

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Petersfield Town Council was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield
on 24 July 2014 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Harwood (Chairman), Cllr V Clarke, Cllr J Deane,
Cllr Mrs L Farrow, Cllr P Marshall, Cllr C Mills, Cllr W Organ,
Cllr A Tarver, Cllr Ms M Vincent and Cllr G Watkinson

Also in attendance: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs A Church (Committee
Administrator); County Cllr K Moon (*from 8.02 pm*), District
Cllr R Ayer, Ms Terena Plowright and one member of the
public. No Press were present.

C 0180 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor said that, although very aware of the honour and responsibilities of her Office, she had not anticipated how much she would also enjoy it. She highlighted a few of the many events she had attended recently, namely:

- The honour of opening the second arm of the path at the far end of The Pond. The full funding of over £5,000 had been very generously donated by Churcher's College. Their pupils had also worked on the path under the guidance of David Burstall of the Friends of Petersfield Heath. The two completed paths were of a very high standard.
- Attended, as a guest of the Headmaster, the Summer Spectacular held on 29 June at Churcher's College to raise money for the very valuable cause of "Help for Heroes". Many local schools had taken part in the concert which will have given them a very enjoyable and valuable experience of performing in front of so many people. The Town Mayor said she had been saddened by the negative publicity by the local Press and she hoped that this would not deter the school from staging another such event.
- Cut the ribbon at the opening, on 1 July, of the new Pace Fuelcare depot at Upper Adhurst Farm which would offer new job opportunities. The company had kindly donated £500 to the Town Mayor's charity "Artscape".
- Attended the very moving Hampshire County WW1 Centenary Service held in Winchester Cathedral on 23 June in the presence of the Second Sea Lord, the Army's Commander Land Forces and the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire. Representatives present included those from the armed forces, local government, charities and organisations.
- Attended Petersfield Museum's commemorative dance and heritage event "Gone but not forgotten" in The Square on 20 July. The bold but

very appropriate and respectful event, with impressive dancing displays, was the result of a great deal of hard work.

- The judging for Petersfield in Bloom had taken place on 10 July. The Town Mayor thanked all the Councillors who had given up their time to help on that day. She had already thanked the Council staff, Fiona Mort who had done an excellent job of ensuring that the event went smoothly and Ginnie Rutter who had also given considerable help and baked delicious cakes for the lunch.

The Town Mayor also advised that:

- *Wednesday and Saturday Markets:* East Hampshire District Council, who own The Square, had announced a change to the management of the Wednesday and Saturday markets. The Town Council had not had prior information about the decision which affects an important facet of life in the town.

The Town Clerk would be arranging a meeting with District Cllr Richard Millard, Portfolio Holder for Commercial Contracts, herself and the Town Clerk to discuss the change as it was important to ensure that the town would continue to have a thriving, busy, twice-weekly market.

If any Town Councillor would like particular questions raised at that meeting, it would be helpful if they could be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk within the next 2-3 weeks so that there is no misunderstanding of what is being asked.

- *Merritts Meadow:* This month, she had had a tour of Merritts Meadow with an interested member of the public. Merritts Meadow was a lovely open space and, since the Town Council had made its generous offer several months ago to take over ownership of that land, it had heard nothing further. The Town Clerk would contact Mr Chris Murray, Head of Planning Services at EHDC, to progress the matter.

C 0181 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies for absence had also been received from District Cllr Mrs J Butler and also from District Cllr Mrs H Ayer. County Cllr K Moon had sent apologies for late arrival due to a prior meeting.

C 0182 GRANTING OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

There were no requests for dispensation.

C 0183 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest was made by Cllr Marshall in respect of Item 15 on the Agenda (*Annual Grants/Funding*).

C 0184 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Petersfield Town Council, held on 26 June 2014, be approved and signed.

C 0185 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings, held on 24 June 2014 and 15 July 2014, be received.

C 0186 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests from members of the public to speak had been received.

C 0187 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- (a) Cllr Clarke gave his report for July 2014 which covered the latest unemployment numbers for the area, government funding for the repair of potholes, and the County's planned investment of that money in a range of solutions to extend the life and manage the condition of the road network. (*A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A*).
- (b) After his arrival from a prior meeting, Cllr Moon had advised that, since his election, most of his time was being expended on issues of street lighting, bus services and holes in the road. He said he would like to set up a regular meeting with the Town Clerk and Chair of the Town Council to discuss such issues. Currently, the street lights in Petersfield were being changed

C 0188 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- (a) Cllr Ayer reported on the following:
 - o *Merritts Meadow*: He had had several comprehensive briefings on the complexities of the purchase of Merritts Meadow by the Town Council. The Head of Planning has been asked to investigate what could be done to achieve a satisfactory outcome although there are no documentary powers currently in place to enforce a decision.

