

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 11th February 2016 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr J Deane (Chairman), Cllr J Matthews, Cllr Paul Strawbridge and Cllr M Vincent

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr D Budd (Senior Groundsman), Mr S Field (Committees Manager), Cllr L Farrow, and 2 members of the public.

G 0624 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and commented on a few items not on the agenda but which are worthy of comment as follows:

- **Heath Management Working Committee** is waiting for one person to respond before the committee can be initiated
- **Penns Field 'B'**. Discussions are part of the wider brief for a Sports Hub and may be moved to the Town Development Committee
- **Petersfield in Bloom** Judging will take place on 14th July. The chairman asked all councillors volunteers to assist on the day
- **Ramshill Play Area** We are waiting for further information from EHDC
- **Love Lane** Drainage issue needs to be resolved. Drainage pipes were discovered but were completely blocked
- **Tree Planting** Cherry trees and Oak Trees were planted, with the help of the Mayor, to commemorate the Queens 90th Birthday
- **Tilmore Flooding** Flooding near to garages at back of Kimbers. Potentially could be coming off allotments. If this is the case, then action will be taken quickly
- **Youth Centre** A sub group will be meeting on 26th February
- **Overgrown Pathways** Town Clerk has received feedback on the main pathways, and these are being maintained adequately

G 0625 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr N Orr.

G 0626 DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0627 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

G 0628 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 14th January 2016 be approved and signed, with amendments as follows:
In G0563 Tim North should have read Tom North, and Tom will be the Chairman of the Fireworks 2016, not the Chairman of the Round Table

G 0629 **PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

No representation to speak was received

G 0630 **SOUTH DOWNS BALLOONING**

A representation by Alan Hall on behalf of South Downs Ballooning was received. Mr Hall explained that his company were hoping to re-introduce ballooning to the Penns Fields area in the evenings. It was envisaged that there would be 10 launches per year. Mr Hall explained that his staff were trained to the Civil Aviation Authority requirements to grant them permission to fly, and fully trained to make all the necessary health and safety checks etc. The flights will take off on the edge of the football pitches, but no vehicles will be driven onto the grass area, and customer cars will be parked in the car park. Insurance liability is currently set at 5.5 million pounds. It was requested that drawings were produced, so that location could be clarified, and all legal documentation, including insurance, public liability and risk assessment be copied to the council.

RECOMENDATION: That this should be accepted, subject to £30 (inc VAT) per launch being received by the council, and all necessary documentation

G 0631 **RUNNYHONEY'S FUNDRAISING**

A representation by Sue Browne on behalf of Runnyhoneys was received, outlining the proposal for using the Heath sometime during May 2016 for their annual fundraising event to raise money for The Stroke Association. Sue noted that marshalling needed to be improved this year

RESOLVED: That this event may go ahead using the same route as last year with improved marshalling during May 2016

G 0632 **GROUNDS REPORT**

Members received and noted the Grounds Report for February 2016 by the Senior Groundsman. (*A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A*). It was noted that fencing to 3 play areas would commence soon, once half of the payment was made to the approved contractor.

Smaller planters would be used at the Railway Station, as there was not enough room to accommodate the standard sized planters. Negotiations were currently being held with South West Trains, and PTC signs would be added later

G 0633

RULES GOVERNING USE OF HEATH LAND AND LAKE

Rules governing the use of the Heath land and Lake were considered by Councillors and various minor changes were discussed

RESOLVED: that the Rules be amended by the Office Manager and re-distributed to members

G 0634

POLICY FOR COUNCIL OWNED LAND IN PETERSFIELD

Members received a revised copy of the Policy for Council Owned Land in Petersfield. Policy needs to be more of an overview document

RESOLVED: that the Policy be amended by the Town Clerk and Office Manager and re-distributed to members

G 0635

GREEN SPACES SIGNAGE

Cllr J Matthews presented a document which outlined a proposal for new signage for council owned green spaces. All existing signage would need to be removed and replaced, however, this could be carried out in stages, or as existing signage became redundant or in need of replacing. One idea was to start with the Heath which represents the largest area that the Council maintain. The Town Clerk also suggested that one notice board be placed in each ward which members considered to be a good idea. Funding should be sought from HCC and SDNP. This would provide Petersfield visitors with some very comprehensive signage, and will fit in with part of the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan concept. It was noted that signage can also be provided in module form, so that as parts of signs need changing or replacing, they can be replaced without the whole sign needing to be renewed

