

**PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds Committee held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield, on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 6.30 pm.

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mr S Field (Office and Committees Manager), and Mr D Budd (Senior Groundsman). There were 3 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

**G 0270**            **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the new term. Secrets on the Heath had been a great success and thanks was expressed to James for organising the event, and to Dugg for organising transport and help at the beginning and end of the event.

It was also noted that Petersfield in Bloom awards would be presented on 4<sup>th</sup> October in the Rose Room and all members were welcome to come and support this event.

**G 0271**            **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

**G 0272**            **DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)**

No requests for dispensation were received.

**G 0273**            **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**G 0274**            **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**                            that the minutes of the meeting of the Grounds Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be received and approved

**G 0275**            **PUBLIC REPRESENTATION**

There was no public representation

**G 0276**            **GROUND'S REPORT**

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

The Senior Groundsman reported that there had been a higher level of anti social behaviour. Areas that are particularly affected are Love Lane and the Avenue, where there is a high level of drug activity. Motor bikes and scooters are also frequently being driven across Love Lane and the Avenue, which was noted as illegal and vehicles could be confiscated under Section 59 Act. It was considered that these may be being used as part of drug dealing.

Members also raised concerns for an area on the Heath where there is a particular area of high drug activity. This is the area just past the old Tennis Courts where there are three benches.

Members wanted to know how much all of this was costing the taxpayers. The main cost is staff, but there are also the costs of replacing fence panels and other materials. There was also a cost to the community as a whole with people feeling uncomfortable in spaces where they should feel safe. There is a huge issue of cannabis smoking and nitrus oxide canisters being used and dumped all over the town. There was also the problem of rubbish being left in the open spaces.

Although the Town Council raised issues with the CTCG, It was noted that the Council needed to escalate and tackle these issues, with the assistance of other organisations and authorities to rid the Town of this current behaviour.

It was noted that knotweed had not grown so much this year due to the weather conditions and management. It was also shared that the official view of knotweed was softening as it was recognised that it wasn't such a problem as had first been thought.

G 0277

#### COMMEMORATION HEDGE

Mr Andrew Williams presented his ideas regarding the possibility of introducing two rows of hedge and an oak tree on the Heath to commemorate the World War I Centenary. Members had received a proposal paper attached to the Grounds agenda.

Members discussed the details at length, including the location of the hedges and tree, wondering whether the hedge could replace the area of hedge that had been lost on fire. There would also be a requirement to contact English Heritage, as the whole of the Heath is a site of Scheduled Ancient Monument.

A discussion pursued regarding the 111 trees that are to be planted and which has proved difficult to find an appropriate location. It was suggested that the first tree could be planted along with the Queens Canopy tree that was being planted at Love Lane by Damien Hinds. The Chairman offered to cover the costs of a second tree in memory of

a relative, that could be planted in an area identified at Bell Hill Recreation Ground.

The chairman of Friends of Petersfield Heath, Richard Warton, who was in attendance, was asked for his thoughts. He shared that he understood the need to investigate the possibility with English Heritage, and was also keen to see the burnt out area of the hedge replaced. It was noted that this would be replaced sooner than later in any case.

Members felt that this required further consideration, although appreciated that it was time critical if anything was to happen this year.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council establish with English Heritage the possibility of hedge rows and tree being planted in the proposed location before any further decisions are made

**G 0278** **PREVENTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**

Members received a copy of the policy "Preventing Anti-Social Behaviour in Public Open Spaces" and members discussed various aspects of anti social behaviour, and how they may be either prevented or deterred. It was noted that some of the anti-social behaviour could only be addressed through changes in access to areas and education, where as other areas could be enforced by law. It was

*7.25 pm Cllr Chris Wilton left the meeting*

**RESOLVED:** that the "Preventing Ani-Social Behaviour in Public Open Spaces Policy" be approved with amendments in the document to identify sections of the law where appropriate

**G 0279** **WW1 TREE PLANTING**

Members discussed further the introduction of the first "WW1 Commemoration Tree" in Love Lane near to the Queens Canopy Tree, and that the costs for a tree, tree guard and plaque would be covered by the current WW1 Commemoration fund. Cllr J Deane would consider the wording for the plaque, and send details to the office.

**RESOLVED:** that a tree, tree guard and plaque are purchased as the first WW1 Commemoration Tree, and this will be planted at Love Lane, near to the Queens Canopy tree

**G 0280**      **TODDLER PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT ON HEATH**

Members received a quote for two repairs to the Toddler Play area equipment on the Heath covering agenda items 11 and 12. After discussion, it was

**RECOMMENDED:**                      **that contractor C be awarded the work at a cost of £2650 + VAT**

**G 0281**      **PADDOCK WAY PATH**

Members received a quote for the laying of a new path surface at Paddock Way. After discussion, it was

**RECOMMENDED:**                      **that contractor A be awarded the work at a cost of £2100 + VAT**

**G 0282**      **RADIO CONTROLLED BOATS**

Members were asked to consider the current Policy for Grounds Committee in respect of Radio Controlled Boats. Members discussed this and it was:

**RESOLVED:**                              **that radio and wind controlled model boats were permissible on the Heath Pond, but not fuelled model boats. The Policy for Grounds Committee would be amended to reflect this**

**G 0283**      **PADDLE BOARDS**

Members were asked to consider the current Policy for Grounds Committee in respect of Paddle Boards. Members discussed this and it was:

**RESOLVED:**                              **that paddle boards would not be permissible on the Heath Pond. The Policy for Grounds Committee would be amended to reflect this**

**G 0284**      **CCTV FOR LOVE LANE, AVENUE & BELL HILL**

Members were presented with three quotes for the implementation of CCTV at Love Lane, The Avenue and Bell Hill. After some discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:**                              **that further information be produced to clarify what was being offered, and presented to the next Grounds Meeting.**

Due to the nature of the information,  
this may be held in the confidential  
section of the meeting

**G 0285** POLICY OF COUNCIL OWNED LAND

The Chairman suggested that due to time restraints of the meeting, this matter be deferred to the next meeting. It was

**RESOLVED:** that this item be deferred to the next  
Grounds Committee Meeting

**G 0286** SKATE PARK REPAIRS

Members received a quote for the replacement of sleepers, plus a concrete repair at the Skate Park. A member of the public (Mr N Wells) was invited to speak, as he believed he could find a cheaper solution for the sleepers part of the work. After discussion, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that subject to further information  
being sought by Mr N Wells, that  
Contractor B be awarded the work at a  
cost of £2175 + VAT for the sleepers  
plus £975 + VAT for the concrete  
repairs

**G 0287** PEOPLE COUNTERS

Members received an update from Cllr J Matthews regarding the People Counters which will be placed on the Heath. Members were informed that the delivery was up to 5 weeks away so it was likely that this equipment would be used during the Autumn or Winter months.

Further investigation on new products coming to market would also be continued.

It was

**RESOLVED:** that in view of the confidential nature of the  
business to be transacted during the remainder  
of the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies  
(Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 etc. any  
members of the press or public present be  
excluded and instructed to withdraw.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**G 0288** STAFF MATTERS

Members were informed that two members of staff had recently left and these would need to be replaced quickly. One of these was a Groundsman. It was

**RESOLVED:**                    **that if necessary, the Town Clerk should seek to employ a temporary member of staff if governance permits**

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.44 p.m.*

## Grounds Report September 2018

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*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**

- September maintenance schedule.

### **Love Lane Playing Fields**

- September maintenance schedule.

### **Penns Farm Playing Fields**

- September maintenance schedule.

### **Bell Hill Recreation Ground**

- September maintenance schedule

### **Paddock Way**

- September maintenance schedule.

### **Woods Meadow**

- September maintenance schedule.

### **General**

- Cutting hedges around most sites with Tractor and flail.
- Hand cutting of hedges.
- Carry on ground repair work at Paddock way.
- Final weed kill spray around play areas.
- Flail mowing the Rotherlands.
- Improving access to Woods meadow for upcoming work to take place.

### **ASB**

- Red for love lane, The Avenue, Bell Hill Rec and High Meadow.
- GREEN for all other sites.

Dugg Budd  
Senior Groundsman  
4th September 2018