

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 15th February 2018 at 6.30 pm.

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr S Field (Office and Committees Manager), and Mr D Budd (Senior Groundsman). There was 1 member of the public and no press.

G 0698 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Grounds Meeting

G 0699 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs V Morgans

G 0700 **DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)**

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0701 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr P Strawbridge declared a pecuniary interest in item 12. It was agreed that Cllr P Strawbridge could state his case, and then leave the room while other members discuss the matter.

G 0702 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 11th January 2018 be received and approved subject to the following amendments.

G 0703 **PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

There was no public representation

G 0704 **GROUNDS REPORT**

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

The Senior Groundsman said that the tree work at Love Lane was almost complete. Unfortunately anti social behaviour had increased at the Avenue, and groups of young people are congregating under the entrance door awning of the Avenue Pavilion. It was noted that holiday times were always worst, and that monitoring of this area would continue.

Burleys have now carried out regular maintenance at Penns Field B to bring the hedge row edges into some order, with surveys being carried out by ACD Environmental Ltd commencing in March 2018.

Wood chip from coppicing on the Heath has almost been used up to provide cover on wet paths etc. Further bins and signs are also ready to be distributed around the Heath.

People of the Heath are investigating further barrows which are shown on maps dated 1806.

Members requested that any new signs going out should be thoroughly checked for spelling and grammar.

G 0705

FRIENDS OF PETERSFIELD HEATH WW1 PROPOSAL

Members received a proposal from Friends of Petersfield Heath regarding a poppy and wild flower area on the Heath. Members discussed this at length, deciding that the specific area proposed was not considered to be appropriate, but other areas were discussed as possible locations, including the Dickens area just off Tor Way which is currently looked after by the Scouts. If poppies were to be planted, they would need to be planted almost immediately to germinate in time. It was

RESOLVED: that the Friends of Petersfield Heath consider the other areas on the heath identified by the Chairman, and that Cllr J Deane pursue the idea of poppies on the Dickens site with the Scouts

G 0706

QUALITY AND CONTROL OF GREEN SPACES

Members received a presentation from the Senior Groundsman on how green spaces could be managed in the future, and ways that grounds maintenance could be currently improved

G 0707

CCTV FOR KEY AREAS OF TOWN COUNCIL OWNED SITES

Members received a paper from Cllr P Strawbridge detailing some possible options to implement CCTV at some of the key Town Council owned sites. It was

RESOLVED: that Cllr P Strawbridge should carry out further investigation based on the information that he presented, and present full costs at the next Grounds Meeting including a formal quotation

RECOMMENDATION: that the council approve the use of Developers Contributions to fund the costs of implementing CCTV at the Avenue and Love Lane

G 0708 **UPDATE ON WATER MEADOWS**

Members received an update from the Town Clerk regarding the possible adoption of the Water Meadows currently owned by Tesco. Cllr J Matthews and the Town Clerk had held a meeting with Tesco, where they learnt that Tesco were currently going through a process to look at all land that they were considering disposing of.

G 0709 **BARKING GLAD DOG TRAINING - TRIAL PERIOD**

Members discussed and considered this proposal, which was similar to a previous request, although the previous request required a decision on whether dogs could be trained in the Avenue Pavilion. It was considered that as the request was to utilise public space, the Town Council could not control or grant permission for activities on public land, other than if the activity was considered to be a criminal activity. It was

RESOLVED: **that the Office Manager write to Barking Glad explaining that we could not grant or refuse this activity as it was in a public space, and could only intervene if bye-laws or the law were being breached**

G 0710 **GREEN SPACES MEETING**

Members received notes from Mr T Struthers from the meeting that was convened by the Town Development Committee - minute T 0261. Members discussed the main concept behind the discussion, which was to explore the idea of all volunteers working under one voluntary organisation. Members noted that whilst this would be a useful way forward, that perhaps this should be introduced once other green spaces such as the Water Meadows and Merrits Meadow became available to the Town Council to maintain. Members also considered whether some of the initial work to set up the concepts of how this voluntary organisation may work, could be carried out now. After further discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: **that the Town Council should work with South Downs National Park to start on a framework**

G 0711 **BURNETTS FUN FAIR - EXTENSION OF STAY**

Members received a request from Burnetts Fun Fair to stay beyond the normal period of the Easter Fair, leaving on 8th April. Members discussed all the options in respect of this request, and it was:

RESOLVED: **that Burnetts Fun Fair could stay and operate on the Heath until 8th April, leaving on 9th April on the condition that they pay the full**

operating rate of £335.58 per day including VAT

G 0712 **RESULTS OF WORKING GROUP WHO MET TO DISCUSS SECTION 106 DEVELOPERS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Members shared that the meeting had been longer than expected, and although they had come up with notes and ideas, it seemed logical to allow the Town Development Committee to conclude decisions at their working group meeting on 9th March.

G 0713 **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S LENGTHSMAN SCHEME 2018/19**

Members were informed that this was available to the Town Council again this year, if we wished to continue. This provided us with £1000 to carry out work on behalf of Hampshire County such as cleaning signs, and in particular this year, assisting in keeping the 'Rights of Way' clear of vegetation. It was

RESOLVED: **that the Town Council enter in the Hampshire County Council's Lengthman's Scheme 2018/19**

G 0714 **POLICY AND HIRING REGULATIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED LAND**

Members received a copy the Policy for Council Owned Land and the new Hiring Regulations document for Open Spaces. It was

RESOLVED: **that amendments for the Policy for Council Owned Land should be submitted to the Office Manager first by Cllr Mrs L Farrow, Cllr J Deane, then Cllr P Strawbridge, then Cllr Ms M Vincent. Members also approved the Hiring Regulations.**

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G 0715 **A new green space has been identified which would provide links to the countryside and an area for trees**

RECOMMENDATION: **that the Town Clerk employ a professional to carry out a valuation on a new identified green space on the edge of town to ensure that the proposed price was reasonable prior to submitting a formal offer for the land**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.