

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Petersfield Town Council was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield  
on 23 October 2014 at 6.30 pm.

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

**Also in attendance:** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs A Church (Committee Administrator) and two members of the public. There were no press present.

### **C 0351      TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS**

- The Town Mayor reported that she had had a busy month and had attended twelve interesting and enjoyable functions. The annual Music & Drama Show by the Fitzroy group, a charity for adults with learning difficulties, had been fantastic and especially moving and she would encourage everyone to go to next year's show.
- On Saturday 18 October, the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Cllr Deane had been guests at a lunch hosted by the Petersfield Rugby Football Club (PRFC) to mark their twenty-five successful years in the clubhouse. The clubhouse had been built in 1989 with the Town Council's blessing on Town Council land and, since that time, the Club had grown exponentially. It had been a great occasion, not least because the Chairman Stuart Barden kindly opted to support the Town Mayor's charity that day - in the PRFC tradition of having a game of 'heads or tails' to raise money for a good cause – and thus £410.50 had been raised for Artscape.
- The Town Council has agreed to put, free of charge, two clothing banks for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Ambulance Service charity on its car parks on Sussex Road and Love Lane. Once the distinctive bright yellow clothing banks are in place, an article advertising the new sites will be put in the quarterly newsletter. The Town Mayor was concerned that, following a decision by East Hampshire District Council to manage the clothing collection points with a commercial operator, there could be a decrease in revenue for all charities affected by this policy change.
- A Working Party has finalised the arrangements for the Remembrance Day parade and service, commencing at 10.15 am on Sunday 9 November 2014. This will be followed by coffee and lunch for the participants in the Festival Hall and Rose Room and to which all Councillors are warmly invited.
- The results of the Hampshire County Council consultation on public transport services have now been published and the report is on their website. The report is due for a decision at the end of October 2014 and any changes will be implemented from early 2015.
- Finally, the Town Mayor reported on the important and contentious issue currently under discussion for the railway crossing in Sheet A. A decision has not yet been made by Network Rail on whether there should be full closure of the crossing on School Lane and the construction of a bridge or whether a double barrier should be installed.

Councillors agreed that the Liaison Officer at Network Rail should be invited to the next Council meeting on 20 November 2014 to discuss the results of the public meetings and survey to date.

**C 0352**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr G Budden.

Apologies for absence had also been received from County Cllr K Moon, District Cllr R Ayer and District Cllr Mrs J Butler.

**C 0353**      **GRANTING OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)**

There were no requests for dispensation.

**C 0354**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made.

**C 0355**      **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**      that the Minutes of the Meeting of Petersfield Town Council, held on 18 September 2014 be approved and signed.

**C 0356**      **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**      that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on 7 October 2014 be received.

**C 0357**      **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A request to speak had been received from Mr Stuart Barden representing the Petersfield Rugby Football Club (PRFC)

Mr Barden said that PRFC currently had a lease in place with the Town Council for the fields at Penns Place and an alternative to having the proposed new lease would be to have a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the fields to the Rugby Club. The PRFC believed it was too early for the Council to make a resolution on the proposal for a CAT but it wished all options to be tabled and discussed by the working party to be set up under Agenda item No.19.

C 0358

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr V Clarke: Cllr Clarke gave his report for October 2014 which covered the increase in Extra Care places, the need for three new secondary schools by 2020, concern about the lack of physical activity amongst all ages, the increase in alcohol-related hospital admissions and the final year of Southern Water's metering programme (*A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A*).

Cllr Clarke also commented on the result of the public transport survey which would see timetabling changes to the bus services from Petersfield and the cessation of the Petersfield to Bordon bus service. The Town Clerk said that he had been advised that any changes to the Winchester service would not come into effect until the end of the current academic year.

