

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr J Matthews, 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 0797 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Grounds Meeting

G 0798 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

G 0799 DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

G 0800 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

G 0801 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 15th February 2018 be received and approved

G 0802 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

There was no public representation

G 0803 GROUND'S REPORT

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

The Senior Groundsman reported that anti social behaviour at Love Lane had occurred, with tops of fence panels being burnt on the skate park side. Repairs to these would be after Easter. 2 panels had also been kicked in on the other side, which was maintained by Petersfield Town Football Club. There had also been arrests made at Love Lane for drug dealing.

The Senior Groundsman had also reported that he would be providing a day a week consultancy to Liphook and Bramshott for the next 6 months. Also

members were informed that a visit had been made to EHDC to discuss a potential site for the Grounds Depot.

Members asked for an update on the tendering for the Pond Bank Stabilisation project and Woods Meadows Play Area. It was noted that Woods Meadow was close to being entered on the tendering system, but the Pond Bank Stabilisation could not be progressed at the moment due to other priorities and the receipt of developers contributions by the planning authority.

At this point, the Chairman requested that item 13 be brought forward

G 0804 ADDITIONAL PATH ON HEATH

Members received a proposal from Mr D Burstall to continue the path work on the heath, to add further sections where the land was very damp and muddy (*appendix B*). Members considered how appropriate this work would be in terms of timing in respect of the Pond Bank Stabilisation programme, and discussed an alternative place for a path to be laid at High Meadow.

RESOLVED: **that the Chairman, Head Groundsman and Mr D Burstall visit the Heath and High Meadow and make a decision on which work should be carried out this year.**

G 0805 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ROTHERLANDS NATURE RESERVE

Members received and approved the revised Management Plan for Rotherlands Nature Reserve

G 0806 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BELL HILL COMMON

Members received and approved the revised Management Plan for Bell Hill Common

G 0807 CCTV FOR KEY AREAS OF TOWN COUNCIL OWNED SITES

Members received a verbal update from Cllr P Strawbridge. He had met with two companies and one of these provided an ideal solution to what we required. This would include a recording device that could possibly be located at Petersfield Football Ground, utilising their wi-fi. Alternatively a line of sight could be set up with dishes between Petersfield Town Council roof to Love Lane. Cameras could be located on floodlight posts at the Football Ground. Members considered the quality of pictures required during daytime and nighttime, and the ability of the equipment to obtain sufficient picture quality for identification purposes. At this point, the Town Clerk shared that the police had shown interest in Petersfield Town Council pursuing this idea, and that there had also been discussion about this being monitored in Winchester. This could require more sophisticated camera equipment that could be remotely controlled.

RESOLVED: that Cllr P Strawbridge continue his research based on the information presented and discussed, a draft specification which could be shared with the Police for further comment

G 0808 **AVENUE TENNIS COACHING LAUNCH**

Members received an update from the Office Manager regarding the Avenue Tennis Coaching Launch that was due to take place on Sunday 8th April. It was hoped that this would go ahead, but it was proving difficult to acquire the artwork so that Hometown Festivals could re-produce larger posters to place around the town in the same way that Hometown Festivals events are distributed. Once the artwork was available, a Facebook advert would be purchased, and all forms of social media and local press would be used to advertise the event. It was hoped that as many members as possible would come along to support the event.

Members made some suggested changes to the artwork that had been received so far, and asked whether the event could be extended from 10-1pm to 10-3pm. The Office Manager would contact the Tennis Coach to see if this would be possible.

G 0809 **PETERSFIELD IN BLOOM 2018**

Members received an update from the Office Manager regarding the current arrangements for Petersfield in Bloom 2018. Dates were set as 1st July for the closing of entries, 12th July for the Judging Day, and 4th October for the presentation of awards by the president of Petersfield In Bloom, Pippa Greenwood. More information would be available at the next meeting.

G 0810 **POLICY AND CHARGES FOR GREEN SPACES**

Members discussed that there appeared to be a number of ways that green spaces could be used and charged for, and that some consistency needed to be considered, and put into a policy. It was discussed that where groups had identified themselves, a risk assessment and liability were requested, and for some activities such as ballooning and dog shows, there was a charge.

Members also discussed the possibility of enforcement, when bye laws and laws were being broken.

It was agreed that there should be a notice placed in the Petersfield Town Council News and notice boards that all groups using green spaces should identify themselves, providing a risk assessment and liability insurance.

RESOLVED: that the Office Manager arrange for notice board notices, and a notice to be placed in the next Petersfield Town Council News.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and Town Clerk meet to draft a Policy to present to the next Grounds Meeting

RESOLVED

that a meeting is arranged with East Hampshire District Council to discuss the possibilities of introducing some Enforcement

CONFIDENTIAL

There were no confidential matters to discuss

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.06 p.m.

Grounds Report

March 2018

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

- March maintenance schedule.

Love Lane Playing Fields

- March maintenance schedule.

Penns Farm Playing Fields

- March maintenance schedule.

Bell Hill Recreation Ground

- March maintenance schedule

Paddock Way

- March maintenance schedule.

Woods Meadow

- March maintenance schedule.

General

- Installing new dragons teeth @ Bell Hill Common.
- Start of regular maintenance of Greatham play area.

ASB

- Amber for love lane (criminal damage/arson) 1/3/18
- GREEN for all other sites.

