

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Public Halls Committee held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT** Cllr Mr A Glendinning (Chairman), Cllr Mrs V Morgans , Cllr G Watkinson, and Cllr Mr P Humphries

**Also in attendance** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk) and Mr S Field (Office & Committees Manager) There were 2 members of the public present and no members of the press.

**PH 0063** **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**PH 0064** **ELECT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mrs V Morgans proposed Cllr P Humphries which was seconded by Cllr A Glendinning. There being no other nominations, it was

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr P Humphries is elected as the Deputy Chairman of Public Halls

**PH 0065** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr P Strawbridge

**PH 0066** **DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011**

No requests for dispensation were received.

**PH 0067** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr P Humphries indicated a pecuniary interest in item 10 of the agenda.

**PH 0068** **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Public Halls Committee minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, previously circulated, were approved.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Public Halls Committee, held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018, be approved.

**PH 0069**      **PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

Mr S Auty addressed the meeting with some thoughts on the potential use of Hometown Festivals services. *(attached)*

**PH 0070**      **FESTIVAL HALL MANAGER'S REPORT**

There was no Festival Hall Manager's report to receive.

**PH 0071**      **TOWN MAYOR'S FREE USE OF HALLS POLICY & FREE USE OF HALLS BY OUTSIDE BODIES POLICY**

Members received and considered the Public Halls Free Hire policies for Town Mayor use and Outside Bodies use. Discussion took place as to why one Outside Body was given special dispensation to use the Rose Room. It was noted that this was due to that particular Outside Body being a voluntary group who only volunteered to work on behalf of the Council, and that the Council had agreed to confirm this arrangement in their Memorandum of Understanding. It was

**RECOMMENDED:**                      **that Outside Bodies where a Councillor is appointed, with the exception of the current Outside Body who have been given special dispensation should be encouraged to use the Rose Room for their Annual General Meetings and other large events by offering a discount of 25% off the hire cost**

**RESOLVED:**                              **that 4.1 should be amended to read "The purpose of any Civic Reception hosted by the Town Mayor will be for..."**

*Cllr P Humphries left the meeting*

**PH 0072**      **REVIEW OF DANCE FLOOR PRICE**

Members considered the current hire price of the Dance Floor, now that it had been set up and taken down a few times, and it was

**RESOLVED:**                              **that the hire price of the Dance Floor should be revised to £150**

*Cllr P Humphries left the meeting*

**PH 0073**      **EXTERNAL FESTIVAL HALL AND PARKING SIGNS**

Members discussed the designs and costs to erect 2 flush fitted directional signs for the Town Hall and Festival Hall complex, and introduce 2 "Private Parking" and 8 "Staff Parking" signs at a cost of £915.20 plus VAT . It was

**RESOLVED:**                      **that the proposal for Festival Hall Complex direction signs x 2, private parking signs x 2, and Staff Parking signs x 8 be approved at a cost of £915.20 and the work carried out by Alpha Graphics**

**PH 0074**      **PREPARATION FOR FESTIVAL HALL CONSULTATION DAY**

The Office Manager gave a verbal account on how preparations were progressing for the Festival Hall Consultation Day being held on 16<sup>th</sup> June. The special edition of the PTC News would have now been delivered to all the homes of Petersfield inviting them to have their say, and various groups and organisations had been in contact to inform him that they would be attending. 3 exhibitions were being prepared of Festival Hall history, areas that require attention and an exhibition detailing the findings of the recent feasibility study. Members were reminded that they were welcome to come and assist on the day, which would commence at 10.00 am and finish at 3.00 pm.

**PH 0075**      **HOMETOWN FESTIVALS PARTNERSHIP**

Members received some information from Hometown Festival in respect of their proposal to run events at the Festival Hall in addition to the activities that currently took place. Members had hoped for more information, and it was felt that no decisions could be made on the information that had been provided. It was

**RESOLVED:**                      **that Hometown Festivals be invited to the Public Halls September meeting to expand on their proposal**

**PH 0076**      **AUDITEL REPORT FOR APRIL**

Members received and discussed the April. There were no specific queries raised.

**PH 0077**      **STAFF OFFICE REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE GROWTH**

Members received and noted a drawing from the Festival Hall Manager which showed how the current Town Council Staff Offices may be re-designed to accommodate the Festival Hall Team, along

with the Town Visitor Centre, should the decision be taken to accommodate the Town Council staff on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Town Hall. Whilst this gave good indication of what was achievable, it was noted that no further decisions could be made until the Council had made a decision on whether another organisation would be offered the use of the offices that would become vacant later in the year.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**PH 0078      STAFF OR OTHER CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

There were no staff or other confidential matters

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.41 pm*

Is this about more events at the Hall?

or

Is it about a change in the way the Hall is managed?

I welcome more events and a wider range of events.

but

I don't want to see a change in the way the Hall is run without very careful discussion with existing users.

I am very worried by the word 'partnership' on tonight's agenda.

If you are contemplating changing the management of the Hall, then I suggest that you need proper consultation with the existing hirers, starting (at least) with a special meeting of the Halls Sub-Committee.

Home Town Festivals is a commercial organisation

I don't want a commercial organisation involved in the running of the Hall.

The Hall has been run very successfully on a 'self-help' principle for as long as anyone can remember.

I think this is one of the factors that have attracted new hirers who compare us favourably with other venues.

The hirers provide their own FoH Staff, bar and catering staff, technicians etc.

They have complete freedom to choose volunteers or professionals for these tasks.

Any restrictions - for example a commercial franchise for the Bar - will be strongly opposed by existing hirers.

In the long term I hope that the Council will be able to transfer the running of the Hall to a not-for-profit organisation.

The swimming pool is a good example of this principle working well for the benefit of the community.

I hope you will keep these points in mind when you discuss Agendum 13.