With reference to the unmanned level crossing in Sheet, Cllr Clarke said that Network Rail had instructed independent consultants to carry out a full-time survey over two weeks. The average delay with the crossing closed was between 1 - 4 minutes and these delays had to be balanced with potential deaths. Parents and children have demonstrated in favour of closing the level crossing but local businesses have objected. Presentations by Network Rail would be made in January 2015 in Sheet and Steep and Cllr Clarke agreed that it would be sensible to invite their Liaison Officer, Camilla Bushill, to make a presentation to Council at their November 2014 meeting.

C 0359

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr P Marshall:

- o A Non-Executive Board has been created to consider a new product strategy. There have been over 200 ideas for "Business Opportunities" put forward and over 50 of these, with revenue generating potential, are being evaluated.
- o There had been an article in the local press this week encouraging people with business experience to put themselves forward as new Councillors in the forthcoming elections next May.
- o There will be a meeting of the East Hampshire Development Panel on Wednesday 29 October 2015 to finalise the lists of sites to be selected around the District to meet the Local Plan housing needs over the next 15 years.
- o The Councillors' Devolved Grants for community projects will be increased from £3K to £4K.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

## RESOLVED:

(a) Public Halls Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Public Halls Committee meeting held on 13 October 2014 be received, together with one appendix.

(b) Grounds Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting held on 16 October 2014 be received, together with one appendix.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20 October 2014 be received, together with two appendices.

PH 0315 SOLAR PV PROPOSAL FOR THE AVENUE PAVILION  
(Minute PH 0054 June 2014 refers)

Cllr Deane (Chairman of Public Halls) explained the background of the original recommendation to approve the installation of a Solar PV system for The Avenue Pavilion which was anticipated would reduce electricity costs and also generate income after about five years. The East Hampshire Environment Network had given the Town Council a contribution of £2K towards the installation costs.

The Council further discussed the proposal and agreed that it should be approved. They wished to record their thanks to East Hampshire Environment Network for their contribution of £2K towards the cost of installing the Solar PV system.

**RESOLVED** that the proposal and quotation from East Hampshire Environment Network dated 22 September 2014 for the provision of a Solar PV system for The Avenue Pavilion be approved; that the system cost of £5,435.87 be met from Reserves in the current financial year.

G 0338 STRATEGY FOR COUNCIL OWNED LAND IN PETERSFIELD (Minute G 0070 June 14 refers)

The Councillors considered the Notes of the Working Party set up to develop a strategy for Council owned land in Petersfield. They agreed with the recommendation of the Grounds Committee, through the Finance & General Purposes Committee, that Point 3.5.1 on Bell Hill Common required further consideration.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Working Party would meet again to further discuss the proposed strategy for each piece of land, with particular reference to Bell Hill Common, and would report back to the Grounds Committee.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed Strategy for Council Owned Land in Petersfield be referred back to the Working Party for further consideration, with particular reference to Bell Hill Common; that the Working Party then report back to the Grounds Committee in time to enable the proposed Strategy to be discussed by Council at their meeting on 23 April 2015.

**C 0361**      **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members received and noted the Town Clerk's report dated 16 October 2014. *(A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix B)*

With reference to item No.1, Cllr Mills said that he would attend the next Community Forum at Penns Place on Tuesday 11 November 2014.

**C 0362**      **FINANCE**

**Schedule of Payments**

Members considered the Scheule of Payments for September 2014.

It was noted that pages 2 and 3 of the printed report showed a duplication of the direct debit to British Telecom and that the final cross-total of the payments did not tally. The Town Clerk confirmed that only one payment had been made to British Telecom in September 2014. He would investigate the discrepancy on the report and bring the Schedule of Payments for September 2014 back for consideration.

With reference to the payments for Grounds Maintenance, it was noted that the existing grounds contractor would continue until the end of March 2015 and that advertising for an in-house grounds person would start shortly.

**RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for September 2014 not be received by Council until the anomalies had been investigated and corrected through the Finance & General Purposes Committee; that a correct Schedule of Payments for September 2014 be brought back to Council for consideration at their next meeting on 23 October 2014.

