

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 30th July 2015 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr J Deane (Chairman), Cllr P Strawbridge, Cllr J Matthews, Cllr N Orr, Cllr S Noble and Cllr M Vincent.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), and Cllr Mrs V Morgans were also present. There were no members of the public or press present.

G 0254 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman thanked Councillors Matthews and Strawbridge for the background work they had done in preparation for this evening's discussion.

G 02545 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present.

G 02556 DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 02567 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

G 02578 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 16th July 2015 be approved and signed.

G 0259 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

No requests from members of the public to speak had been received.

G 0260 PETERSFIELD RUGBY CLUB REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PITCHES

Members noted that the club wished the Council to provide an additional two rugby pitches on the land within the demised land plan contained in their lease; one being a senior pitch and the other a junior pitch. The club acknowledged that since the erection of the floodlights, the additional use of the pitches had created pressure on the ground and they were willing to use some of their own resources to fund additional grounds works that they wanted doing on the two main pitches through the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

Councillors acknowledged the problem facing the club but also the general shortage of space for other sports, in particular football. However the request for pitches did fall within the land designated as the rugby club's in the current 2004 lease and as such could see no reason why these pitches, subject to on-going discussion around costs and the exact outline of the land, should not be marked.

A wide ranging and detailed discussion followed covering a variety of potential options and scenarios, following which it was:

- RECOMMENDED:**
- 1. That Petersfield Rugby Club be permitted to have the additional pitches requested and appropriate run-off areas on their demised land;**
 - 2. That subject to discussions on financial arrangements for the costs of goal posts and maintenance, the Town Council will support the project both financially and practically;**
 - 3. That the Town Council confirm that football pitches will not be marked on the demised area without the Rugby Club's prior approval;**
 - 4. That the Council continue to take legal advice as to the status and future use of the current pitch 4;**
 - 5. That the extent of the Rugby Club's demised land be temporarily marked out on the ground to establish current boundaries;**
 - 6. That the Council wish to continue discussions with the Rugby Club with a view to agreeing a new lease and in particular agreeing the process for an independent rental valuation.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.42pm.