

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 11th January 2018 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Chairman), Cllr J Deane, and Cllr Mrs V Morgans, Cllr P Strawbridge and Cllr Ms M Vincent

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Town Mayor Cllr J Matthews, Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr S Field (Office and Committees Manager), and Mr D Budd (Senior Groundsman). There were 2 members of the public and no press.

G 0613 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Grounds Meeting of the year

G 0614 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr D Holdaway

G 0615 DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0616 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

G 0617 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 16th November 2017 be received and approved subject to the following amendments.

G 0618 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

Merritts Meadow North

Ms M Oxley represented a neighbour to ask how the Merritts Meadow North land transfer was progressing. The Town Clerk provided an update that he had, within the last day, managed to obtain the agreement from Beechcroft for the Council's legal representatives to draw up the draft land transfer document and this has re-opened the conversation regarding the possibility of the Town Council taking over the maintenance contract of the surrounding land.

Ms Oxley asked whether any maintenance could commence, and members advised that this would not be appropriate until the land maintenance had been transferred over to the Town Council.

Ms Oxley asked about the drainage issues which stemmed from Woods Meadow. It was determined that this would require input from Network

South East and South East Water in respect of the sewage issues. The sewage issues have been reported on more than one occasion and there is little more that the Town Council can do.

The Town Clerk explained that whilst the taking over of the land maintenance was the intention, there was no guarantee that this would happen, and there was still a lengthy and complex process, which included each resident, required to legally transfer the land over to the Town Council.

G 0619

UPDATE FROM PETERSFIELD RUGBY CLUB

Mr S Barden from Petersfield Rugby Club gave an account of what had taken place since he attended a meeting in March 2017. The extension to the balcony with storage space underneath had been added. The gym had been expanded to create more space. Drainage had been installed to resolve the problems of a large water-logged area, and the club house floor had also been replaced, along with some additional CCTV, plumbing and cupboards.

Further plans were presented for the future which included sorting out an area of bracken near to the clubhouse for further sports facilities. This would require drainage and the Town Council may be asked to consider funding to provide underground piping.

An outdoor adult exercise frame was also planned to be erected in front of the club house.

The club had experienced one of its best seasons for results and now had over 450 young people playing on the pitches. Additional floodlights were planned to be installed when additional pitches were available. It was also explained that once the target 5 pitches were available, additional changing facilities, which currently only provide for 3 pitches, would need to be considered.

It was also planned to expand the club house at the back with a two storey extension to provide additional changing rooms and separate facilities for ladies rugby.

Many charities had been supported this year, including The Rosemary Foundation, Fire & Rescue and Dementia.

In closing, Mr Barden hoped that actions from the Memorandum of Understanding could be resolved by the club meeting with members of Petersfield Town Council, to resolve any outstanding issues.

G 0620

GROUNDS REPORT

Members received and noted the Grounds Report for January 2018 from the Senior Groundsman. (*appendix A*).

It was noted that the Avenue area was becoming a hot bed since the Grounds Report had been produced. There was frequently rubbish left under the

canopy where groups were meeting up under the light of the doorway. There were also additional problems with the avenue toilets during the day, and this was being monitored. Further reports had come via Cllr J Deane, that Petersfield Town Football Club were still experiencing vandalism. It was advised that Petersfield Town Football Club should report these incidents to the appropriate agencies so that they appeared on the official records.

Bell Hill was quieter, but there were still adult members of the community choosing to smoke weed in the children's play area. This was considered unacceptable and enforcement should be considered.

Members believed that the introduction of CCTV in prominent places should seriously be considered.

Tree work had commenced at Love Lane, and coppicing for year two would be commencing soon around the heath pond.

G 0621 **SCATTERING OF ASHES ON THE HEATH**

Members received a request from a member of the public to consider whether scattering of ashes on the Heath, could be allowed. After a long discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council contact Historic England to establish any guidelines that relate to this, and that the Town Council respectively decline this request, as it was considered to be an inappropriate public area for this activity and would set a precedent for anyone else considering doing the same

G 0622 **ADVERTISING ON OPEN SPACE BINS**

Members received a request from a member of the public to use space on the open space bins to advertise a service. After a lengthy discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that it was considered inappropriate to allow any form of advertising at this time

G 0623 **ABESTOS SURVEYS**

Members considered whether it was time to carry out asbestos surveys on all of the properties located in open spaces owned by the Town Council. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: that asbestos surveys should be carried out on properties owned by Petersfield Town Council where an asbestos survey had not been carried out recently

G 0624 **PENNS FIELD B SURVEYS**

Members received a report and costs regarding the ecological surveys required to be carried out on Penns Field B. After discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Survey regarding reptiles and dormouse provided by ACD Environmental be approved at a cost of £4350 + VAT

G 0625 **PRIORITY OF DEVELOPERS 106 DEVELOPER'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

Members received and considered a list of Section 106 Developers Contributions held by South Downs National Park Authority to determine how this money may be earmarked for future spending. It was

RESOLVED: that the Senior Groundsman, Cllrs Matthew, Strawbridge and Deane meet to decide how developers contributions may be allocated to some of the small projects that are planned to be carried out in the near future

G 0626 **REVISED JG TENNIS CONTRACT**

Members received and approved a revised JG Tennis contract for the coaching of tennis at the Avenue Pavilion

G 0627 **PEOPLE OF THE HEATH CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

Members received a copy of the Conference Programme for the People of the Heath conference that was being held on Saturday 24th March 2018

G 0628 **RIGHTS OF WAY FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

Members received a copy of the "Area Teams and the Rights of Way Vegetation Cutting List for Your Parish 2018". After some discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the chosen paths for our area should remain the same as last year, with a request that the work is carried out earlier in the year

G 0629 **NOTES FROM FRIENDS OF PETERSFIELD HEATH IN RESPECT OF PETERSFIELD HEATH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2021**

Members received a copy of notes from Friends of Petersfield Heath in respect of the Petersfield Heath Management Plan 2017-2021. It was noted that work on visitor surveys and Management Plans for various aspects of the Heath's use and operation are planned for the new financial year and these observations would be considered as part of that process

G 0630 **MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF PETERSFIELD HEATH DATED 12TH DECEMBER 2017**

Members received a copy of the minutes of Friends of Petersfield Heath dated 12th December 2017

CONFIDENTIAL

G 0631 **There were no confidential matters to discuss**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.