

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Petersfield Town Council was held at the Town Hall, Petersfield
On 21st January 2016 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Town Mayor), Cllr Mrs H Ayer, Cllr J Deane, Cllr J Matthews, Cllr Mrs V Morgans, Cllr N Orr, Cllr S Noble, Cllr J Palmer, Cllr P Strawbridge, Cllr Ms M Vincent and Cllr G Watkinson

Also in attendance: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk) Mr S Field (Committees Manager), County Cllr V Clarke (arrived 7.10p.m.), District Cllr T Spencer, and 13 members of the public. There were no Press present.

C 0590 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

- The Town Mayor welcomed everyone and shared that she had attended a very good professional performance of 'Puss in Boots' and highly recommended people to go and see the performance, particularly of our own Cllr P Humphries who was absent because of his performance this evening.
- The refugee appeal raised hugh donations of supplies, and because of a donation of clothing and tents, as well as sleeping bags and wellies, it has been decided to send the clothing and wellingtons to Syria via another charity, and sleeping bags and tents to one of the 'orderly' camps in France. Cllrs and members of the public were invited to come and help with the sorting and boxing of refugee supplies on Monday 25th starting from 10.00 am at Britannia Reeves yard. The Mayor also invited Cllrs and members of the public to attend the Mayors Quiz on 19th February in aid of Rosemary Foundation and Petersfield Counselling Services.
- News had been received that South Downs National Parks had today approved the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan, which was voted for in the referendum. The Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan had been a superb piece of work, and once again, the Mayor thanked all of those who had been involved in any way.

C 0591 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from County Cllr K Moon & Cllr P Humphries.

C 0592 GRANTING OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

There were no requests for dispensation.

C 0593 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Mr S Field had an interest in one of the items, and those present were asked if anyone had objected in Stephen remaining in the meeting. There were no objections.

C 0594 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of Petersfield Town Council, held on 17th December 2015 be approved and signed.

C 0595 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No requests to speak had been received.

C0596 **PRESENTATION BY KINGS ARMS**

Cllr Jamie Matthews arrived sometime during the following presentation

Members received a report (previously distributed) regarding the work of the Kings Arms and a proposal to re-consider the building of a purpose built Youth Centre on the Avenue site.

John Callaghan (Chair of Trustees) and Caroline (Operations Manager) from Kings Arms spoke about the history, current activities and future aspirations of their work. Cllrs were invited to visit the Kings Arms to further explore the work that The Kings Arms provided.

Various aspects of the work was presented by Caroline including the youth club aspects, working with schools, and working with specific groups such as young carers. Their overall aim was to meet specific needs in and around the community.

Due to the short term arrangements with the current Kings Arms building, Kings Arms needs to find an alternative home. Many locations have been explored, and various bids have been made, including an offer to the owner to purchase the existing building, but to date, no alternative has been found. The Avenue would be an ideal location, being close to public transport and ideal for pupils who use our facilities from The Petersfield School. A model of the Avenue and a proposal of where the new building could be sited was presented. Further exploration of re-locating on the existing East Hamshire District Council car park should also be re-considered.

It was explained that The Kings Arms had been given a substantial donation towards the building of a new Youth Centre, and had engaged with architects and solicitors to build a team that were ready to build.

John Callaghan gave a final plea, reminding Councillors of the ever decreasing funds from local government to keep youth services opened, inviting The Town Council to support and maintain the youth services that the Kings Arms provided today, and the additional youth services that may be required in the future.

The discussion was then opened up to members who discussed where the Avenue fitted in with the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that there was once temporary buildings on site which were used by The Petersfield School for education purposes, but that the deeds were clear that no permanent building could be erected for the purposes of a youth centre.

A specific question was asked about the reasons for not wanting to share in a bigger vision of a building located at Love Lane. It was cited that confidentiality of the more troubled young people who used the building, and location of where the shared facilities were being considered were two factors that concerned Kings Arms. Roger Parks from Festival for Young People spoke about their vision of a multi-purpose building on Love Lane that could serve many of the needs of the town, including Kings Arms, but recognised that it may not serve all purposes. Members made the point that if a building was built for the purposes of Kings Arms, then this could jeopardise the opportunity to build a multi-purpose site later.

Various other questions were raised and answered, and the discussions concluded with the reflection that a multi-purpose building had already taken years of discussion but was not any further forward, but that the Kings Arms were already in existence and needing a resolution to the potential short term lost of a building to run from.

Members concluded with the following recommendation.

RESOLVED: That a working party of Kings Arms representatives, Festival for Young People representatives and Councillors J Palmer, G Watkinson, J Deane, I Farrow and H Ayer be organised to meet on a Friday to discussed the current needs and propose a plan on the current and future requirements for a youth / multi purpose centre

C 0597

COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr V Clarke

Cllr Clarke read out his report to the Council. (*A copy of his report is attached as appendix A*).

Cllr K Moon

Cllr K Moon provided a report (*A copy of his report is attached as appendix B*). It was agreed that Cllr K Moon should be approached for a more concise report with information relevant to Petersfield Town Council

C 0598

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr T Spencer

Cllr T Spencer provided a report (*A copy of his report is attached as appendix C*)

Members mentioned that the scheme for Business Parking needed to be promoted, including the Scratch

Card facility which allows any vehicle to be parked from the same purchased pack of scratch cards.

Members asked about the staff reduction of Taro Centre to Council staff, and whether this could be extended to Petersfield Town Council. It was noted that any business can arrange reduced rates based on a number of terms that apply.

C 0599 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members received and noted the Town Clerk's report dated 15th January 2016.
(A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix D)

C 0600 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 5th January be received

(b) Grounds Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Grounds Committee held on 14th January be received with one matter to be discussed in confidential

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18th January be received

F0586 **LOCAL COUNCIL SECTOR LED BODY FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT**

RESOLVED that the Council remain 'opted in' as this was considered to be the most effective option for Petersfield Town Council

C 0601 **REPRESENTATIONS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr V Clarke commented that the new Outdoor Swimming Pool Boilers were being installed and should be completed by end of January

C 0602 **FINANCE - SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY 2016**

RESOLVED The schedule of payments for January 2016 were received in two formats of computer generated and manually generated. Members agreed on staying with the manually generated version. Both formats of the schedule are attached *(as appendix E)*

C 0603 **TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2016-2017**

Budgets for 2016-2017 were presented to members with a recommendation from F&GP to increase the precept by 1%. The budget as presented, was approved.

RESOLVED that the Council increase the precept by 1% on Band D to a to a revised value from £538,066 to £542,566.00 to specifically support identified projects. It was agreed that the additional funds should be used towards playgrounds and heath toilets.

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 for the confidential session

C0604 **RUGBY CLUB PITCH 4**

Cllr J Matthews and Cllr P Strawbridge had met with the Rugby Club to work through a possible resolution to the current issues

RESOLVED That it was agreed not to proceed with counsel opinion at this time in respect of the rugby club's claim in respect of the Landlord and Tenants Act 1954 regarding Pitch 4, and that work continue with Petersfield Rugby Club to review how the land at Penns Farm playing fields be used to greater efficiency for the provision of both football and rugby pitches

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m