Dugg Budd
Senior Groundsman
1st March 2018

RAISED FOOTPATH – PROPOSALS – 2018/2019

Over the past five years (2013 to 2017) Churcher's College and FoPH have jointly collaborated to lay down a path system between the car park on Sussex road and the board walk at the western point of the lake. The total length of path laid to date is 280 yards, of which 163 yards has been under the tree canopy running alongside the southern shore of the lake. Under these trees there remains a total length of 147 yards which are as yet not covered by path material.

It is my recommendation that over the next two years (2018 and 2019), if Churcher's College are happy to continue to provide both the volunteer labour to lay down the path material, and more importantly to continue generously to meet all the costs in so doing (a further £5,000?) that this should proceed in the summer months as in the previous five years. If they are prepared to do this then it will constitute an enormous public benefit at no cost to the Town Council. These benefits are both manifold and obvious, but they are recited below lest they become overlooked:

Pedestrians They are provided with a smooth surface on which to walk or run without tripping over tree roots or getting their feet wet and muddy. Furthermore, parents pushing prams and buggies, as well as small children and toddlers on scooters can make progress without getting into difficulties. And those who are disabled, and can only walk with the aid of a stick or zimmer frame can enjoy a day out, together with wheel chair users. Without such a path system this freedom would be denied to them.

Trees and Bushes Flora suffer great stress where their exposed roots protrude above the ground and are thereby subjected to wear and tear by continuous foot or other traffic. Their roots become worn and therefore their function of drawing up water for the life of the tree or bush becomes inhibited. Simply covering these areas with Cotswold grit serves to mitigate this damage, whilst in extreme cases, as in the western section, heavily rooted areas were treated with a covering of a plastic lattice. This system was used in 2016 and has been successful, albeit at considerable cost.

Margins and Verges Where there is no clearly delineated path, or where there is an area subject to flooding, then it is inevitable that this will be subject to wear and tear from foot and other traffic. In consequence growth will be prevented and the area will become worn and unsightly. A temporary solution is to erect barriers to guide the public away from such areas as has been carried out with four of these barriers under the trees. A better solution is to have a fully connected path system.

Objections It has been suggested that the appearance of the heath will cease to be 'natural' if the whole length under the trees is to be laid to path. But the counter to this argument is that by having a path system in place, will allow the margins and other areas to regenerate. This will enhance the visual outlook, as has occurred at the eastern end, where the pasture adjacent to the car park is now lush and green, whilst before 2013 it was a boggy and unsightly quagmire.

If all the foregoing is accepted then it is proposed that for the summer of 2018 work is concentrated on the western sections where there are still many protruding roots calling for coverage. There is what might be described as a dual carriageway desire line at the very western end and then a further length that is needed to link up a stretch starting at an old tree stump. For the following year (2019) the untreated lengths at the eastern end could be dealt with. It is estimated that a further 40 tonnes of Cotswold grit will have to be ordered and laid in this two year period. The path system will then be complete. If agreement in principal could be reached that this aim is approved, then the finer details of particular 'wiggles' could be left to a site meeting shortly before the commencement of work

All the observations so far received from the general public have been both favorable and appreciative and it is clear from this that all those using the path for healthy recreation would welcome the completion of a fully integrated and connected path system round the lake. Indeed, one recent and unsolicited comment was: "It is quite ludicrous to completely surround the lake with a lovely path, and then deliberately to leave a section uncompleted – what purpose is served by this decision?". What indeed. This one final length consists of a number of short sections totaling 150 yards and can be completed in the two forthcoming summer seasons of 2018 and 2019 if Churcher's College are prepared to continue with their generous support for this project.

It must be a 'Win-Win' situation, not only for the benefit of the public, but also the holders of the Public Purse strings. Let's do it.

(David Burstall)

11th November, 2017

RAISED FOOTPATH STATISTICS – 2013 to 2017

YEAR	PATH LENGTH Yards	BATTEN LENGTH Feet	METAL RODS Number	GRAVEL VOLUME cu m	GRAVEL WEIGHT Tonnes	COST £
2013	75	450	112	18	40	3,300
2014	42	252	63	11	27	2,030
2015	40	240	60	10	23	1,075
2016	67	402	102	10	21	2,546
2017	56	336	84	10	22	2,319
Totals	280	1680	421	59	133	11,270

Notes

Whilst the total length of all the path work carried out by the students amounts to 280 yards, of this 117 yards was completed in the first two years ('13, '14) when the boggy area in the grass immediately to the west of the car park was tackled.

The remaining three years ('15, '16, '17) were spent dealing with the tracks and desire lines under the trees running between Sussex Road and the Lake. The total length of this track, from the bridge over the ditch in the east to the board walk in the west, is 310 yards, of which to date gravel has been laid on a patchwork of paths of length 163 yards.

This leaves 147 yards of track that has not been made up. It is hoped that in the next year or two, this area could be covered, because there remain many protruding roots, which themselves constitute a trip hazard for runners, pensioners and children as well as being unwelcome obstacles for those in buggies and wheelchairs. Not only this, but the wear and tear on the roots causes damage and stress to the trees. Some of the more prominent roots have been painted red as a warning to pedestrians to tread carefully.

To protect selected open spaces, screens have been placed to guide pedestrian traffic around them and along the paths, to allow grass and plants to regenerate. These screens have been so designed that they can double as a moveable dry hedge system, for retaining loose brushings and branches, and thus adding to their ecological value. They can be quickly and economically constructed from roofing battens.