

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 17 July 2014 at 6.38 pm.

*Note: Prior to the meeting, members of the Grounds Committee had met at the Pond slipway on The Heath at 6.15 pm to consider any maintenance that may be required.*

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J Dickinson, Cllr C Mills, Cllr W Organ and Cllr Ms M Vincent

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs A Church (Committee Administrator). The Town Mayor and one member of the public were present.

### **G 0152**      CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman thanked the members of the Grounds Committee who had met on The Heath at 6.15 pm to consider maintenance of the slipway.

The Chairman said that she was disappointed to see that Penns Fields A and B had not yet been cut since the resolution passed on 12 June 2014 (*Minute No. G0067*). The Town Clerk would take the matter up with Burleys. It was noted that the last of the agreed cuts would be made in October 2014.

### **G 0153**      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr P Marshall.

### **G 0154**      DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

### **G 0155**      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

### **G 0156**      APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 12 June 2014 be approved and signed.

G 0157      PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

No requests to speak had been received.

G 0158      GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and considered the verbal Grounds Report for July 2014 by the Town Clerk. *(A copy of the Grounds Report dated 11 July 2014 is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A.)*

It was noted that:

The Heath:

- o Extension to Raised Path: The Town Mayor had sent a letter of thanks to Churcher's College.

Rotherlands

- o The priority repair of the handrail and the replacement of the wooden footbridge was the responsibility of Hampshire County Council. The minimal diversion that would be required while the work was being undertaken was through boggy ground and the Town Clerk would contact Jamie Cummins from the Rotherlands Conservation Group about this.

The following points concerning The Heath were raised by the Committee:

- o The emptying of the bins on The Heath was not being done systematically; it should be done on a daily basis.
- o A portion of the boardwalk, closest to the Molly Worthy tree, is bouncing.
- o Fresh signs about no barbequing were needed - one on the wall of the toilets and one on the main gate entrance.
- o The no cycling sign needed cleaning.
- o The notice board near Sussex Road needed attention.

The Town Clerk advised that the new notice board for The Heath would be delivered shortly. When it was due to be installed, he would go with the Chairman to agree its exact position somewhere near The Plump Duck café.

The Chairman requested that a simple set of football goals be put on a little used area of field at Penns Place, just for the summer months, for the youngsters to use.

**RESOLVED** to evoke Standing Order 36(c) to alter the order on the agenda to allow item No.13 on the Petersfield Town Football Club to be considered next.

G 0159

**IMPROVEMENTS TO PETERSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

The Committee considered a request from Petersfield Town Football Club for permission to carry out essential improvements to their ground facilities in order to meet the ground grading requirements of the Wessex League Grading Officer. It was noted that their promotion to the Wessex League Premier Division was conditional upon this work being completed. The cost of the upgrading would be met by the Petersfield Town Football Club.

The Committee were pleased to grant the permission and wished the Football Club every success.

**RESOLVED** that permission be given to Petersfield Town Football Club to carry out essential improvements to their ground facilities to enable their promotion to the Wessex League Premier Division; that the total costs of the improvements be met by Petersfield Town Football Club.

G 0160

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF ALLOTMENT USERS**

The Committee considered and agreed a date for the next meeting of the Allotment Users.

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting of the Allotment Users be held at 7 pm on Tuesday 16 September 2014 in The Avenue Pavilion.

G 0161

**PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION SHEETS**

The Committee received and noted the Inspection Sheets dated 13 June 2014 from S D Playground Services.

The Town Clerk advised that:

Bell Hill: He would contact Greenspan about the hole in the tunnel of the Tower Multi Unit.

Borough Hill: The repairs would be carried out.

Paddock Way: The repairs had now been carried out.

G 0162

**MAINTENANCE OF THE POND SLIPWAY** (*Minute G0068 June 2014 refers*)

Prior to this meeting, Committee members had met at the slipway at The Pond to consider the possible maintenance required to enable the holder of the boating concession to manoeuvre his boats on and off the water.

The holder of the boating concession had already done an excellent job of rebuilding the jetty, with the costs having been borne by him in accordance with the terms of his concession agreement.

