

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Deane (Chairman), Cllr J Matthews, Cllr N Orr and Cllr Paul Strawbridge

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr D Budd (Senior Groundsman), Mr S Field (Committees Manager), Cllr L Farrow, and 3 members of the public.

### **G 0712**      CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and provided comments in note form (*notes attached*)

### **G 0713**      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received

### **G 0714**      DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

### **G 0715**      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### **G 0716**      APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED**                      that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 be approved and signed

### **G 0717**      PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

There were no public requests to speak

### **G 0718**      GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and noted the Grounds Report for March 2016 by the Senior Groundsman. (*A copy is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A*).

- It was noted that a query was raised as to the extent of the fence being erected at Penns Field and whether this could be extended to accommodate other areas where vehicles could access the playing fields. Further investigation would be made by the Senior Groundsman and members, and a cost established to potentially carry out this work, if required.
- Some old football posts were being stored at the back of the Taro Centre, and these needed to be moved or disposed of. An

investigation would be made by members as to who owned these, and arrangements made to move them.

- Further items stored in the storage area at the back of the Taro Centre would also be sorted out, and where necessary moved or disposed of.
- Borough Hill car park fence had attracted some complaints from residents. Mainly that they had not been informed of this being erected, and the suitability of a metal gate. The Office Manager is in touch with the residents and will inform them of the security reasons for the metal fence being erected.
- Bell Hill – the entrance is now via a metal gate. A hard standing path is being proposed from the gate to the entrance of the play area, and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Tilmore Allotments – work on ditch to be discussed at next meeting.
- Rotherlands to be investigated by Senior Groundsman to see what work is required

**G 0719**                    **POLICY FOR COUNCIL OWNED LAND IN PETERSFIELD**

Members received and considered a revised copy of the Policy for Council Owned Land in Petersfield, and a number of further changes were noted.

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

**G 0720**                    **RULES GOVERNING USE OF HEATH LAND AND LAKE**

**RESOLVED:**                    Revised rules governing the use of the heath land and lake have now been distributed to members and updated on the notice boards at the heath

**G 0721**                    **GREEN SPACES SIGNAGE**

Cllr J Matthews gave a further update on how the new signage was progressing. A full survey was now needed of the Heath, which would be the first location where signs would be replaced. Contents of the new signs would need to be decided and estimated costs acquired, before old signs were removed and replaced. A number of signs have historically been sponsored by other bodies, and sponsorship would be sought from these organisations to consider whether they would want to sponsor the replacement of these signs.

**RESOLVED:**                    That Cllr Matthews will produce a full list of requirements for the Heath, and present information at the April Grounds meeting

**G 0722**                    **PETERSFIELD DISTRICT SCOUTS CAMP FIRE – ST GEORGES DAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL**

Members welcomed Mark Knowles to the meeting, who presented the Scouts idea of getting together this year on the Heath for a celebration of St Georges Day around a camp fire. The event would be finished at around 8.00 pm.

Members agreed that this should go ahead, but that residents should be made aware of this event taking place, particularly as noise and fire were involved. It was noted that the area would need to be tidied and the camp fire area watered afterwards, and the Senior Groundsman would check the area afterwards to ensure that all was in order.

**RESOLVED:** permission for the St Georges event was approved provided the event was published to make local residents aware of the activities that will take place, and that the area is put right after the event

G 0723

**COMBINED CADET FORCE, SOUTH DOWNS COLLEGE KAYAKING ON HEATH 9<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

Members received an email requesting the use of the Heath Lake for Kayaking and Canoeing. This was agreed with the proviso that South Downs College would publish this event in the local press, and that Petersfield Town Council would publish the event where possible.

