the quotation received from Company 'A' for the thinning of the trees on The Heath.

G 0290

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE QUOTATIONS FOR THE REPAIR OF THE DOOR ON THE HEATH TOILETS *(Minute G 0191 July 2013 refers)*

The Committee considered the more detailed quotations from three companies for the repair of the outer door to The Heath toilets. It was felt that the current wooden door should be replaced by another wooden door rather than by a steel one.

RECOMMENDED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee accept the quotation received from Company 'C' for the replacement of the outer wooden door by another wooden door on The Heath Toilets and that the door should be painted in a dark green.

G 0291 **TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FROM THE LITTLE SCHOOL TO ALTER THE PERIMETER FENCE ON THE HEATH SIDE OF THE NURSERY** (*Minute G 0192 refers*)

Following a review of the Lease for The Little School, the Committee again discussed the proposal received from The Little School.

RECOMMENDED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee approve the proposal from The Little School to alter the perimeter fence on The Heath side of the Nursery.

G 0292 **PLAY AREAS: TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE INSPECTION REPORTS FROM S D PLAYGROUND SERVICES DATED 12 JULY 2013**

The Committee received and noted the inspection reports from S D Playground Services dated 12 July 2013. It was noted that any "General Observations" comments made on the reports were for the operative to keep under surveillance.

The very thorough inspection reports were received from S D Playground monthly and the Committee requested that they be brought before the Grounds Committee on a bi-monthly basis.

The Committee requested that S D Playground Services be asked for their comments on the possibility of refurbishing the Logworld Unit on The Heath.

G 0293 **TO CONSIDER FORMALISING THE LAYOUT OF THE LAND CONTAINED WITHIN THE RUGBY CLUB LEASE**

The Committee considered the formalising of the layout of the land contained within the Petersfield Rugby Club lease to that which currently exists on the ground, in accordance with Clauses 4.3 and 4.4 of their lease dated 23 April 2004, in order to correct a historical anomaly. The current land area of 12,200 sq.m. would remain the same.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council discuss and approve the formalising of the layout of the land contained within the Rugby Club lease to that which currently exists on the ground, in accordance with Clauses 4.3 and 4.4 of their lease dated 23 April 2004.

G 0294 TO SET A DATE FOR THE GROUND USERS MEETING 2013

The Committee agreed that the next meeting of the Ground Users should take place in the Rose Room at 7 pm on Monday 16 December 2013.

G 0295 TO CONSIDER ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE REVENUE AND CAPITAL 2014 - 2015 FIRST DRAFT BUDGET

The Committee considered in detail the items to be included in the Revenue and Capital first draft budget for 2014 - 2015. It was agreed that firm costings should be obtained for the provision of plugging a stand pipe to provide water for the Taro Fair as the Fair currently obtained water from the toilets on The Heath.

RESOLVED that the following items be considered for inclusion in the first draft budget for 2014 - 2015

	Budget	Priority
	£	
<u>Capital</u>		
<i>(new items for draft budget)</i>		
The Heath project	10,000	
Play equipment	15,000	
Love Lane toilets - annual accrual	10,000	
	35,000	
<u>Revenue</u>		
<i>(b/f from previous year)</i>		
Water provision for Taro Fair	3,000	
<i>(new items for draft budget)</i>		
Noticeboards on various sites around the town	8,000	
	11,000	

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm