

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Deane (Chairman), Cllr J Matthews, Cllr S Noble, Cllr N Orr, 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 Mrs Farrow, 5 members of the public and no press present.

### **G 0558**      CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed members to the first meeting of 2016 although we had already had a public Grounds Users Meeting. He thanked all members for 100% attendance at the Ground Users Meeting.

He went on to state that once again we seem to be dealing with the whole spectrum of issues and all seem to be live thus we continue to tackle lengthy agendas.

Items not on the agenda but which are worthy of comment were as follows:

- **PTC takeover** of playground and grounds maintenance at Ramshill. This is currently awaiting a tripartite meeting between PTC, Taylor Wimpey and the Ramshill Residents Association. The date for this meeting should be imminent
- **Penns Field 'B'**. Happy to send an update of the Action Plan to Members. (*One copy was made available*). Since our last meeting the Town Development Committee has been proposed and is being formed and it may pass to that Committee to take forward as part of the Sports Hub aspiration, however it may remain with the same working party. In the meantime we await some initial drawings and design ideas from a contact with or via Town Juniors.
- **Town Signage** Cllr Matthews accepted an action on the way ahead on a draft signage strategy for the Town's Open Spaces and was ready to report at this meeting. However the long agenda had already been set so it was unable to be added. This will be on the agenda for next grounds Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016. A sum of money has been allocated in the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 16/17.

### **G 0559**      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

### **G 0560**      DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0561      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

G 0562      APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED**            that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015 be approved and signed.

G 0563      PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

A representation on behalf of Petersfield Round Table was made by Tim North (who will be the chairman of Petersfield Round Table when this year's Firework display takes place) regarding the damage incurred on the Bell Hill Recreation Ground due to weather conditions and the necessary use of heavy vehicles. Tim explained that this was a very successful event, raising over £8000 for charity in 2015, and that Bell Hill Recreation Ground was the ideal spot for this event. Tim expressed that he wanted to work closely with the Town Council this year to minimise the amount of work that this event created for the Council. It was agreed that a meeting be set up with the Senior Groundsman to discuss and come up with solutions to minimise damage this year.

A representation on behalf of Rams Hill residents was made by John Lees who asked whether there was any update on the possibility of Petersfield Town Council taking over responsibility of looking after the Green Spaces at Rams Hill Estate. The chairman explained that we were waiting for some terms to be agreed including clarification on the outcome of the 106 agreement, and then for a meeting to be arranged. John Lees was assured that he would be invited to the meeting once it had been set up.

G 0564      GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and noted the Grounds Report for December 2015 by the Senior Groundsman. *(A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix B).* It was commented that Heath Road East hedge was looking very neat and tidy. It was also noted that there was a large amount of rubbish at the bottom end of High Meadow around the ramp, and that a gully in Heath Road East was flooding and needed some attention.

**RESOLVED:**            That the Senior Groundsman check the areas reported and carry out any work required

G 0565      PETERSFIELD FRIENDS OF THE HEATH 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER MEETING

Minutes of the meeting were received

**G 0566**      **REPLACEMENT OF PAVING SLABS AT AVENUE PAVILION**

Members received 2 proposals to replace paving slabs at the Avenue Pavilion. Whilst we would normally seek three quotes, the two quotes received were so close in cost, that it was agreed to propose contractor A to F & GP

**RECOMMENDED:** that contractor A be proposed to undertake this work at a cost of £2,480 plus VAT

**G 0567**      **GROUNDS USER MEETING**

Members received a verbal report on the recent Grounds User Meeting. It was good to see all Grounds Committee present, although disappointing not to see so many users. However, this could be a positive result on the amount of concerns that users have, since having our own grounds team. It was also suggested that next year we should invite Round Table, who use Bell Hill Recreation for the annual town fireworks display.

**G 0568**      **PETERSFIELD IN BLOOM 2016**

Cllr M Vincent reported that the first meeting had taking place and arrangements were under way. Two new categories had been added this year relating to unusual containers. One was for Juniors and one was for Adult residential or commercial. It was discussed that publicity needed to be out earlier this year.

