

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Petersfield Town Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr J C Crissey (Town Mayor), Cllr Mrs L Bevan, Cllr S Dewey, Cllr Mrs L Farrow, Cllr T Figgins, Cllr M Holmes, Cllr J Lees, Cllr J Matthews, Cllr C Paige, Cllr D Petche.

Also in attendance: In the Council Chamber: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), District Cllr D Podger and Miss K Knowles (Minute taker).

One member of the public was present. One member of the press was present.

Via Teams: Mr S Field (Office & Projects Manager) and one member of the public.

C 089 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMENTS

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the following report. (*See Appendix A*)

The Town Mayor also welcomed Paul Ferguson from the Petersfield Post.

C 090 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

The Town Mayor thanked Cllr J Mathews for fulfilling the role of Deputy Town Mayor on a temporary basis.

Nominations were invited for the position of Deputy Town Mayor. Cllr D Petche nominated Cllr Mrs Farrow, and this was seconded by Cllr C Paige. As no further nominations were received it was

RESOLVED **that Cllr Mrs L Farrow be elected as the Deputy Town Mayor for the municipal year 2023/2024.**

C091 DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S OATH

The Council received the Deputy Town Mayor's Acceptance of Office.

C092 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ms M Vincent, Cty Cllr R Oppenheimer, and Cty Cllr R Mocatta.

C 093 GRANTING OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33
OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

There were no requests for dispensations.

C 094 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

C 095 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 20th July 2023 were approved as a correct and accurate record of the meeting.

RESOLVED that following the minutes of the
Petersfield Town Council meeting
held on 20th July 2023 be approved
and signed.

C 096 PUBLIC REPRESENTATION

There were no requests.

C 097 NETWORK RAIL PRESENTATION

Mr B Cunningham of Network Rail gave a presentation on plans to upgrade the signalling and level crossings between Farncombe and Petersfield. The presentation would be made available to Members.

The existing infrastructure installed in the 1970's had time expired. Stage one of the planned works would take place between 16 - 25th March 2024. Preparatory works would take place leading up to these dates that included weekend closures. A nine-day closure in the October half term was planned to commission and test the upgrade of signalling.

A Councillor reported a resident had reported contractors were parking on the pavements near the crossing on Kingfernsden Lane. Mr Cunningham informed Members that Network Rail monitor the contractors and he would follow up on the report.

The Petersfield level crossing would be replaced. The configuration would not alter. The signal box would remain however the control of the level crossing would transfer to Basingstoke.

A comment was made about Network Rail's preparatory works. The associated road closures and corresponding diversion routes had not been adequately signed and had had a detrimental impact on the neighbouring roads. A

lamp column positioned in the middle of a pavement after it had been widened in January, was still in situ despite assurances it would be moved. Mr Cunningham advised he was working with Hampshire County Council to try and get a resolution.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Cunningham for his presentation.

C098 **DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

No decisions made.

C 099 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Members received the County Councillor's Report (*see Appendix B*).

Cty Councillor Oppenheimer had given his apologies.

A comment was made about the overflow of sewerage at Wood Meadow and the need to reach a resolution.

A further comment was made regarding public consultation on the Pulen's Lane Traffic Calming project.

Cllr Paige and Cllr Mrs L Bevan had attended a meeting with the lead Officer, and it was confirmed residents would have an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

C 100 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Members received the District Councillor's Report (*see Appendix C*).

He commented that the transformation plan was underway. Key to the delivery of the new way of working was the adoption of a new IT business system. The way in which residents interact with the District Council in future will change radically.

He referred to the Norse contract. EHDC had been able to negotiate a new contract. Due to the level of dissatisfaction with Norse's performance Officers of the Council and representatives of Norse have been asked to attend the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to respond to residents' concerns.

The contract to refurbish the new Council Offices in Bedford Road that will be known as Monterey House, has been let. The District Council are developing plans to identify

suitable sites for public facing offices.

District Cllr Podger had discussions with the Police & Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones about the location of a Police Station in Petersfield. A comment was made that a location in the Town with parking spaces would provide a visible police presence in the town.

Several of The Town Mayor's questions regarding the amount of litter, weeds, and condition of the roads in the town were addressed in the report. Cllr Podger would continue to liaise with Officers on the outstanding questions.

District Cllr Podger left the meeting at 7.25pm

C 101 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members received the Town Clerk's Report (*see Appendix D*).

The Town Clerk added the external audit report had now been received.

C 102 **ADVISORY GROUPS REPORTS**

(a) Planning Advisory Group

Minutes were received and decisions ratified.

RESOLVED **that the Minutes of the Planning Advisory Group held on 27th June and 18th July 2023 were received and to ratify the recommendations contained therein made under Scheme of Delegation on 6th May 2021.**

(b) Public Halls Advisory Group

Minutes were received and decisions ratified.

