

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 6.30 pm.

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs S Fisher (Committee Administrator). There were 8 members of the public present and no members of the press.

### **G 0656**      CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and brought two items to the attention of the Meeting.

Firstly that she had received an email from a company which runs a play bus scheme to entertain children during the school holidays which had requested permission to use the Heath. She had responded to the email to say that the Heath was not a suitable location but that the play bus could park at the Avenue as there are appropriate facilities there, including hard standing.

The Chairman also raised a concern regarding the reporting of the outcome of the tender process for the new play area at Borough Road by the Petersfield Post. The Chairman stressed that a decision had not yet been made as it had to be subject to due process and pass through and be approved by the relevant Town Council's committees. It was noted that the press had obtained the information from the agenda pack for the meeting which, under transparency rules, must be issued to the public in advance of the meeting.

### **G 0657**      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Matthews, Cllr C Wilton and Dugg Budd, Senior Groundsman.

### **G 0658**      DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

No requests for dispensation were received.

### **G 0659**      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

### **G 0660**      APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**RESOLVED**                      that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be received and approved

G 0661

**PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

There was public representation from 2 groups:

- (1) Nigel Wells of Festival for Young People updated the Members on the progress of the designs for the extension to the skate park at Love Lane as the project has entered phase 2 of the process. He has consulted with a new design firm, Gravity, based in Southampton which is now the preferred contractor as their design is the most exciting and also includes provision for disabled access. Mr Wells had hoped to include an item on the agenda and had sent an email to the Town Clerk with an attachment which failed to open so could not be considered in time for the meeting. He had already begun to publicise the new design as he had not realised that the matter would not be formally considered at the meeting due to the email difficulties. He apologised to the Members. It is anticipated that the cost of the new design would be approximately £185,000 with £14,000 already raised from local funds and so Mr Wells will apply to grant making authorities to raise the additional funds required. It was clarified that Mr Wells is the Treasurer of the Festival for Young People and that, as with phase 1, he would apply on behalf of the Town Council for the funds which would be held by the Town Council.
- (2) Harry Lea and Charlie Snow addressed the Members on their intention to set up a users' group on social media for the skate park users at Love Lane. They hoped that this would help to create a more friendly and collaborative atmosphere at the skate park which has recently been troubled with incidents of anti-social behaviour. They are both users of the skate park in Alton which is currently being redeveloped and explained that a company called Action Sports Nomad have been involved in setting up a users group there. The Members agreed that a users' group Facebook page was a good idea, that it could display the Town Council's logo to indicate its support and that Cllr J Deane will be a point of reference for the project. The Members suggested that Harry Lea and Charlie Snow should liaise with Nigel Wells as an organised users' group would assist with the next phase of the skate park re-design. The Members commended both boys for addressing the Meeting and noted that Mrs M Snow, Finance Officer for the Town Council, would provide a link for communication between the Town Council and the boys.

G 0662

**PROPOSAL FROM IAN BAKER REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE BOATING CONCESSION AT THE HEATH POND**

Mr Baker, who holds the Plump Duck kiosk concession at the Heath, gave a verbal presentation to the Meeting regarding the future of the boating concession at the Pond. The current holder of the concession's contract is due to continue to April 2020 but he has indicated that he does not wish to continue due to a disappointing season last summer (the heat and the low water levels affected visitor numbers) and the fact that a large number of the boat inventory needs replacing or significant repairs.

Mr Baker recognised that the boating concession is an important part of Petersfield's heritage which should be maintained and stated that he would be willing to take over the concession immediately. He would begin to prepare the boats for this season, which will commence in the Easter holidays and would employ the existing concession holder for this season. Mr Baker proposed that he would run the boating concession in a similar manner to the Plump Duck with regular opening hours including every day in school holidays and at weekends (irrespective of the weather) during the season. He intends to purchase new boats next season which would be better suited to the lower water level as the existing boats lie low in the water as well as being heavy and unwieldy.

Members acknowledged the importance of the boating concession to the Heath and the need to maintain its heritage and traditional style. They agreed that Mr Baker had done a wonderful job with the Plump Duck and that he would provide stability and continuity by taking over the concession for the next 10 years. They indicated that the proposed pond stabilisation plans should assist with the low water levels in the Pond.

