

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 13 November 2014 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J Dickinson, Cllr P Marshall, 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. There were no press present.

G 0391 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman said that the new notice board on The Heath looked splendid.

The Chairman expressed concern about the current number of swans on The Pond (*around a dozen*) which seemed too high for the area and she would seek advice on the matter.

G 0392 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr C Mills.

G 0393 DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0394 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

G 0395 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 16 October 2014 be approved and signed.

G 0396 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

No requests to speak had been received.

G 0397

GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and noted the Grounds Report for November 2014 by the Town Clerk. *(A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A)*

The Town Clerk said that, since writing his report on 6 November, there had been a problem on Woods Meadow with the manhole overflowing. He had reported this to Southern Water for their urgent attention but, to date, had received no response.

It was noted that the footpath from the top right-hand corner of The Avenue playing fields to Dragon Street was very muddy and in a poor state. It was believed that, although the footpath is used as a right of way by the general public, it is privately owned by adjoining houses. The ownership of the footpath would first be established and a letter then sent to the owners.

Cllr Ms Vincent said that, as customary, bowls of Spring bulbs were being presented to Petersfield Infant School and to Herne Junior School, one for each class, on behalf of Petersfield in Bloom.

G 0398

PRESENTATION FROM MR NIGEL WELLS ON A PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOVE LANE RECREATION GROUND

The Committee received and considered a presentation from Mr Wells on a proposal from the Festival for Young People for the development of a community building on the Love Lane recreation ground. They also reviewed a draft leaflet, prepared by Mr Wells and which he requested permission to distribute, asking residents for views and opinions on ideas for the development of the recreation ground as a community facility.

After considerable discussion, the Committee felt that the plans put to them by Mr Wells were conceptual at the moment and would need to be explored in far more detail. They felt that the idea of distributing a leaflet was a good one but, to avoid confusion with the Neighbourhood Plan, this should be reviewed and progressed after the referendum had taken place next year. In the meantime, Mr Wells should continue with the planning application for Stage 2 of the Skate Park.

G 0399

FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF THE RUGBY PITCHES AT PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS

The Committee received and considered a request from the Petersfield Rugby Football Club (PRFC) to undertake the future maintenance of the rugby pitches at Penns Farm playing fields.

It was felt that it would be premature to consider the request at the present time and the Chairman requested that it be deferred and put as an agenda item for the next meeting to be held on 15 January 2015.

G 0400 **BULLETIN No.2 FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE HEATH**

The Committee received and noted with thanks the very interesting Bulletin No.2 dated October 2014 from the People of The Heath on Understanding and Conserving Petersfield's Prehistoric Barrows.

G 0401 **BOUNDARIES OF COUNCIL LAND OWNED AT BOROUGH HILL RECREATION GROUND**

The Town Clerk reported that he had had a number of discussions with members of the public who were concerned about the current building application, that is yet to be determined, on the land-locked piece of greenery at the top of Borough Hill.

The historical details of the parcel of land had been given in the current agenda papers and it was noted that there was a discrepancy in the boundaries of the Council land as shown on the "1947 Conveyance of Borough Hill" and on the "2011 Land Registry Title Plan". The residents wished the Council to submit the documents to the Planning Authority, stating that it owned a considerable part of the private road accessing the land and that, therefore, access could not be achieved without permission from the Town Council. The Town Clerk said that there was no dispute about the boundary width which is marked with a metal post. Residents, whose houses are at the top boundary, benefit from the current situation.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the Planning Authority, together with copies of the relevant documentation, stating that the Town Council owns a significant proportion of the private road at the top of Borough Hill.

G 0402 **INSPECTION SHEETS FROM S D PLAYGROUND SERVICES**

The Committee received and noted the Inspection Sheets dated 13 October 2014 from S D Playground Services. The Town Clerk said that follow-up action had taken place since that date including taking the Cantilever Swing on The Heath out of action for repair and carrying out repairs, under guarantee, to the Skate Park.

G 0403 **QUOTATIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF ARTIFICIAL GRASS TO COVER THE TUNNEL PLAY AREA ON THE HEATH**

The Town Clerk advised that he had contacted two further companies for quotations to supply artificial grass to cover the tunnel play area on The Heath. One company had agreed to supply a quotation for the work by 13 November but it had not yet been received. Unless the quotation arrived the following day, the matter would be deferred for discussion by the Grounds Committee at their next meeting on 15 January 2015.

RESOLVED that should the second quotation, to supply the artificial grass to cover the tunnel play area on The Heath, be received by 17 November 2014, it be considered directly by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at their meeting on that day.

G 0404

REQUEST TO CONDUCT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ON THE HEATH

Members received and considered a request to conduct outdoor activities on The Heath. Although the Committee wished to encourage groups to use The Heath, it felt that certain conditions in the request gave cause for concern and it was therefore unable to grant this request without a presentation being given by the proposer.

RESOLVED that the proposer of the request to conduct outdoor activities on The Heath be invited to give a presentation at the Grounds Committee meeting to be held on 15 January 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.