- *Management Change – Wednesday & Saturday Markets in The Square:* This was a Cabinet decision and local Councillors were not involved. At the last District Council Committee meeting, Cllr H Ayer had raised the question about the lack of consultation with the market traders. Cllr J Butler had advised that the traders had been consulted by questionnaire but Cllr Ayer was not aware of how many had been completed and returned.

Planning Issues: There was currently a lot of planning criticism being reported and most of it was grossly unfair. When the planning authority receives a planning application, it has to be decided on planning policy alone. An extraordinary meeting had recently been held to change some of the processes connected with the Planning Committee.

The fundamental issue is that the District Council does not have a document detailing a five-year developable land supply for the areas outside the South Downs National Park. This has led to a frenzy of applications from developers.

Ramshill Estate: There was a need to be careful on planning to put in place conditions for large estates. The Ramshill Estate had not yet been adopted by the County Council because of the problems with Skinners Lane which could be potentially unsafe. Residents of some houses adjoining Skinners Lane were being invited to make the lane safe so that the estate could be adopted.

Cllr Deane declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as he owned a house adjoining Skinners Lane.

- (b) Cllr Marshall wished to make two comments in addition to those of Cllr Ayer
 - *Planning Issues:* Changes have been made in the Planning Department including:
 - As a means of reducing the planning work load, the Committee Chairman can decide whether a planning application should go to Committee.
 - To reduce the number of site visits, the Committee Chairman can determine whether a site visit is necessary.
 - The Ward Councillor no longer has the right to discuss a planning project during discussion of that item at Planning Committee and may only make a comment during the summing up.
 - *Management Change – Markets:* Nobody outside the Cabinet had had an opportunity to discuss the management change to the Wednesday and Saturday markets nor had they even been aware that a change was being proposed.

C 0189 SOUTH DOWNS SHOW: 23 - 25 AUGUST 2014

The Council received a presentation from Ms Terena Plowright to explain and promote the South Downs Show to be held at Queen Elizabeth Country Park for three days on 23 - 25 August 2014. This is a family countryside and environment show which emphasises the importance of looking after our landscape to preserve it for future generations. The many family attractions will include amazing arena acts.

The event was being sponsored by local businesses which was greatly assisting with the costs of the Show which included providing water which had to be brought in.

Ms Plowright invited the Town Mayor to present the Gun Dog trophy on Sunday 24 August and Cllr Harwood was delighted to accept. Cllr Farrow, the Deputy Town Mayor, also was very pleased accept an invitation to present the trophies on the Bank Holiday Monday 25 August.

C 0190 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED:

(a) Public Halls Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Public Halls Committee meeting held on 14 July 2014 be received, together with two appendices.

(b) Grounds Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 17 July 2014 be received, together with two appendices.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21 July 2014 be received, together with four appendices.

C 0191 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members received and noted the Town Clerk's report dated 17 July 2014.
(A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix B)

C 0192 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Mills volunteered to be the Council's representative for the Petersfield Town Football Club (PTFC). No other volunteers for the representation were forthcoming.

RESOLVED that Cllr C Mills be elected as the Council's representative for the Petersfield Town Football Club.

C 0193

FINANCE

Schedule of Payments

Members received and approved the schedule of payments for June 2014.

It was noted that:

- Cheque No. 15005 for £1,800.00 referred to professional charges in connection with the new lease for Petersfield Town Football Club.
- Direct debit payment to Haven Power (new electricity supplier) was not for solar energy charges but for electricity for the Town Hall building.
- Cheque No. 14976 for £2,232.83 to the Performing Rights Society in respect of live or production music played by hirers of the Festival Hall would be recouped from them.
- The seemingly high cost of £928.98 (Cheque No. 14985) for the quarterly rental of the Town Hall photocopier included the very much higher than usual usage due to the Neighbourhood Plan but this cost would be investigated.

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Payments for June 2014 be received, noted and approved; a copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix C.

C 0194

ANNUAL GRANTS AND FUNDING

The Town Council considered the 1st Tranche requests for grants and funding for the municipal year 2014-2015 in the total sum of £7,400.00. The Grants Panel had considered all the requests in detail and, in some cases, had reduced the amounts requested. The Town Council had the right to challenge the decisions of the Grants Panel but the decisions that had been made for the 1st Tranche grants and funding were approved.

Discussion took place on the grant awarded to The Petersfield Society in respect of their planned publishing of the book on Petersfield. The Town Clerk advised that the Working Party for the current budget had considered it appropriate to increase the Community Grants budget by £3,000.00 with a view to this sum being earmarked for the possible production of a Petersfield book. It was agreed that The Petersfield Society would need monies in advance of any future book sales to cover the publishing costs and they would keep a full set of relevant accounts. Any profits from the book sales would be returned to the Council to offset the cost of the grant.