RESOLVED **that the Minutes of the Public Halls Advisory Group held on 10th July 2023 were received and to ratify the recommendations contained therein made under Scheme of Delegation on 6th May 2021.**

(c) Grounds Advisory Group

Minutes were received and decisions ratified.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Grounds Advisory Group held on 13th July 2023 were received and to ratify the recommendations contained therein made under Scheme of Delegation on 6th May 2021.

(d) Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group

Minutes were received and decisions ratified.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group held on 17th July 2023 were received and to ratify the recommendations contained therein made under Scheme of Delegation on 6th May 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ADVISORY GROUPS

Town Development Advisory Group - 4th August

8. Non-Town Development Committee Membership

RESOLVED: that the non-Town Council membership of the Advisory Group be as follows:
South Down National Park Authority - Mr R Mocatta
East Hants District Council - Cllr D Podger
Hampshire County Council - Cllr R Oppenheimer
Community voting co-opted members - Mr G Morgan-Owen, Mr K Hopper, Mr P Bisset (Petersfield Society) and Mr C Cockburn.
Community non-voting members - Mrs L Bissett and Mrs C Cockburn.

Town Development Advisory Group - 1st September 2023

RESOLVED: that the footpath from Tesco's store to The Petersfield School be added to the County definitive Footpath list as either a footpath or bridle way as is appropriate.

RESOLVED Members received and ratified a report on works and costs that will be carried out on the War Memorial on 26th September (see Appendix E).

C 104 **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

RESOLVED: that Cllr Paige represents Petersfield Town Council on the 1st Petersfield Scout Group Executive Committee as a non-voting member and the appointment is made annually.

C 105 **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool
Members received Cllr Figgin's verbal report.

C106 **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Payments for July 2023 be approved.

C107 **GRANTS PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Minutes were received and decisions ratified.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Grants Panel held on 15th September 2023 were received and to approve the recommended grants to the following bodies contained therein made under Scheme of Delegation on 6th May 2021:

- East Hampshire district Council £1,000
- Petersfield Pearls Netball Club £800
- Petersfield Youth Theatre £500
- Petersfield Traders Association £800
- Lavant Court Garden Group £500
- Petersfield Small Business Fairs £640

C108 **OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE GENERAL TIDINESS OF THE TOWN CENTRE**

The Town Mayor invited Members to discuss the general status of litter, weeds, and tidiness in the town.

The Town Mayor offered to make direct representations to the EHDC via letter and at the next EHDC meeting.

The Town Council already 'unofficially' support local litter picks but Members may want to examine if we want to do more.

The Town Mayor would not consider adding more work on the officers, they have enough as it is, but councillors could collectively come up with a few things Members could take leadership on that might help.

Members discussed local initiatives. It was proposed a Councillor could lead on the discussions with all relevant agencies and report back to Council with recommendations.

C109 **CONFIDENTIAL**

RESOLVED **that the public be asked to leave the meeting.**

The Events & Media Officer is still absent from work due to sickness. At this stage it is unclear how much longer she will be absent but the FIT note currently runs until the end of the month.

C110 **STAFF PANEL MEETING 24th JULY & 8th AUGUST & 5th SEPTEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED: **to appoint Jayde Taylor to the role of Committee Administrator and Climate Officer as a replacement role under SCP 21-25 for 33 hours per week with effect from 9th October 2023**

RESOLVED: **to appoint Sean Slade to the replacement role of Grounds Operative at SCP range 6-10 for 37 hours per week with effect from 1st September 2023.**

In view of this appointment subsequently not working out and the member of staff leaving, it was also:

RESOLVED: **that the Staff Panel be granted delegated authority to appoint a replacement Grounds operative under the same terms and conditions.**

RESOLVED: **that the employment of a team leader has been terminated with additional interim cover being arranged while the agreed notice period is served. In the interests of continuity and to comply with insurance obligations, permission to remain in the current property has been provided for a period of 6 months.**

The Town Clerk was thanked for his work relating to this matter.

RESOLVED: that the Deputy Halls Manager be paid at the rate of £25,500 per annum for the period he is deputising for the Halls Manager position until the new individual is appointed.

RESOLVED: that the Staff Panel be granted delegated authority to appoint a Venues Manager in replacement for the Halls Manager once the salary levels have been assessed under the Green Book for Local Government.

RESOLVED: that quotations to complete a Staffing Review be sought under the Brief/Specification attached.

RESOLVED: that Geoff Banks be employed as a Halls General Operative for 27 hours per week on SCP 3-7 with effect from 1st October 2023 on a replacement role.

That Martin Johnson be employed as a Halls General Operative on a zero hours contract on SCP 3-7 with effect from 1st October 2023 as a new role.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:05pm.

