

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 16 July 2015 at 6.30 pm.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs M Snow (Locum Minute Taker). Cllrs Mrs Ayer, Mrs Farrow and Mrs Morgans were also present. There were no members of the public or press present.

G 0195 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman had no comments.

G 0196 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr S Noble.

G 0197 DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0198 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

G 0199 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 11 June 2015 be approved and signed.

G 0200 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

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

G 0201 GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and noted the Grounds Report for July 2015 by the Town Clerk. *(A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A)*

The members discussed the Japanese Knotweed situation at length and agreed that this should be included as an agenda item in September. The Town Clerk updated the members on the electric fencing on Bell Hill

Recreation Ground. The resident has now switched off the electric and raised the height of the fence and has accepted full liability for the fence.

G 0202 **THE HEATH BOATHOUSE ELECTRIC INSTALLATION REQUEST.**

A request had been received to install an electricity supply to the Boathouse on the Heath for the purpose of installing a security alarm.

RESOLVED that in principle the committee agrees to the installation of an electricity supply to the Boathouse on the Heath.

G 0203 **CONSIDERATION OF THE INSTALLATION OF DRAGONS TEETH AT BELL HILL RECREATION GROUND.**

Cllr Matthews explained that cars were parking on the grass at Bell Hill Recreation Ground as a matter of routine when the hard standing area of car park was empty, resulting in grass wear. The Committee agreed that the installation of some type of barrier/fencing or dragons teeth was necessary.

RESOLVED that in principle the committee agreed to the installation of a type of barrier to prevent parking on the grass at Bell Hill Recreation Ground. The design and cost is to be agreed.

G 0204 **ANNUAL ALLOTMENT USERS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the Annual Allotment Users meeting shall be held on Tuesday the 8th of September at the Avenue Pavilion at 7.15p.m..

G 0205 **ARMY CADETS REQUEST TO USE THE HEATH.**

RESOLVED that the Army Cadets could use the Heath for two weeks from the 17th of August, excluding weekends.

G 0206 **INSTALLATION OF FENCING AROUND THREE AREAS OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON LOVE LANE RECREATION GROUND.**

The Town Clerk had arranged for a quotation to provide more substantial fencing around the areas of Japanese Knotweed growing at Love Lane recreation ground for members' consideration. Following discussion, it was:

RECOMMENDED: that the purchase of chestnut paling fencing be approved at the cost of £1029.50 for the purpose of fencing off the areas of Japanese Knotweed on the Love Lane Recreation Ground.

G 0207 **PURCHASE OF SECURE CONTAINER FOR EQUIPMENT STORAGE.**

RECOMMENDED: that the purchase of a secure container be approved at the maximum cost of £2000.00 for

the purpose of storing the Council's Grounds equipment with the container being housed at the District Council's facilities yard.

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 the Councillors in attendance be granted permission to stay.

CONFIDENTIAL

G 0208 **PETERSFIELD RUGBY CLUB**

Cllr Strawbridge wished to put a proposal to the Committee regarding the correspondence received.

RESOLVED that the committee appoint Cllrs Matthews and Strawbridge to open lease negotiations to move the situation forward subject to any decision made by Full Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Appendix A.

Grounds Report July 2015

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

- An unofficial camper has been located on The Heath on Music Hill. He was not very pleasant when contacted and asked to move on, so the Police were called and made sure that he did move.
- Repair works have been done to the Pond Boardwalk and the brickwork between the boardwalk and road side barrier.
- The raised footpath extensions around the Sussex Road side of the Pond to avoid the muddy sections of footpath have now been completed by Churchers College and the Friends of Petersfield Heath.
- I have asked our groundsman to trim back the hedge at the Durford Road crossroads to aid visibility for vehicles exiting Heath Road.
- Hampshire Highways have had a report that the vegetation from The Heath along Sussex Road is interfering with pedestrians. I have asked the tree surgeon, Rob Burleigh to inspect the area and advise on any work required.

Love Lane Playing Fields

- The next treatment to the Japanese Knotweed growth in the south western corner of the recreation ground will take place this month.
- Repairs to the Skatepark are scheduled to be undertaken in the near future.
- A resident has commented that the low lying branches on the footpath beyond the recreation ground car park are too low and may interfere with cyclists. I have asked the tree surgeon, Rob Burleigh to take a look at provide me with his advice.

Penns Farm Playing Fields

- It has been noticed that damage has been done to a number of the dragons teeth. Repairs or replacements have been put into place as required.

Borough Road Recreation Ground

- The most recent play inspection reports have expressed serious concerns over the longevity of the wooden support structures to the swing on this site. Members may recall that the redevelopment of this play area was delayed last year because Developers Contribution funding was agreed to be given to Petersfield Rugby Club instead of for replacement play equipment. The play equipment scheme still stands as being approved by this Council pending the availability of funding. Enquiries have been made through EHDC and The South Downs to ascertain the level of Developers Contributions now available to see if funding for this scheme can now be obtained.
- Hampshire Highways have had a report that the footpath between Borough Hill and Borough Road is being interfered with by growth from our hedge bordering High Meadow. The groundsman has been asked to trim the growth back.

Bell Hill Recreation Ground

- Robin Burleigh has recently undertaken work to some of the trees in the recreation ground, removing some dead wood from them.

- It has been noted that a resident has installed what appears to be an electric fence alongside one boundary of the recreation ground. This causes obvious Health and Safety concerns and the resident has been written to over the matter.

Bell Hill Common

- A telephone call has been received from a resident concerning the parking of commercial vehicles on the grass verge of the Common expressing concerns at the damage being done to the Common as well as the length of time that this has been going on. This matter was also brought to my attention by one of our members as there was some building materials being dumped here whilst works were being undertaken in the adjoining property but it had seemed that the problem had gone away. Once again, the resident has been written to expressing our concerns and being asked to avoid parking on this land.

Neil Hitch
Town Clerk
8th July 2015