Considerable discussion took place on the best solution to improve the slipway. It was felt that a 6ft wide, single concrete slipway, to blend in with

the existing concrete and positioned either on the bench side or on the hut side, might be the best solution. The Council would be responsible for paying for the concreting and costings should be obtained for three possible options for the slipway and brought back to the Grounds Committee for further discussion.

**RESOLVED** that the following three costings be obtained for the improvement to the slipway at The Pond and referred back to the Grounds Committee:

1. A 6ft wide concrete slipway on the bench side.
2. A 6ft wide concrete slipway on the hut side.
3. A full width concrete slipway up to, but not beyond, the Millenium Path.

**G 0163**      **THE PEOPLE OF THE HEATH - BARROWS PROJECT**

The Committee received the Notes by the Town Clerk of the committee meeting of the People of The Heath held on 23 June 2014 to discuss the Petersfield Museum's Heath Barrow Project. *(The Notes are attached to these Minutes as Appendix B).*

It had been a most interesting meeting and the first excavations would start in September 2014. It was proposed and agreed that Mr George Aneley of West Sussex Archaeology, who was leading the fieldwork and research on the Project, should be invited as the Speaker for the Annual Town Meeting 2015. It would also be very helpful and informative for the Grounds Committee if Mr Aneley would be agreeable to give a presentation on the Barrow Project at either their October or November 2014 meeting, to which the other Councillors would be invited. The Town Clerk would contact Mr Aneley with the requests.

**G 0164**      **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FOSTERING AND ADOPTION RECRUITMENT**

The Committee considered a request by the Fostering and Adoption Recruitment Team of Hampshire County Council to bring their recruitment stand to The Heath on a weekday during the summer holiday.

The Committee could see no problem with the request and were happy to give their consent.

**RESOLVED** that the Fostering and Adoption Recruitment Team of Hampshire County Council be granted permission to bring their recruitment stand to The Heath on a weekday during the summer holiday to be agreed with the Town Clerk.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40 pm*

## Grounds Report July 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**

- The Petersfield Museum project funded by a Lottery Bid to investigate the barrows began at the end of June with geo-physical measurements being taken on parts of the northern and central section of The Heath. There was significant interest from members of the public about the activities which is welcomed.
- The extension to the raised path by the Sussex Road car park has recently been completed. The work was undertaken by the Friends of Petersfield Heath and Churchers College with the costs being met by Churchers College. The path was opened at the end of June by the Town Mayor and the Headmaster of Churchers College.

### **Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

- The damage done to the fencing around the play area has been repaired.

### **Rotherlands**

- I have met Jamie Cummins from the Rotherlands Conservation Group and one of the Hampshire County Council Rangers to inspect the damaged wooden footbridge crossing the Tilmore Brook. The Ranger was almost certain that the work would be the responsibility of Hampshire County Council and he agreed that the re-instatement/repair of the wooden handrails would be done as a priority. The bridge has a significant 'wobble' both up and down as it is crossed as well as from side to side. The Ranger's view was that the bridge will need to be replaced and that this would be done by the County Council's 'Bridge Team'. The current structure is too long a span under current regulations to be replaced purely with a new wooden structure and is likely to be replaced with some sort of concrete foundations. No timescale was given on the replacement but it is quite possible that the bridge will need to be closed on safety grounds before it comes up the 'priority order' to be done. If this should happen there is an alternative concrete bridge nearby that will require walkers to take a minimal diversion.
- The repair work to the banks of the river by the pumping station off of Pulens Lane has now been completed by Southern Water. This involved re-routing the sewer pipes that ran alongside the river following their fracturing as a result of a landslip last year.

### **Penns Farm Playing Fields**

- Petersfield and District Dog Training Society has booked Penns Farm playing fields again on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for their Championship Obedience Show.
- I met Hannah Attenburrow recently who you may remember from committee a few months ago was looking for potential land to use for cycle training. She has asked if she can use part of the playing fields near the cycle path at the southern side of the site between the football pitches and Clare Gardens.

### **Other**

- The application to register part of the Causeway Farm proposed housing site as a Village Green has been rejected by the Regulatory Committee at Hampshire County Council.

Neil Hitch  
Town Clerk  
11th July 2014



## Grounds Committee

### People of the Heath Committee Meeting

The committee met on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 for the first time and discussed how the Petersfield Museum Project on The Heath would work and operate as well as outline more detail of the nature of the Project.

