

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Town Development Committee was held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield on 6th October 2017 at 3.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr J Palmer (Chairman), Cllr J Deane, Cllr Mrs L Farrow, Cllr P Humphries, Mr R Mocatta (South Downs National Park Authority), Cllr R Oppenheimer (Hampshire County Council), and Mr T Struthers.

Also in attendance: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Town Mayor Cllr J Matthews. There was also 1 member of the public plus the Petersfield Post.

T 0354 CHAIRMANS REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone commenting it was a fairly short agenda. He advised members that next month, the South Downs Local Plan would be discussed and he encouraged everyone to come prepared with their comments and observations to enable a recommended response to be presented to Council. Details of the Draft Local Plan can be obtained via the following web site link:- <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/national-park-local-plan/> .

T 0355 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr P Strawbridge, Cllr Mrs J Butler (East Hampshire District Council), Mr R Besant and Ms L Ferraby

T 0356 GRANTING OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

There were no requests for dispensation.

T 0357 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

T 0358 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Town Development Committee minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2017, previously circulated, were approved.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Town Development Committee, held on 8th September 2017, be approved.

T 0359 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

T 0360

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER UPDATE

The Chairman reported on a meeting he had held with Cllr Mrs J Butler and Mr Dan Grindey at East Hampshire District Council advising that the District Council are still looking for ways to support us and it may be that we receive a share of funding or officer time in lieu of funding. The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Mrs Butler had commented to him that the funding may be best utilised by obtaining officer support from the District Council as and when it is required by the projects being run.

Members observed that they would feel more comfortable if a district council member of staff was allocated to the role rather than a shared responsibility be allocated due to the danger of a lack of continuity and focus.

It was also commented that the District Council may wish to retain an element of control over the officer appointed as they were partly funding the post although concerns were also expressed over how this would work in practice.

Cllr R Oppenheimer and Mr R Mocatta arrived at 3.08p.m. during the discussion of the above item.

T 0361

REVIEW RESOLUTIONS & ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members reviewed the outstanding resolutions and actions from previous meetings.

The following actions and progress were noted:

Self Build Sites:- Members for the Community Land Trust (CLT) are needed and the CLT web site will very shortly be set up.

Station Car Parks:- Contact at the new franchise holder has recently been established and letter will be sent shortly.
The HCC councillors met yesterday with Frank Baxter at HCC who is very supportive of the Council's aims.

Tesco Watermeadow: The Clerk and Town Mayor have both made contact with Tesco's and their Agent. The most recent response from Tesco was that they are reviewing the situation on disposal of the land and an update can be expected in about 3-4 months

Highways:- The HCC councillors have met with Rob Humby from County Highways to ascertain the decision making process. They advised him of the availability of Section 106 monies for much of the work and emphasised that PTC wished to have involvement in the process. Simon Cramp has been tasked to contact the Town Clerk to further progress the schemes which will hopefully be owned by PTC. **The Town Clerk agreed to contact**

Simon Cramp in the absence of an approach from him.

SA Checklist:-

The Town Clerk advised that this was being worked on and officers were mindful that the National Park didn't want the Council to go to great lengths to set up processes for the collection of the information if it wasn't normally available. **The Office & Committee Manager would update the committee on progress next month.**

Planning Guide:-

The Chairman and Town Clerk had met Troy Planning to brief them on our requirements. It was hoped the work would be completed shortly.

T 0362

CYCLING ON THE HEATH

Members received and considered correspondence from a member of the public who considered that cycling should be permitted on the Heath. It was noted that the current Byelaw had been in place since the early 1950's and that the Council had given dispensation for children under 10 years old to ride around the Pond under supervision.

There followed a wide ranging discussion that acknowledged the need for safe cycling routes in the town with transit routes across town being required as well as facilities for recreational cycling. The desire to open the old railway line between Petersfield & Midhurst as a cycle route was noted which would require links from the Queen Elizabeth Country Park. It was also noted that the Heath is a Scheduled Ancient Monument so obtaining permissions for creating a cycle route across or through it would be problematic and concerns were expressed whether the number of visitors to the Heath would make it safe for cyclists also to use the site on busy days along with considerable concerns over the potential damage by erosion and to fragile habitat that cycling could bring.

RESOLVED: that the Council should retain the current 'status quo' on The Heath in relation to cycling and persue the potential for a cross town cycling route along the back of Sussex Road and through the new Causeway Farm housing development with the South Downs National Park Authority

T 0363

PLANNING APPLICATION REVIEW

Members reviewed the latest Planning Committee agenda and had no further comments to make on the planning applications.

Members did though express concern over potential future planning applications with the Stocklands site behind Pulens Lane in Sheet parish being discussed. Concerns were expressed over the potential impact the site would have on the town, noting that the town provides the infrastructure that future residents would need but the CIL/Section 106 funds would not be accessible by the Town Council. It was agreed that the matter be discussed in

more detail as part of the Council's response to the South Downs Local Plan Consultation next month.

It was also noted that there remained a need for more hotel provision in the town as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan to support tourism in the area as well as the local economy. Members agreed that a Working Party be set up to report back at next month's meeting on potential locations for a hotel.

RESOLVED: that a Working Party comprising Cllr Deane, County Councillor Oppenheimer, District Councillor Mrs Butler and Mr T Struthers be set up to report back to the committee next month on potential locations for hotel accommodation in the town, gauging interest among hotel operators plus collating the economic and other data that already exists.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.14 p.m.