

Members received an updated report from Cllr J Matthews regarding the Green Space Signage, which included a recommendation on the colouring, design, location and number of signs. Members discussed various ideas regarding content of the signs, and it was agreed that the main rules that should be displayed would be No Cycling, No fires/BBQs, No dogs in the water, and keep dogs under control. These would all be displayed on the signs in the car parks on the Heath, and then appropriate rules would be displayed on signs around the circumference and other areas of the heath. Consideration needed to be given to no Wheelchair or Pushchair access on the Millennium Boardwalk. In all cases, the subtext for each rule should provide an explanation as to why the rule exists.

RESOLVED: that members agreed to the colouring and general design of the signs, and that the Chairman presents the special wording to the next Grounds meeting on 14 July

G 0080 **HEATH MILLENNIUM PATH**

Further to the discussions that took place at the previous meeting, members received a report and costs in respect of the Millennium Path. After some discussion members

RECOMMENDATION: that contractor B should be awarded the work at a cost of £31,926 plus VAT

G 0081 **BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND HARD STANDING AREA**

Members received a reports and costs in respect of the proposed hard standing area at Bell Hill Recreation Ground. After some discussion members

RECOMMENDATION: that contractor B should be awarded the work at a cost of £2,285 plus VAT

G 0082 **PENNS FIELD - ADDITIONAL FENCING**

Members received details about the additional knee high 'dragons teeth' fencing that was required at Penns Field. Mr R Mocatta suggested that if we could deliver all the materials required by next weekend, that members of the Petersfield Rugby Club would be able to install the fencing. Additional supplies were identified, but savings would be made on the labour charges, reducing the cost.

RESOLVED: that materials to install a fence equivalent to approximately 110 metres at maximum cost of £1600 to be ordered and supplied to Petersfield Rugby Club in time for them to install it on the weekend of 25-26 June

G 0083 **BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND - DITCH**

Members received a report and costs regarding the cleaning out of the Bell Hill Recreation Ground Ditch. It was agreed that this ditch was badly in need of this maintenance work

RESOLVED: that the work be carried out at an agreed cost of £1500 plus VAT from identified funds held in Earmarked Reserves

G 0084 **TILMORE ALLOTMENT - DITCH**

Members received a report and costs regarding the cleaning out of the Tilmore Allotments Ditch. Some scepticism was expressed that this work would resolve the flooding issues being experienced near the White Rose Garage but it was accepted that as the Council had riparian maintenance responsibility for the ditch that the work had to be done and that the quoted cost represented good value

RESOLVED: that the work be carried out at an agreed cost of £3250 plus VAT held in Earmarked Reserves

G 0085 **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS OF THE HEATH**

Members received and noted the information provided

G 0086 **PEOPLE OF THE HEATH 'UNDERSTANDING AND CONSERVING PETERSFIELD'S PRE-HISTORIC BARROWS'**

Members received and noted the information provided

G 0087 **PEOPLE OF THE HEATH 'UNDERSTANDING AND CONSERVING PETERSFIELD'S PRE-HISTORIC BARROWS' BULLETIN NO 8 MAY 2016**

Members received and noted the information provided

G 0088 **PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE GRAVE GROUPS FROM PETERSFIELD HEATH BARROWS 11 AND 13**

Members received and noted the information provided

G 0089 **PENNS FIELD PLAYING FIELDS - SEEDING**

Members received and noted the costs of £4130 plus VAT from Burleys to carry out re-seeding at Penns Field Playing Fields sanctioned outside of Committee under section 4.5 of Financial Regulations

G 0090 **AVENUE TENNIS COURTS - INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICITY**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk regarding the installation of electricity at the Avenue Tennis Courts in preparation for the automated Lawn Tennis Association booking systems that will be implemented in the future

RECOMMENDATION: that members approve the work, and that the contractor for the work is approved by the Chairman of Grounds Committee, Town Mayor, Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee and Town Clerk

G 0091 **EAST HAMPSHIRE CARAVAN CENTRE USE OF BELL HILL**

Members received a request from East Hampshire Caravan Centre to utilise the Bell Hill Recreation Ground for a rally in 2017

RESOLVED: Subject to ground conditions (weather), costs and location of water, members agreed in principle to this idea. The Office Manager would locate the water mains and work out costs

CONFIDENTIAL

G 0092 **PROPOSAL IN RELATION TO PETERSFIELD RUGBY CLUB**

Members received a presentation of a proposal from Cllr P Strawbridge regarding Petersfield Rugby Club. After discussions it was

RECOMMENDATION: members unanimously agreed that the contents of Cllr P Strawbridge's presentation be approved by Finance and General Purposes Committee, and negotiated with Petersfield Rugby Club

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Grounds Report

June 2016

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

- Continual assessment of dead trees on barrow 20.
- Continued summer maintenance schedule.
- 2 metre sweep around Sussex Rd car park cut back from sleepers.

Love Lane Playing Fields

- Carrying out regular litter picking and bin emptying (every other day).

Penns Farm Playing Fields

- Start and maintain summer maintenance schedule.

Bell Hill Recreation Ground

- Start and maintain summer schedule.
- Replace vandalised/broken fence pailings.

Paddock Way

- Start and maintain summer schedule.
- Still awaiting quotes for the continuation of drainage for playing field.