The Chairman opened with an apology to the Town Council for not having communicated with us prior to the recent articles appearing in the Local Press.

#### **Project Accounting, Participation and Evaluation**

- All activities from volunteers needs close monitoring and accurate recording

#### **Museum Role, Co-ordination and Dissemination**

- A web site is to be established linked to the Petersfield Museum web site detailing activities and events
- An exhibition is due to be held in the autumn on the history of the Heath

#### **Education & Outreach Programme**

- 6 local schools have already booked half day workshop slots
- 4 more schools on the waiting list
- Liaison continues with Bruce Middleton and Jonathan Mycock from South Down

#### **Research Objectives for the Heath in its Regional Setting**

- The concentration of the barrows is intriguing along with the various types of barrow
- The Heath is one of a few barrow clusters running down the Rother valley
- The barrows have symbolic and psychic connotations – territorial relationships, way of life, settlement conurbations and may stray into the earlier Iron Age
- Project will look at the topography of the Heath, the soils and historic landscape
- The barrows location is central to the research
- A secondary commitment for the project is to lead guided tours as well as Museum tours

#### **Early Fieldwork Objectives**

- Only study done so far is Stewart Piggott's plan from the 1930's
- Barrows 22-24 have been added as possible new barrows yet to be formally identified/confirmed
- Study will contain 6 periods of excavations in September and May each year for the next 3 years

- It will include geophysical surveys before the excavations and a topographical survey of the Heath
- This year the work will be based around barrow 11 and the area around possible barrows 22-24
- It is expected that the geophysical investigation will identify ditches around the barrows
- The group will liaise with PTC to co-ordinate the future clearance of barrows prior to geophysical and excavation works being carried out
- The Project budget includes a sum for conserving any objects found as well as a contingency
- Any finds will be displayed locally with Hampshire County Council as a 'backstop' for a reserve collection if necessary with finds intended as being available for research purposes

### **Palaeoenvironmental Programme**

- Arts Humanities and Research Council approached for grants towards work
- Focus is on barrows: the description of soil sequences within them; analysis of results; ascertaining where the soil material came from.
- It is hoped to find beneath the barrows what soil type exists to give an idea of the native soil and plant types existing when the barrows were constructed
- Conducting radio-carbon dating on pollen found in the barrows – innovative approach gives additional dating tool which may lead to a chronological dating of the barrows
- Conducting a wider landscape pollen study
- Seeking to outreach to a non-academic audience
- Aiming to embed the scientific component of the study – possibly with on-site Museum microscopes and monitors for school visits as a legacy outcome

### **Documentary Research**

- Project group tasked with finding all documentation available
- Very little current evidence exists – 1857 is only archaeological evidence of barrows being destroyed presumable when Heath Road East was constructed
- Trying to research destruction of Music hill
- Seeking to understand the whole evolution of the Heath including its more recent usages
- Whole project information to be archived to facilitate future research

### **Immediate and Long Term management of the Monuments**

- Heritage Lottery bid success depended on the project achieving its outcomes
- A better managed, better interpreted and recorded site leads to it being better maintained
- People will have developed skills from participating in the project and have had an enjoyable experience
- Greater community involvement with the barrows will lead to reduced environmental impacts from people's behaviour, a wider community engagement with the heritage, a better place to live and work and visit, provide a boost to the local economy and enable the Museum to be more resilient as an organisation

