

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Petersfield Town Council was held via Zoom teleconferencing facility on 17th December 2020 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Town Mayor), Cllr P Bisset, Cllr P Clist, Cllr J Deane, Cllr S Dewey, Cllr J Lees, Cllr C Paige, Cllr J Palmer, Cllr Z Parker, Cllr J Matthews and Cllr P Shaw

Also in attendance: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Mrs S Fisher (Committees Administrator). There were 2 members of the public and no press present

Members were informed that the meeting would be recorded and that the recording would be retained until the minutes of the meeting had been approved.

C 1246 TOWN MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Steven Field and the Salvation Army for their help and support in putting together over 300 Christmas hampers. The Town Mayor thanked members of the public and the Lions Club for their generous financial support and in particular the District Councillors who had each donated £595 from their grant allowance.

C 1247 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr JC Crissey and District Cllrs B Bentley and Mrs J Butler.

C 1248 GRANTING OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

There were no requests for dispensation.

C 1249 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C 1250 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: **the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2020 be received and approved**

C 1251 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

There were no requests from the public to speak.

C 1252 COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Members received and noted the report from County Cllr R Oppenheimer (*see Appendix A*). Members referred to November's report and asked why plastics aren't more widely recycled in the county. It is hoped that the Environment

Bill which is going through Parliament at the moment will help the situation and it was noted that some plastics that are collected in other areas are not actually recycled but are shipped abroad or simply stored.

C 1253 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Members received the report from District Cllr D McKinney (*see Appendix B*).

C 1254 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members received and noted the Town Clerk's report (*see Appendix C*).

C 1255 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

RESOLVED **that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8th December be received**

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED **that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14th December be received**

C 1256 **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN**

Members set a provisional date for the Annual Meeting of the Town but this would be dependent on the Coronavirus pandemic. It is unlikely that it would be possible for the meeting to take place in the Rose Room and it would be difficult to hold it via Zoom due to the number of people attending. It may be possible for it to be held via webinar with questions from the public submitted in advance.

RESOLVED: **that Wednesday 12th May 2021 is agreed as the provisional date for the Annual Meeting of the Town**

C 1257 **EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES GRANT TO THE IN-BETWEEN CLUB**

Members considered the report from the Grants Panel regarding the application from the In-Between Club for funding to help it cover its costs due to the financial effects of the Coronavirus pandemic (*see Appendix D*). The club is only able to look after 20 children, instead of the usual 50, so it is struggling to cover its running costs. Members agreed that it is an important local childcare resource for working parents and that the club should be supported and encouraged to apply for other sources of grants funding. It was agreed that the usual limit of £1,000 should be increased to £1,500 due to the importance of the club to the community and its financial situation.

RESOLVED: **to award the Petersfield In-Between Club an exceptional circumstances grant of £1,500 towards their revenue costs**

C 1258 **APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY SPENDING FOR TREE WORK**

Members approved the emergency spending for the removal of three trees suffering from ash die back at the allotments, the cost of the work has been shared equally with local residents.

RESOLVED: **to approve the emergency spending of £1,175 to remove 3 trees suffering from ash die back at the allotments**

C 1259 **TOURISM PROVISION REPORT FROM COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Members received and considered the report from Officers which had been produced to highlight concerns regarding future staffing of the town's tourism provision following the decision at last month's meeting of the Finance and General Purposes meeting (*see Appendix E*). Members were clear that the Town Council had decided that its tourism strategy would be digitally based and that this was a difficult decision for the Town Council to make but one which had been taken after much thought and input from the Tourism Working Party as well as the report presented by Cllr J Matthews to November's Finance and General Purposes meeting. There was recognition of the need for a physical presence or human interaction within the tourism provision and that the strategy required clarification but that the decision which had been taken should not be revisited. A transition process with involvement from Town Visitor Centre staff may be useful in the short term as this would allow knowledge transfer and support. The report does not give enough information regarding timescales and what is being requested nor the financial implications. Cllr J Matthews is to raise his points in response to the report with Council Officers.

RESOLVED: **to invite Council Officers to revisit their report on the future of tourism and amend it with a more detailed transition plan to complement the strategy agreed at the November Finance and General Purposes Committee**

C 1260 **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DANIEL DAY LEWIS WORKING PARTY**

RESOLVED: **to approve the Terms of Reference for the Working Party to review the Daniel Day Lewis award (*see Appendix F*)**

C 1261 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2020**

Members commented that the most recent water bill for the toilets at the Heath was £4,000, investigations are ongoing as to why it was much higher than usual.

RESOLVED: **to approve schedule of payments for November 2020 (*see Appendix G*)**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.