

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 15 May 2014 at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Chairman), Cllr J Deane, Cllr Mrs J Dickinson (*from 7.10 pm*), Cllr Mrs S Harwood and Cllr W Organ.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs A Church (Committee Administrator). Cllr G Watkinson and the Petersfield Herald were present.

### **G 0877**      CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman said that she had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Petersfield Heath on 6 May 2014. She had been impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the members and by the excellent and very interesting presentation given by Mr. David Standing. At the meeting, it was confirmed that the work by Churcher's College students and volunteers on the second raised path would commence on 17 May 2014.

The Chairman also reported that she had seen a potential swarm of bees in the area of Russell Way off Sussex Road which could move very quickly towards the Heath. Local bee collectors would be contacted in this event.

### **G 0878**      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr G Budden.

### **G 0879**      APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 17 April 2014 be approved and signed.

### **G 0880**      DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

### **G 0881**      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

### **G 0882**      PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

No requests to speak had been received.

G 0883

### GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and considered the Grounds Report of 8 May 2014 by the Town Clerk, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A.

The Town Clerk advised that:

#### The Heath:

- o There had been no re-growth of the knotweed on the Heath that had been treated last year but, as a course of preventative action, Burleys would continue to spray that area.
- o The two new triangular benches and four new waste bins had now been delivered and were being put in place.
- o The fishermen will test the blue algae in The Pond and, if necessary, professional advice will be sought.

Committee members drew attention to the poor state of the notice board on The Heath which needed renovating and to the large number of signs that needed to be cleaned. The Town Clerk would action these.

It was noted that the new notice board, to be positioned outside the Post Office, had been ordered.

G 0884

### PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION SHEETS

The Committee received and noted the Inspection Sheets dated 16 April 2014 from S D Playground Services. The Town Clerk advised that the contractor would be carrying out some of the necessary repair work during the week beginning 2 June or the following week.

G 0885

### FRIENDS OF PETERSFIELD HEATH

The Committee received and noted the Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Friends of Petersfield Heath held on 4 March 2014.

G 0886

### COUNCIL OF FIELDS IN TRUST

The Committee received and noted details of the Annual General Meeting of the Council of Fields to be held at 1 pm on Tuesday 2 June 2014 in London.

**RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Cllr Watkinson to take part in the following discussion.

*(Cllr Dickinson joined the meeting at 7.10 pm)*

G 0887

**LAND OWNED BY THE COUNCIL IN PETERSFIELD**

The Chairman reported that she had attended the Neighbourhood Plan community engagement event held on 9 – 10 May 2014 in the Festival Hall which had been extremely well presented.

Considerable discussion then took place on the management and aspirations for land owned by the Council in Petersfield and it was agreed that a long-term strategy should be created.

*(The meeting then re-convened)*

**RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council create a long-term strategy for its land and open spaces.

G 0888

**PROJECTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN**

*(F&GP Minute F0823 April 2014 refers)*

The Committee discussed which Grounds projects should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Delivery Plan. These were agreed as follows:

- The Avenue: *Provision of a new play area* £ 60K
  
- The Heath:
  - Refurbish and improve existing toilet facilities* £100K
  - Replaced boardwalk along Sussex Road* £ 50K
  - Major project including erosion control, extra islands, woodland thinning* £675K
  - (possible Heritage Lottery bid, NPA involvement and grants)*
  - Tunuli investigation (Museum project)* £150K
  - Heath Road car park re-surfacing* £ 5K
  - Barrier/gate at Heath Road entrance* £ 5K
  - Sussex Road car park re-surfacing* £ 50K
  - Creation of series of way-marked walks* £ 10K
  
- Love Lane Recreation Ground:
  - Phase 2 of Skatepark* £150K
  - Toilet block for skatepark users* £ 80K
  - Improvement to fencing at Moggs Mead* £ 12K
  - Construction of a community park* £250K
  
- Bell Hill Recreation Ground:
  - Improvements to car park surface* £ 10K
  - Improvements to fencing round play area* £ 8K
  
- Paddock Way Recreation Ground:
  - Drainage improvements* £ 10K

- Children's Play Areas:  
*Upgrade of all play areas* £500K
- Penns Farm Playing Fields  
*Extension to football pitches & provision of  
changing facilities* £2 million  
*Creation of four additional tennis courts* £300K
- Borough Road Recreation Ground  
*Widen and re-surface path* £ 20K
- Footpath:  
*Provision of footbridge over A3 for pedestrians  
using footpaths to be located between Winchester  
Road roundabout and southern part of town* £500K
- Merritts Meadow North:  
*Renovation of derelict meadow and water  
courses through meadow* £ 50K
- Town Centre: *Purchase and creation of a youth café* £200K
- Various round Town:  
*Installation of ten community notice boards* £ 20K

The Committee agreed that this list of projects should be reviewed and updated every year.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.07 pm*

## Grounds Report May 2014

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*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**

- Consent has been received from English Heritage to remove the silver birch that fell on the barrow near the cricket field. The work will be done in the near future.
- Japanese knotweed has again been seen near the Pond sluice gate and by the Sussex Road car park. Burleys are dealing with the problem.
- There have been various incidents of small fires being lit in different parts of The Heath – particularly over weekends.
- 2 new triangular benches and 4 new waste bins have been ordered with delivery expected at any time.

### **Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

- Anti social behaviour is still occurring on the recreation ground although the drugs taking has now moved from the play area to a spot at the far end of the ground.

### **Love Lane Recreation Ground**

- Further growth of Japanese Knotweed has been identified in the wild area of the recreation ground. The specialist contractor that visited the site to deal with the area close to residential gardens last month has been asked to return to deal with the matter.
- Sports pitch renovation and re-seeding is due to begin in the next week or so.

### **Penns Farm Playing Fields**

- It is planned to start the sports pitch re-seeding and renovation works in the next week. Prices have been requested from Burleys for the spraying of weeds and this is awaited.

Neil Hitch  
Town Clerk  
8th May 2014