Appendix A

PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL TOWN MAYOR'S COMMENTS 21 September 2023

Good evening. I'll begin by again thanking Michelle, Lesley and all the other staff, members and PeCAN volunteers who worked hard to put on the CARRR Boot Sale on the 20th of August. This was our third Boot Sale and was again a big success that merits official thanks. This Sunday we will be holding our last CARRR Boot Sale for this year and we are still short of much needed volunteers, so please do respond to Lesley if you can help and not already done so.

In terms of my activities, since our last Full Council meeting, I have attended thirteen major events. These included, the Battle of Britain service, the First Annual March for Men with Kev, the Petersfield Twinning Association's Annual International Supper, the opening of the Nicholas Lees Exhibit at the Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery, a session of Walking Football held by Dementia Friendly Petersfield, the St Peter's Church Fete, the 30th Anniversary of the Rams Walk complex, the first ever Petersfield Fringe Festival, the September Antiques Fair in our very own Festival Hall, the September PeCAN nature walk in Stroud, the Broadway Park Residents Association's McMillian Coffee Morning, the opening of the new 'Body and Mind Physiotherapy' Clinic, the opening of the latest Fine Art and Photography Exhibition at TPS and the opening of the new Chinwags Sandwich Bar in the Folly Market amongst other events.

I have also received or made representations or represented the Town Council in a further 12 meetings including: meeting the Chairman of East Hampshire District Council, Cllr Anthony Williams, in representations on the issue of litter in the town and also promoting the return of the Rams Walk water fountain along Tilmore Brook, meeting the Leader of Whitehill Town Council, Cllr Andy Tree, to learn about some of the governance approaches the WTC have adopted, meeting Causeway residents on specific issues (especially the cut in services of the 94 bus), meeting the Managing Director of De Mellow & Company on issues related to the Buckmore Farm area, meeting retailers concerned with promoting trade along the North end of Chapel Street, meeting representatives of the cricket club on possible alternatives to the location of a second cricket pitch, and meeting some of the fine residents of Love Lane on various issues related to Churcher's College amongst other things.

In terms of my charitable work, I want to again remind you that the first Mayor's Charity event will be held on the 28th of October starting with a matinee showing of Monsters Inc at 13:30 and an adult only showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show at 20:00. On the 10th of Nov I will be also holding a quiz night in the Rose Room. With further Town Mayor's events in the Rose Room on 8th December, 16 February and 1st of March. Please put those dates in your diary if available. My personal thanks to Angela, Phil

and Michael Finch for their help in getting these organised. Additionally, the Rugby Club has also agreed to hold two charity matches in support of my chosen charities, the first one is likely to be in early December with a 2nd memorial match in early 2024. The Town Football Club will also be supporting the Town Mayor's Charities by holding a Charity Walk on 30 September from Love Lane at 06:30 in the morning to Baffins Milton Rovers (some 20 miles). More details to follow when confirmed.

While I am talking about representations, as a heads up, in case any members would like to be involved, I will be receiving representations in the next few weeks about Petersfield becoming a 'transition town' and adopting a more ambitious posture in our climate emergency plan. Of course, any change in our direction would require this council's approval and I will be including our new Climate Emergency Officer when appropriate to do so, but at this point I just want to let you know this going on, invite those who might want to join me and work together with me on a potential proposal back to this council. Naturally I will be attending the Energise South Downs event at Bedales on the 6th of October.

As members are acutely aware, the amount of litter in the town is a considerable problem. For that reason, I will be asking our district councillors to give us their view on what they are doing in engaging with Norse under item 12 of tonight's agenda and have also included the opportunity for us to discuss what maybe the Town Council should do in Item twenty. What I would like to do at this point, however, is to note PeCAN is organising another town centre Litter Pick on Saturday 7th October and that the Petersfield Society will be organising their annual litter pick in the week before Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. Now I have done six litter picks for as many groups this year, and all of them have been fun, so I would encourage you to get involved if physically able to do so and/or spread the word to your constituents to help.

Finally, I want to welcome and thank Katie Knowles (Clerk at Clanfield PC) who will be helping us tonight by taking our minutes. Indeed, you are most welcome!

Thanks for listening.

Cllr JC Crissey
Town Mayor

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

1 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. HCC Meeting with Southern Water

I would like to report back following a high-level meeting I attended in early August between the CEO of Southern Water and the Leader of HCC, as well as senior officers from both organisations. As you all know, HCC is the Lead Local Flood Authority for Hampshire.

There is a new management team at Southern Water under the leadership of CEO Laurence Gosden. This new team inherited a number of difficult issues and they are focused on addressing them. They now have £1.5bn of equity funding from their Australian owners Macquarie which will be invested in infrastructure. Following recent criticism of their period of ownership of Thames Water, Macquarie are apparently determined to restore their reputation as responsible infrastructure investors.