**CO 363**      **PAST MAYORS' PINS**

It was the custom that, on completion of their year of office, the Mayor was presented with a gold enamelled pin from the Council. The supply of pins

had now been used and the cost of ordering a new supply of ten similar pins had risen considerably since the last order.

Discussion took place on whether a less expensive alternative presentation, such as a medal, would be acceptable. Some Councillors present, who were past Mayors, commented they had felt delighted and honoured to receive a pin in recognition of their service and wore it to every town function. In view of these comments, it was agreed that the tradition of presenting a pin to past Mayors should be continued. However, it was agreed that an alternative pin design proposal, that would cost under £100 per pin, should be sought.

**RESOLVED** that a further quotation be obtained locally for a new pin design, at a cost of less than £100 per pin for the supply of ten pins, for presentation by the Council to past Mayors of the town.

**C 0364**      **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Council received a report dated 23 October 2014 on the Neighbourhood plan. *(A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes as Appendix C).*

Councillors expressed disappointment at the deferred date of June 2015 for the referendum but accepted that its timing was out of the hands of the Council. It was important now to ensure the full engagement of the public for the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman commented that, at a recent meeting with the South Downs National Park, it had been a pleasure to hear all the positive comments about Petersfield's Neighbourhood Plan which could be used as a future template for other Councils.

**C 0365**      **EAST HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP  
STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

Council received the Minutes of the Meeting of the East Hampshire Community Rail Partnership Stakeholder Group held on 9 July 2014.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Group would be held at Penns Place at 10 am on Tuesday 18 November 2014 and that Cllr Watkinson would attend.

**C 0366**      **EAST HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH TOWN COUNCILS**

Council received the Notes of the Meeting of the East Hampshire Association of Parish & Town Councils held on 4 June 2014.

C 0367

**PROPOSAL FROM PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB TO TRANSFER THE RUGBY PITCH LAND AT PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS TO THEM**

The Council had received a proposal from Petersfield Rugby Football Club (PRFC) to transfer the rugby pitch land at Penns Farm playing fields to them via a Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CAT).

The Chairman said that a good working relationship had been established in recent months between the Council and the PRFC. There had been informal joint meetings in Council Chamber to discuss the proposed new lease but there was still much negotiation to be done before a settlement could be reached which would be acceptable to both parties.

*(Owing to a later engagement, Cllr Organ left the meeting at 8 pm)*

Considerable discussion took place on the options of either a good lease or a Community Asset Transfer Scheme. It was agreed that no decision should be made at this time and that the matter should be deferred until a working party could be set up to look at the options and have further dialogue with the Rugby Club. As this Agenda item No.17 was connected to item No.19, the setting up of the working party would be discussed at that point in the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that a decision, on the proposal from Petersfield Rugby Football Club to transfer the rugby pitch land at Penns Farm playing fields to them via a Community Asset Transfer Scheme, not be made at this time.

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 0368** **CONFIDENTIAL STAFF, FINANCIAL OR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

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

**C 0369** **CREATION OF A WORKING PARTY TO RE-NEGOTIATE THE LEASE WITH PETERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

Councillors considered the creation of a Working Party to re-negotiate the lease with Petersfield Rugby Football Club having received legal advice from the Council's solicitors.

After discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED** that a Working Party of Cllrs Deane, Mrs Dickinson, Mrs Farrow, Marshall and Organ (as Reserve) be set up to re-negotiate with Petersfield Rugby Football Club the lease over the land used for rugby at Penns Farm playing fields;

that the Terms of Reference for the Working Party be as follows:

- negotiate and complete a new lease to the Rugby Club over their pitches and clubhouse at Penns Place playing fields
- produce a proposal for the Council's negotiating position with the Rugby Club
- liaise with and instruct the Council's solicitor dealing with the negotiation of the new lease.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35 pm*



## County Councillor's report for October 2014

The large capital budget for the County Council means that the number of Extra Care places is being increased from the original 500 to 700. The replacement of Bulmer House is still estimated to be ready for occupation in 2017.