**G 0569**      **UNDERSTANDING & CONSERVING PETERSFIELDS PREHISTORIC BARROWS**

Members received a report written by Mary and Neville Haskins and bulletin number 7 written by Stuart Needham & George Anelay from People of the Heath regarding the 'Understanding and Conserving Petersfield's Prehistoric Barrows'

**G 0570**      **NEW CAST IRON PLANTERS**

Members had reviewed the proposed site for the planters following the last meeting and received costs for the purchase of 2 cast iron planters to be located outside of 48 College Street, Petersfield. Two designs were available, one with Petersfield Town Council, and one with the Town Emblem. It was agreed that the Petersfield Town Council design should be purchased.

It was also discussed that other planters on the edge of town could be replaced with the same design, when they needed to be replaced.

**RECOMMENDED:** that subject to approval by Hampshire County Council, two planters should be purchased and located outside of 48 College Street at a cost of £1660.00 plus VAT

**G 0571**      **POLICY FOR COUNCIL OWNED LAND IN PETERSFIELD**

Members received a copy of the 'Policy for Council Owned Land in Petersfield, and were asked to send in any suggestions to change this policy document to the Town Clerk

**G 0572**      **NEW AREA TEAMS & RIGHT OF WAY VEGETATION PRIORITY CUTTINGS LIST 2016**

Members received a report which provided details of all the 'Right of Way' paths, and which ones would be given priority to keep them clear for walkers. A question was raised about Dark Hollow, as this needed to be maintained. Also, it was noted that footpath 42 which is from the Causeway was on this list for maintenance. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should contact Bill Organ and others to see if they were interested in walking the routes to report on the conditions

**RESOLVED:**            **That the Town Clerk will invite members of the public to walk the paths and report back**

**G 0573**      **IMPROVEMENTS TO FENCING AT VARIOUS PLAY AREAS**

Members received quotes for the re-fencing of Bell Hill recreation ground, Borough Road recreation ground, and Penns Farm playing fields. The head groundsman explained that the main aims were either to replace fencing or introduce fencing to stop motor vehicles entering the recreation areas. It was discussed and recommended that the work for all three sites should be offered to company B, and on the basis that the company would be carrying out the work on all three sites, that a reduction in the costs be sought

**RECOMMENDED:**    **that company B quote be accepted and a reduction on costs be discussed with the company in question at a maximum cost of £6,177.18 plus VAT**

**G 0574**      **HEATH POND WORKING PARTY VISIT TO MIDHURST & BURITON**

Members received a report on the investigation made by the Heath Pond Working Party who visited both Midhurst and Buriton ponds. This report was produced in preparation for the discussions that are taking place regarding the stabilisation work that needs to take place, and the overall appearance and content of the heath. All interested parties are now to be invited to discuss and agree what work needs to take place around the heath pond. Members questioned what funding would be required for the project, but it would be difficult to gauge this until the full extent of work was known.

**RESOLVED:**            **that a working party of all interested groups be organised by the Town Clerk to start working on the detailed requirements**

G 0575

ST PETERS CHURCH YARD WALL

Members received a report detailing two quotes to repair St Peters Churchyard wall. It was noted that one quote was proposing a repair to the section of the wall in question, whereas the other quote included a complete rebuild of a larger section of the wall.

**RECOMMENDED:** that company A quote to remove and replace part of the wall should be accepted at a cost of £2530 plus VAT

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 0576

RUGBY CLUB PITCH 4

Further discussions took place regarding the current issues with the existing contract, and the sub-letting of pitch 4 to Petersfield Junior Football Club.

Following discussion it was:

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Council await the outcome of a meeting being attended by Cllr Matthews and Cllr Strawbridge, where they will be presenting their findings regarding the current rental space, and proposing a way forward. If no agreement is reached, then full Council will be consulted regarding the claim on 'Pitch 4' in respect of the Landlord and Tenants Act 1954, and if necessary, a separate working party will be set up to progress this issue independently.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05p.m.*