**RESOLVED** that the 10 year boating concession for the Pond at the Heath be awarded to Ian Baker with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 under similar terms to the existing concession

Members agreed to move the following item up the agenda and consider it next

**G 0663**      **PROPOSAL FOR AN OUTDOOR CINEMA EVENT FROM THE BIG SCREEN CLUB**

Aiden Dillamore answered the Members' questions regarding his proposal for an outdoor cinema event to be held in the Town over the summer. He wishes to work with the Town Council to find a suitable venue and to agree on the choice of film (without impacting on the Petersfield Town Council cinema club in the Festival Hall) and that he had been pleased by the positive public reaction on social media to the proposals. He explained that he wanted to create an event that would bring the community together and proposed including a family or children's screening in the afternoon. He recognised that such an event would require a Temporary Events Licence and would probably conclude by around 10pm. Mr Dillamore answered questions regarding the screen which would be an LED hydraulic screen on a trailer and that the resolution was good in daylight as well as at night. Members discussed possible locations and agreed that the cricket pitch would not be suitable due to the risk of damage to the pitch and that the Heath was not an ideal location due to possible damage to the barrows. Members considered other possible locations and concluded that Penns Farm would be the most suitable venue and that the Petersfield Rugby Club could possibly assist with providing facilities and refreshments. Members also raised the possibility of collaboration

with Hometown Festivals and the possibility of a big screen for sporting or other events in the Town. The Town Clerk agreed to provide Mr Dillamore with contact details for the Petersfield Rugby Club and Hometown Festivals and Members thanked Mr Dillamore for his time. Members agreed that Mr Dillamore would explore the possibility of Penns Place as a location and put together a new proposal to put before the Committee.

**RESOLVED:** received and noted the initial proposal for the outdoor cinema and that this will be considered further once Mr Dillamore has put together a new proposal

**G 0664** **GROUNDS REPORT**

Members received and noted the Grounds Report for February 2019 from the Senior Groundsman.

**G 0665** **REVIEW THE ALLOTMENT POLICIES ON KEEPING BEES, KEEPING HENS AND ON SHEDS, GREENHOUSES AND BONFIRES**

Members reviewed the policies and agreed that they were all very good and did not require any changes.

**RESOLVED:** that the Allotment Policies on Keeping Bees, Keeping Hens and on Sheds, Greenhouses and Bonfires be reviewed again in February 2023

**G 0666** **UPDATE AS TO WHETHER PLANNING PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CCTV AT THE AVENUE, LOVE LANE AND BELL HILL RECREATION GROUNDS**

The Town Clerk advised Members that the s106 Officer at the South Downs National Parks Authority had indicated that planning permission would be necessary however he did not believe that planning permission was necessary as he believed that the installation of CCTV fell within the permitted development exemption under the Town and Country Planning Regulations. He is awaiting a response from the s106 Officer at the SDNPA and this will be reviewed at the next Grounds Meeting.

The Town Clerk relayed to Members his recent conversation with the police regarding CCTV and that the police had indicated that the installation of CCTV would simply displace anti-social activity to other locations. The police emphasised the need for members of the public to report instances of anti-social behaviour to the police via the 101 number in order for the police to take action.

Members noted that the Town Council would need a careful strategy with regard to the placement of the CCTV in order for it to prove effective.

**RESOLVED:** that this matter be considered further at the next Grounds Meeting

**G 0667** **TENDERS FOR THE BOROUGH ROAD PLAY EQUIPMENT**

Members considered the report by the Town Clerk on the tenders received for the refurbishment of the play area at Borough Road. It was noted that the top 3 tenders for the replacement of the play equipment at Borough Road were all of a very high standard and quality and that the main considerations were with regard to the design and layout of the new play area. Members agreed with the recommendation to proceed with the proposal from Mant Leisure which incorporated DDA compliant equipment and to refer the recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and to the Town Council for further consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:** that the Finance and General Purposes Committee do accept the tender from Mant Leisure for a total of £82,960 and that this sum be funded by Developers' Contributions totalling £77,045 plus Capital Earmarked Reserves of £5,915

**G 0668** **RUNNYHONEY'S 5km RACE ON THE HEATH**

Members agreed that permission should be granted to the RunnyHoneys running group to hold a 5km race on the Heath.

**RESOLVED:** that permission be granted to the RunnyHoneys to hold a 5km race on the Heath.

**G 0669** **THAI FESTIVAL ON THE WEEKEND OF 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2019**

Members agreed that permission should be granted for a Thai festival with craft market, food, dance and music to be held on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July 2019 in the Square or on the Heath although it was noted that the Town Council did not have authority to grant permission with regard to the Square.

**RESOLVED:** that permission be granted for a Thai festival to be held on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July 2019 in the Square or on the Heath

G 0670

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE DEPOT

In the absence of the Senior Groundsman the Town Clerk updated Members with regard to the progress in planning for a new Grounds Maintenance Depot. Members discussed the possible location of the depot; both the Hampshire Highways Depot and the Compound at East Hampshire District Council remain possibilities. Members considered two options with regard to a depot building and equipment storage for an initial two year period: either to purchase a white temporary building with porta cabin office or alternatively to hire containers from Pickerings and agreed with the principle of using containers as an initial short term option.

**RESOLVED:**

**the Grounds Maintenance Depot be a standing item on the Grounds Committee agenda and that prices be obtained for both the hire and purchase of suitable sized containers for temporary use as a grounds depot and store**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

G 0671

STAFF MATTERS

Members were informed that Mr E. McKenna had been appointed as the Grounds Apprentice, starting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February , at a rate of £6 per hour with his day release at Sparsholt College starting on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

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