On the educational front there is a need for some completely new schools, caused by a 17% increase in the birth rate since 2001, and before 2020 there will be a need for 3 new secondary schools. Over the next 3 years some £238m will be spent on school buildings, including the complete recladding of a number of properties built in the 1960s.

There is concern about the lack of physical activity amongst all ages in the County. Whereas Hampshire is better than the national average, the lack of activity, and obesity is still worrying. In the young the level of activity falls off rapidly in the teenage years, with only 21% of boys and 16% of girls doing enough exercise.

On alcohol there were 1.2m alcohol-related hospital admissions in England in 2011/12, a 135% increase since 2002/3, with the percentage increase for the 60 – 74 year old age group being the worst of all.

This is the final year of Southern Water's metering programme. The reason that meters are being installed is that the South East has been classified as an area of serious water stress by the government. To date 115,000 meters have been installed in Hampshire. Households that cannot have a water meter will be placed on an Assessed Charge, which is a fixed charge based on the number of bedrooms in the property – a 3 bedroom property would pay £170.08 for fresh water and £306.60 for wastewater. If access is denied to the water meter teams, then the charges rise to £291.39 for fresh water and £517.98 for wastewater.



## 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:

- \* Local Council Review magazine from the National Association of Local Councils
- \* Community First Havant & East Hampshire Enews edition number 61, 62 and 63
- \* The Petersfield Society newsletter
- \* Direct Information Service Issue number 843
- \* Community First Havant and East Hampshire Volunteer Service Newsletter September 2014
- \* Phoslock autumn 2014 newsletter
- \* Canine Partners Magazine

### Other Information

- 1 The date for the next Community Forum has been changed and will now be held on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014** at 6.30p.m. in East Hampshire District Council's Chamber at Penns Place.
- 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 The East of Petersfield Community Group has written thanking the Council for the grant awarded towards their community project. Similarly the Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool and East Hampshire Citizens Advice Bureau have written thanking the Council for the second tranche of their perennial grant.
- 4 Following the registration of Petersfield Police Station as an Asset of Community Value, I am advised by East Hampshire District Council that the Police Station is in the process of being sold to the Petersfield Museum in accordance with the Localism Act 2011. Public Notices have been displayed informing the community of the intention to sell the property.
- 5 South East Water has advised that they will be flushing out the water mains in Petersfield over the next few weeks. Some reduction in pressure may be experienced and some water

discolouration may be evident during the period of works. More information is available at [www.southeastwater.co.uk](http://www.southeastwater.co.uk) .

- 6 I have been advised by East Hampshire District Council that a further consultation has been issued in respect of the planning application on The Old College (SDNP/14/03861/FUL). The applicant is exploring the possibility of a 'D2' use in some or all of the 'offices' which would be, for example, a consulting room for a health professional. The information has been passed to us in case there are any further comments the Council would wish to make on the planning application. Highways have also been consulted on any traffic implications to this potential change.

Neil Hitch  
Town Clerk  
16th October 2014

**Report on the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan  
For PTC Meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014**

There is not a lot to report this month.

The members of the group have completed the assessment of the representations received following the public consultation in the summer, and made the appropriate modifications to the document.

John Slater (an independent examiner of neighbourhood plans) has been retained to produce the final version of the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan in a format suitable for planning professionals!

The associated documents which need to be submitted to the SDNPA with the Draft Plan are also being produced. These are the Statement of Community Engagement, and the Condition Statement. (See last month's update for more detail)

Due to John Slater's commitments it is now envisaged that the Draft Plan will be submitted towards the end of November and because of the general and Council elections in May 2015, EHDC have informed us that we cannot have our referendum on the NP until early June.

Richard Besant  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.