It was noted that, to date, the Town Council did not feature in the draft book. The Moviola cinema was now an important part of Petersfield life and the Town Council should submit an appropriate article for the book. It was

agreed that the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk should liaise on producing and submitting an article on the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the 1st Tranche grants and funding, as agreed by the Grants Panel in the sum of £7,400.00 for the municipal year 2014-2015, be approved, namely:

	£
Petersfield Museum	1,000
Petersfield Twining Association	400
Petersfield Rugby Club	500
The Petersfield Society	3,000
Petersfield Youth Theatre	400
Children's Concerts	600
East Petersfield Community Group	1,000
Petersfield Cricket Club	500

C 0195 **WW1 COMMEMORATION VIGIL**

The Commemoration Vigil would be held at 6 pm on Sunday 3 August 2014 in St Peter's Church, to mark the anniversary of the start of WW1. Cllr Farrow advised that the arrangements for the Vigil, which would be a solemn service of about one hour and would include a selection of readings, were all in place. It was hoped that the local Press would give the Commemoration Vigil high profile and publicity so that the public were aware of it.

Both the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor gave their apologies that, regrettably, they each would be away on 3 August. The Town Clerk would formally pass on their apologies to Reverend Hughes. However, all other Councillors who were able to attend would do so.

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed, it was

RESOLVED that the public and press be asked to leave the meeting

CONFIDENTIAL

C 0196 **CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL OR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

There were no confidential financial or other recommendations from Committees to consider.

C 0197 **STAFF PANEL MEETING**

The Council received and approved the Notes of the Staff Panel Meeting held on 17 July 2014. There were no recommendations to Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm

The meeting was then followed by a Meeting of the Trustees of The High Meadow Charity

County Councillor's report for July 2014

The latest unemployment numbers for the area (for May) are:-

Froxfield & Steep	under 5	
Liss	19	0.7%
Petersfield Bell Hill	18	1.2%
Petersfield Causeway	21	1.4%
Petersfield Heath	16	1.2%
Petersfield Rother	7	0.5%
Petersfield St Marys	7	0.5%
Petersfield St Peters	20	1.5%
The Hangers & Forest	6	0.5%

Recently the government announced a £168m pot of money to deal with potholes. The average cost of repairing a pothole is £53. 148 local authorities applied for funding and Hampshire was given £6m. This is on top of the £11.5m already awarded.

The money will be invested in a range of solutions to extend the life of roads and manage the condition of the 5,280 mile network.

£1m will be spent in bringing in extra Jetpatching machines. Bitumen emulsion bond-coat is forced deep into cracks, crevices and potholes to improve the adhesion. Bitumen emulsion and an appropriate aggregate are mixed and then immediately compacted into the void at high velocity. The result is a level, sealed repair that quickly blends into the existing surface. The whole task is completed in a few minutes.

£1m on hiring multihog machinery and deploying small patching gangs. These machines can plane out the existing road and this is immediately followed up with a new road surface. It will cover 200 sq.m in a day.

£2.35m on repairs to road edges.

£1m on patching large areas up to 30m in length across the entire width of the carriageway.

£0.25m on a programme in urban areas fixing junctions where the joints are beginning to fail and crack.

£0.25m on joint sealing and concrete joint repairs with new surfacing to protect against water ingress, leading to greater damage in the future.

£0.15m on infrared repairs, which heat up the existing road material to allow lasting repairs to cracks and wall voids. This method is particularly effective around gullies and metalwork.



CLERKS REPORT

Members are reminded that the items within this report are provided for information only and are not available for debate. If it is considered that an item listed within the report should be debated fully by members, then it will be placed on the next appropriate Committee or Council agenda. Any member wanting clarification or further information on any aspect of items within the report, please contact me in advance of the meeting.

General Reading and Information

The following publications have been received and are available for members to read:

- ✻ The Petersfield Society Spring 2014 newsletter
- ✻ Direct Information Service Issue number 836 and 837
- ✻ Community First Havant and East Hampshire Enewsletter number 56 and 57
- ✻ Action News Update from Community Action Hampshire
- ✻ Community First Havant & East Hampshire July Newsletter
- ✻ Clerks & Councils Direct

Other Information

- 1 The next Community Forum will be held at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Penns Place on Tuesday 7th October 2014.
- 2 All members need to be aware of their Register of Interest Forms and consider whether there have been any changes since it was last written. If there is a need for any change to be made please contact me and I will supply a fresh document for completion.
- 3 East Hampshire Citizens Advice Bureau has written expressing their sincere thanks to the Council for the first half of its annual perennial grant. Similarly the Winton House Centre has written thanking the Council for its perennial grant. A copy of their Annual Report and Accounts will be provided when they are available in January or February 2015.

Neil Hitch
Town Clerk
17th July 2014