

**PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 12 March 2015 at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Chairman), Cllr P Marshall and Cllr W Organ.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs A Church (Committee Administrator). There were no public or press present.

**G 0657**      **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman had no comments

**G 0658**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs J Dickinson, Cllr C Mills and Cllr Ms M Vincent.

**G 0659**      **DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)**

No requests for dispensation were received.

**G 0660**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**G 0661**      **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 12 February 2015 be approved and signed.

**G 0662**      **PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

No requests to speak had been received.

**G 0663**      **GROUNDS REPORT**

Members received and noted the Grounds Report for March 2015 by the Town Clerk. *(A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A)*

The Heath: The Town Clerk said that Mr David Burstall of the Friends of Petersfield Heath had advised him that, following further visits to the site of the proposed extensions to the path across the boggy areas of The Heath that was discussed by the Grounds Committee at their last meeting (*Minute G 0592 refers*), he felt that the western section needed to be lengthened by a further 3.6 metres to take account of the continuing and persistent amount of mud in that area. The Committee were happy for this to be incorporated into the approved improvements to the existing raised pathway.

Penns Farm Playing Fields: The Town Clerk advised that the dragon's teeth at the Penns Farm Playing Fields were being removed and not put back into position. As it was not known who was responsible, the Town Clerk would ask the Rugby Club if they would kindly keep an eye on the situation for the Council.

Love Lane Recreation Ground: The Town Clerk reported that there had been damage to the area between the skate park and the fence where the bottom of the kick board had been removed and made into a bonfire; graffiti had also been painted on the fence. He said that repairs would be put in hand with immediate effect.

Play Area on The Heath: Members had noted that the grass area above the palisade was looking very sparse. The Town Clerk said that he would arrange for grass seeding to be done to try to improve that area.

G 0664

**BULLETIN No.4 FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE HEATH**

The Committee received and noted Bulletin No.4 dated February 2015 from the People of the Heath on "Understanding and Conserving Petersfield's Prehistoric Barrows".

G 0665

**PROPOSAL FOR A SMALL RAISED PATH ACROSS BOGGY AREAS OF THE HEATH**

Members received and considered a proposal from the Friends of Petersfield Heath to construct a further small raised path across boggy areas across the eastern part of The Heath from a point opposite the junction. The Committee agreed in principle to a pathway on the eastern part of The Heath but felt that consideration should be given to a crushed stone construction rather than having another raised path. The Committee was not in favour of having a gated access off Heath Road East. There was also concern about the actual location of the sunken Barrow No.12 on The Heath which would need to be avoided. It was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged with members of the Grounds Committee, Mr David Burstall and Mr Peter Price to discuss the issues concerning this proposal.

**RESOLVED**

**that a site meeting on The Heath be convened one evening at 5.30 pm, if possible prior to the next meeting of the Grounds Committee on 16 April 2015,**

between members of the Grounds Committee, Mr David Burstall (Friends of Petersfield Heath) and Mr Peter Price (Chairman of the Petersfield Archaeological Society) to discuss the proposal for a further pathway to run across the eastern part of The Heath.

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**

**G 0666** **CONTRACTING OUT OF THE CLEANING OF THE TOILETS ON THE HEATH**

The Town Clerk advised that, to date, he had received only one quotation for a contract for the cleaning of the toilets on The Heath from April 2015.

**RECOMMENDATION** that the Finance & General Purposes Committee consider the possible contract costs of cleaning the toilets on The Heath from April 2015, subject to more than one quotation having been received by the date of their meeting on 16 March 2015.

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

## Grounds Report March 2015

*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**

- Ian from the Plump Duck has asked for permission to hold a 'birthday party' for his second year of opening in a very similar form to the event he ran last year to celebrate the first year of operations. I have been happy to give permission for this.
- When Greenspan were undertaking the recent erosion control measures in the toddler play area I noticed that they were using a piece of equipment that is, in effect, a form of motorised brush. This is used to lift the artificial grass pile to extend the life of the material and remove some of the additional material that gets stuck in the grass. Following discussions with the Chairman I have purchased an identical piece of equipment for our operative to use and he has started using it to restore the appearance of the original artificial grass laid at the site 4 years ago. An awful lot of sand has been removed from the artificial grass and the pile has started to improve. The equipment is also being used at the Bell Hill play area to similar effect.

### **Borough Road Recreation Ground**

- I met a group of local residents on site a week or two back to look at the original boundary markings that they had unearthed providing the demarcation line between our land ownership and what used to be the Railways land ownership – now in the name of Hartnells – which I found to be most helpful.

### **Tilmore Allotments**

- The tree reduction work is due to be commenced shortly.

### **Penns Farm Playing Fields**

- Following the Grounds Users Meetings when the rugby club mentioned problems with moles on their land I have asked a pest control contractor to look at the site and provide me with his recommendations on what we should do about the problem. I am still awaiting this information and will report to you further once it is available.

Neil Hitch  
Town Clerk  
1st March 2015