A further update will be produced for the next meeting

G 0636

ROTHERLANDS

It was noted that the Rotherlands group would shortly be ceasing to operate, but there was a desire to continue supporting the members of the group who still wanted to be a part of the volunteers. The Wildlife Trust showed some interest in being involved and may attend a meeting. The Rotherlands Conservation Group have indicated that they wished to retain volunteers who are willing to carry out surveys such as butterfly and moth observations.

G 0637

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Members received a report written by the Town Clerk, which invited members to advise whether they would like to attend a meeting with the LTA.

RESOLVED: A presentation is to be arranged for members to attend, possibly on a Thursday in a week when there were no other meetings

G 0638 **DOG BIN EMPTYING CONTACT**

Members received a report from the Town Clerk regarding the current Dog Bin Contract, and the proposed increase in costs.

RESOLVED: That all current dog bins are removed, and either replaced with a standard bin, or where both a dog bin and standard bin exists, replace with a larger bin to accommodate all waste

G 0639 **MERRITS MEADOW MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015-2020**

Members received a report regarding Merrits Meadow Management Plan 2015-2020. Some discussion took place regarding cycling not being allowed.

RESOLVED: That the report be accepted, and that the Town Clerk progresses the report with East Hampshire District Council

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 and that Cllr L Farrow should be granted permission to stay.

CONFIDENTIAL

G 0640 **EASTLAKE CLOSE LAND**

It was noted by members that a resident who lived adjacent to the land owned by the Council in Eastlake Close Land, has offered to buy the land. The price offered was considered to be acceptable, as long as legal fees were also covered by the purchaser.

RECOMMENDED: That the land is sold in accordance with the Policy for Council Owned Land subject to the land being used as additional garden space, and legal fees being covered by the purchaser.

G 0641 **PETERSFIELD RUGBY CLUB**

Cllr P Strawbridge presented a proposal which was formulated by Petersfield Rugby Club and Cllr's P Strawbridge and J Matthews.

Following discussion it was:

RECOMMENDED: That the Council defer seeking counsel opinion for a period of 6 months on the issue of the Landlord and Tenant Act (1954) and the 'Old Hockey Pitch'

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Grounds Report

February 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

- Finish clearing back to the sleepers at Sussex Road car park plus a general tidy.
- Continual assessment of dead trees on barrow 20.
- Removal of arisings from clearance work around barrow 20.
- Tree and shrub thinning around cricket pitch to promote existing heather growth (delayed due to bad ground conditions).
- Installation of two new benches around Heath Pond.

Love Lane Playing Fields

- Carrying out regular litter picking and bin emptying (every other day).
- Planting of flowering cherries near Moggs mead end of playing field.(delayed due to bad weather. Planting on 11th Febraury)
- Planting of oak trees in celebration of Queens 90th Birthday.(delayed due to bad weather. Planting on 11th February).
- Replacing broken fencing around Petersfield F.C

Penns Farm Playing Fields

- Replacement of broken bins with new ones.
- Hoping the knee high fencing will be installed by Marchs Grounds Meeting.

Bell Hill Recreation Ground

- Tree limb removal of low lying branches.
- In discussion with the Round Table (Tom North) about how to improve Bell Hill site for the future in order for the damage limitation of the ground.
- Chestnut bollards and gate will be erected.

Paddock Way

- Paddock Way Playing field is another site which is in need of more drainage work. The site has some drainage already from when the play area was first installed but we are looking at getting the rest of the field drained. Three quotes sort.

General

- Looking at replacing goal posts at Woods meadow, Paddock way etc.
- Gate plus post and rail fencing @ Borough Road hopefully installed by Marchs Grounds Meeting.
- Planters for College Street ordered along with 2 planters for Petersfield station as a part of East Hants Community Rail Partnership.
- Awaiting a start date for the replacing and repairing of paving slabs around Avenue Pavilion.
- Awaiting a start date for the repair to St Peters churchyard.

Dugg Budd
Senior Groundsman
11th February 2016