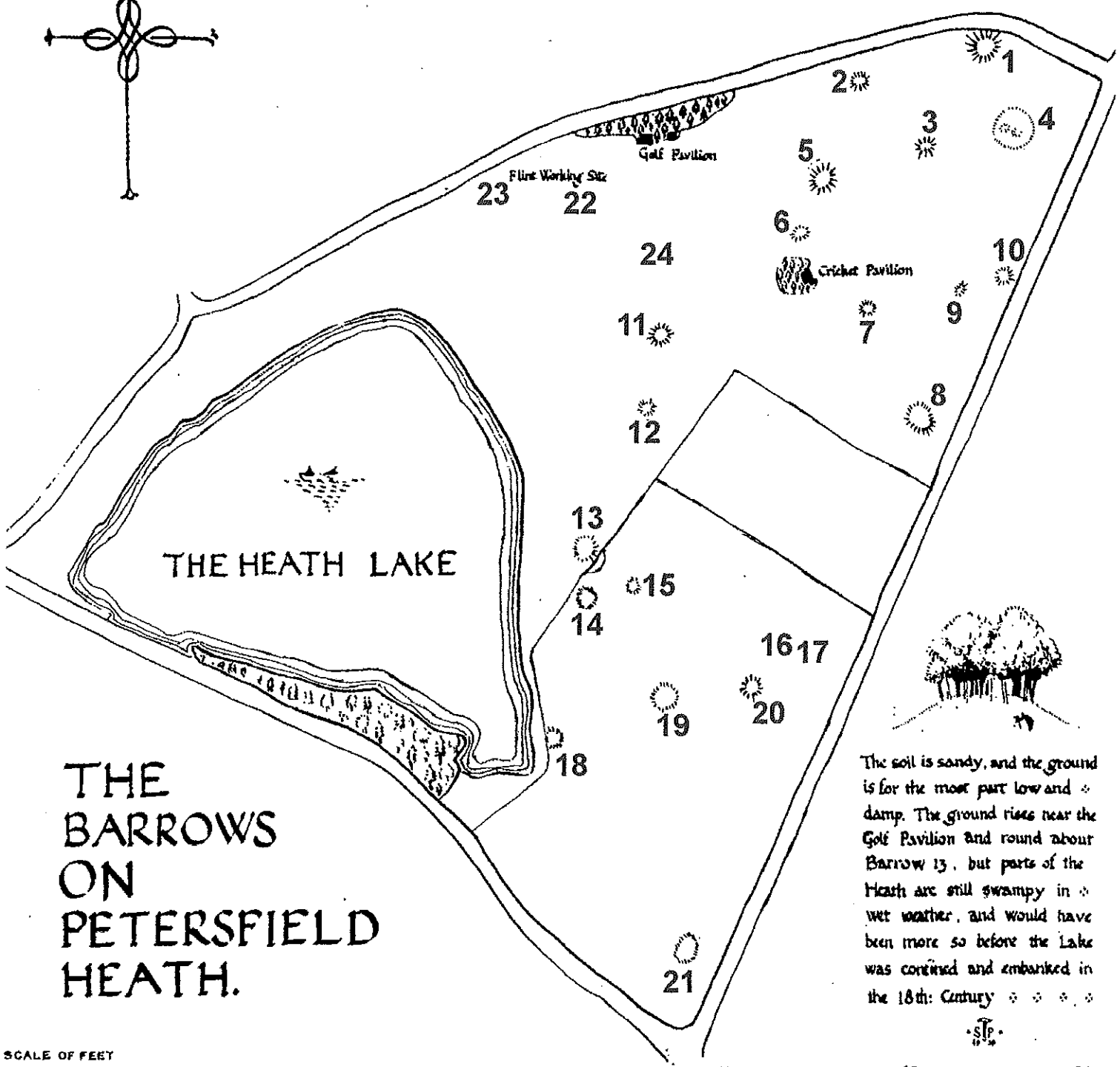
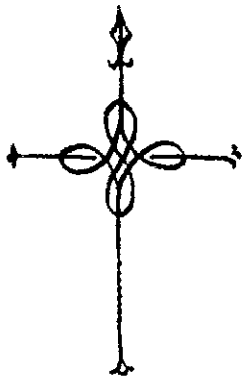
### **Enduring Outputs**

- Advice on managing the archaeology on the Heath

- Management Plan
- An Archaeological Trail – signposting?
- Monuments on such a Trail would need to be viewable, accessible and presentable
- Ongoing Guided Tours perpetuated – volunteer guides?
- Tour Guide leaflet at the end of the Project to be widely available regionally
- Produce a major publication of the findings at an academic level and also for other outlets/interests
- Arrange a completion Conference – planned date Spring 2014
- Enhanced Museum resources

Neil Hitch  
Town Clerk  
17th July 2014





# THE BARROWS ON PETERSFIELD HEATH.

The soil is sandy, and the ground is for the most part low and damp. The ground rises near the Golf Pavilion and round about Barrow 13, but parts of the Heath are still swampy in wet weather, and would have been more so before the Lake was confined and embanked in the 18th Century.

• s.p. •