General

- Return to full maintenance schedule for all PTC sites.
- Replacing of goal posts at Woods meadow, Paddock way etc.
- Weed killer applied to areas around Town Hall and other sites maintained by Grounds.
- Summer planting of planters.
- Regular maintenance of Rotherlands area commencing last week of every month.
- Continual assessment of Knotweed at Love Lane commencing this month.

Dugg Budd
Senior Groundsman
7th June 2016

Petersfield RFC is a Community Amateur Sports Club.

If you come down to Penns place on a Sunday morning from September to April you will see that the club has 265 mini rugby players of both sexes under the age of 12, supported by over 40 qualified, DBS checked coaches and managers. You will see up to four of our youth teams training or playing, with another 120 players and 20 coaches and managers. On Sunday afternoon you will see our colts (U17 & U18) with another 30 boys and 4 coaches. On Saturday afternoons you would have seen between 1 and 3 of our adult male teams playing, and on several Friday nights last year you would have seen our veterans team playing. We have 90 adult male players from a wide range of social backgrounds. Everyone pays the same inclusive membership fee, so players, parents and children are all members of the same club. The club is looking to start up girls rugby again next season with considerable support from local schools. We have already lined up coaches and a manager, and expect to be able to field girls team next season. It is a large rugby community in Petersfield, but sustaining it will takes considerable resource and effort.

We play league rugby in Hampshire 1, and the overwhelming bulk of our adult players have come through the club junior section. Others started playing as adults, or have moved into the area. We put on a lunch for supporters, past players and families before the home league games, feeding over 600 people last season in the 10 games last year. These were well supported by the community of former players, local businesses, parents and friends.

This is a large community. After installing new lights we have seen many more people train under lights. 4,700 people used the lights to train or play last season, including an average of 60 under 18s per week. We made the lights available to local schools FOC, and hosted 12 school games. We also hosted a Student rugby festival for the RFU with over 350 players of both sexes using the club's facilities. Churchers kindly allowed us to use their pitches as well for this festival of rugby.

In March and April we became the first Hampshire club to host all the County Tournaments for the mini rugby from U7 to U12. Penns Place was packed with children, and their families, playing sport. We have set up our own Referees society and paid for training courses at local schools to encourage those doing DofE and GCSE/ A Level sport to take up refereeing. Many of the 15 year olds who went on this course successfully refereed the Hampshire U11 and U12 tournaments.

We have strong links with local schools, and have provided coaching and equipment to several. We have helped both TPS and Bohunt host regular training sessions and games at the club, and have organised tournaments and tag tournaments for local primary schools. Various Hampshire County teams, for both boys and girls, regularly used our club to train and play last season, and we have encouraged other local rugby clubs to use our facilities when their own were unplayable.

Last season we hosted a floodlit game between a Royal Navy XV and a Petersfield XV, raising £2,400 for the Royal Navy and Royal Marine charity. We have hosted a Burns Dinner with three former Scottish Internationals, and raised a similar amount of money for the Royal Marine Charity. We have organised several Royal Navy gun runs along Petersfield High Street on the August bank holiday over the past few years, again raising funds for Navy charities. We think that the club is an integral part of the Petersfield Community, sharing the values and the ethos of many of the residents and of the Town Council. We are proud of the club's links with the Armed forces, and are hosting the Army

Fijian 7s in August this year. Last year the event attracted 2,000 spectators when held elsewhere in Hampshire.

We are also Amateurs, with a club run by volunteers. We do not pay the players. However, we do pay a contractor to run our clubhouse, and others to cook for us, run our café, run our shop, mark our pitches and wash the club's 9 sets of shirts. All of these people have children who play, or who used to play, and are part of our rugby community.

Our club officials are actively involved in this community. The President referees youth teams most Sundays, the Chairman and Treasurer coach every Sunday, and the secretary will be coaching youth rugby for the 13th year next season. The club is run by enthusiasts who care deeply about children playing sport.

PRFC is also a Sports Club. The club built its own facilities. It originally took out a lease on the pitches owned by PTC in order to be able to borrow money to fund the building of its clubhouse, loans that were fully underwritten by the Town Council at the time. The club renewed the lease when it came to build its own changing rooms following the closure of the Town's own changing rooms at Penns Place. The club took on almost £170,000 of debt to build this facility, debt which is now down to £50,000 thanks to fifteen years of continual fund raising. The club has to make £10,000 per year just to pay off this debt, but has managed to do this. In addition to this, the club was able to raise almost £140,000 in grants last year from Sport England, the RFU and Section 106 money to pay for new floodlights and a considerable upgrade to the club's kitchen and toilet facilities. The club has no financial reserves, and cannot fund further expansion without more financial help.

The club has to fund the rugby operations that support over 400 children playing sport, along with almost 90 adult players. The costs associated with equipment, coaching, refereeing, pitch marking, and playing insurance are considerable. We have to maintain and clean the building, and fund the substantial cost of heating hot water for showers. On top of this there are the substantial costs of running a business that turns over about £180,000 per year. This is a considerable challenge for a volunteer run community organisation providing sport for children. It is a club of the community, run by the community and for the community.

The club wants PTC as a partner that shares the same goals of community involvement, health improvement for residents and engagement with young people of all backgrounds. We would very much like PTC to appoint a councillor to sit on our management committee. We also want to work closely with PTC and all the other Petersfield Sports clubs in developing Penns Place as a sports hub, and turning Penns B into playing pitches, in line with the Neighbourhood plan.

Thank you. Any questions?