**RESOLVED:** permission for the Kayaking/Canoeing event was approved provided that the event was published by South Downs College in the local press, and that Petersfield Town Council publish the event in the PTC News and on their website

G 0724

**TARO FAIR 2016**

Members received details of a request from JWS Pleasure Fairs to hold the annual Taro Fair on the first weekend of October. Traditionally the event has included a Fair operating on the Charter day of 6th October which members have always considered to be important. However, investigation has revealed that the original charter has probably been lost and its present location is unknown. It is believed that the Charter would have given a 'right' to hold a fair rather than an 'obligation' to hold one. It was recognised that moving the Fair to a weekend would assist in keeping the tradition of the Taro Fair alive, as well as providing more people in the community with an opportunity to attend. Members accepted the requested dates for the current year but wished in future years for the Fair to be held on the weekend (Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday) closest to 6th October in recognition of the traditional date. It was also acknowledged that if the original Charter was found at some future date then this decision may need to be reviewed depending on the contents of the document.

**RESOLVED:** That the Taro Fair (should be allowed to) go ahead on the dates requested, opening on Saturday 1st October from 2-9 pm, and on Sunday 2nd October from 1-6 pm. For future years, the Fair should be held on the Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday closest to 6th October.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**G 0725**        There were no staff confidential matters arising

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.*

## Grounds Meeting – 17 March 2016

### Chairman's Comments

- **Heath Management Plan and Pond** – Awaiting gathering of all stakeholders, advisers and experts. Members are reminded that this is a sizeable project and these projects do take time. It is acknowledged that we do need to make progress however.
- **Penns 'B'** – this is ongoing at informal discussion level currently being considered informally as there are matters which might link this to our work with PRFC. This should then be taken forward to formal Committee. This matter is also on the radar on the Town Development Committee. They will, however, require considerable input from this Committee. No doubt members will have seen the article in this week's Petersfield Post regarding building on Penns 'B'.
- **Cricket Club Lease:** Still awaiting revised valuation for Ground Rent of the Pavilion and out buildings following recent confirmation that the PCC have now accepted ownership of the pavilion and outbuildings. Neil Hitch has been in touch with the District Valuer this very afternoon.
- **Petersfield in Bloom** – Details now included on PTC website. I continue to invite members of this Committee and other Council Members to see if they can assist on Judging Day which is Thursday 14 July 2016. There will be a number of short meetings prior to confirm entries and routes.
- **Ramshill** – We have now heard back on information concerning the Section 106 Agreement which PTC will need to discuss with Taylor Wimpey.
- **PRFC** – Cllr Strawbridge will be making a proposal for an initial agreement with PRFC in April's Meeting. As it involves finance it will be discussed in confidential session.
- **Kings Arms** – Their proposal to seek a lease to build on the Avenue Playing Field is now a matter at Full Council level.
- **Sale of green plot at Eastlake Close** – is awaiting action to inform residents in the immediate neighbourhood of the proposal for sale of this plot.
- **Borough Hill** – Playground should shortly be tendered for after Neil and Steve have received some up to date procurement training. Training to take place in April.

# Grounds Report

## March 2016

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*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**

- 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).
- General tidy up around the toilets, Plump Duck and play area in preparation for Easter and oncoming growing season.
- Topping up of play sand in play area.

### **Love Lane Playing Fields**

- Carrying out regular litter picking and bin emptying (every other day).
- Cutting back encroaching turf away from path leading to Skate Park.
- Rolling of Tractor tyre tracks from the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> planting.

### **Penns Farm Playing Fields**

- Knee high fencing will be installed before Aprils meeting.
- Tidy up of play area ready for Easter and upcoming growing season.

### **Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

- Tree limb removal of low lying branches.
- Chestnut bollards and gate will be erected before Aprils meeting.
- Destroyed area rolled and over seeded in order to get back to a good standard.
- Play area tidied up in preparation for Easter and upcoming growing season.

### **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 sourced.
- Play area tidied up in preparation for Easter and upcoming growing season.

### **General**

- Looking at replacing goal posts at Woods meadow, Paddock way etc.
- Gate plus post and rail fencing @ Borough Road hopefully installed by Aprils Grounds Meeting.
- Awaiting a start date for the repair to St Peters churchyard.
- Weed killer applied to areas around Town Hall and other sites maintained by Grounds.
- Spring/summer planting of planters depending on duration of the bulbs currently in planters.
- Planting underneath canopy at the Festival Hall.
- Planting above Town Hall entrance.
- Clearing back edges from paths at Woods, Penns.

Dugg Budd  
Senior Groundsman  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2016