The main issue affecting areas in Petersfield Hangers is sewage overflow during heavy rainfall. These overflows are not just distressing for residents, they are also very bad for the environment. This sewage pollutes rivers and makes its way into the sea where it kills fish and adversely affects the marine environment. Sewage overflows are a national issue and there is a Storms Overflow Taskforce at DEFRA developing proposals. Why is this suddenly happening now? The answer is that the frequency of severe rainfall events has increased due to climate change whilst continuous development in the UK (especially concreting) has also played a part.

Southern Water blame this sewage overflow phenomenon squarely on excess surface water flowing rapidly into the sewage system during flash floods. We all have a job of work to do to make sure that rainfall does not enter the sewage system. Rain from roofs should go into soakaways, planters, flowerbeds or a sustainable drainage system (SuDS). This sort of thing is standard on new housing estates, but older housing stock is often set up incorrectly. HCC has agreed to play its part by retrofitting our entire estate of 10,000 buildings including all our schools, and by improving sustainable highways drainage.

I raised the Sheet pumping station replacement issue with Southern Water and they are looking into this now. Three further points I wanted to highlight are as follows:

- In certain cases Southern Water will fund “slow water butts” for entire villages which are very effective at reducing sewage overflow by withholding rainfall during flash floods. Even if they cannot fund the water butts they will provide guidance and advice for free.
- I now have a direct contact point at Southern Water who I can contact about local issues. Please feel free to ask me to raise issues.
- Southern Water are investing nearly £5m in upgrading the Wastewater Treatment Works at the very end of Durford Road. This is excellent news for the local environment. But I should mention that the Southern Water press notice states: “This work will involve increased vehicle movements to the site. We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience our work may cause to those people living in the area.”

I would invite PTC and Parish Councils in our area to consider whether there are actions they can undertake at the local level to improve sustainable drainage and thus reduce sewage overflows.

2. HCC launches consultation on future of care homes

On 4 September 2023 a consultation will commence on proposals that would see some £173million invested over the next five to six years to transform and expand the future of nursing and specialist care accommodation directly provided by Hampshire County Council for the county’s growing older population. The consultation will run for 10 weeks, closing on 12 November 2023. From 4 September the consultation will be available at this link: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/social-care-2023>

The proposals put forward recommend concentrating on the delivery of specialist nursing care, complex dementia care and short-term support – to either prevent a hospital admission or support a hospital discharge. This would meet the needs of a growing number of older people in Hampshire in the longer term. Specifically, the proposals to be consulted on include:

- Building three brand new nursing homes – Oak Park in Havant, Cornerways in Winchester, and a site in the New Forest (location to be determined)

- Significantly modernising and expanding care at three existing County Council homes: Oakridge in Basingstoke, Ticehurst in Aldershot and Emsworth in Havant.

Withdrawing, over time, from the direct provision of standard residential care, with:

- the permanent closure of two residential care homes, temporarily closed since 2021 - Copper Beeches in Andover and Cranleigh Paddock in Lyndhurst
- the closure of three existing residential care homes at Bishops Waltham House, Solent Mead in Lymington, and Green Meadows in Waterlooville
- the closure of two further homes in the longer term (not before the end of 2026) - Westholme in Winchester and Malmesbury Lawn in Havant, with the services seamlessly moving to the new local facilities at Cornerways and Oak Park at the point that they are operational
- the ending of standard residential care services at Oakridge, Ticehurst and Emsworth (not before the Autumn 2025 at the earliest).

The County Council's seven remaining nursing and short term 'step-down from hospital' care homes will remain in operation. The changes would be phased over time and would help to increase the overall number of directly provided Local Authority beds to around 1,000 from the current position of just over 900 beds.

Annually, the County Council sources care home places for around 1,600 clients, more than three quarters of whom go into private care homes. The investment proposals would enable a similar ratio of care provision to be maintained.

We are at an early stage of consultation and decisions will not be taken until February 2024. Your support in not only providing your own views, but in promoting the public consultation to your local populations would be greatly appreciated.

3. Government planning consultations

I would like to draw attention to two planning reform consultations launched recently by the Government which could potentially have a far-reaching impact on our area.

Firstly, the Government is consulting on changes to plan-making. This will make the process quicker and it will also require planning authorities to review plans every five years. You can read more about this and respond to the consultation [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation>

Secondly, the Government is consulting on changes to Permitted Development, including within protected landscapes. This consultation covers changes to certain permitted development rights that allow agricultural diversification and development on agricultural units. The SDNPA is not very happy about this proposal. I suspect there will be mixed views amongst Parish Councillors. Whatever your views I hope you will take the time to respond to this important consultation. You can read more about this and respond to the consultation here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/permitted-development-rights>

Both consultations close on 25 September 2023.

4. Emergency Contact Numbers

I would like to draw attention to a helpful new page on the HCC website which lists emergency contact numbers for a range of different organisations:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/contact/emergency>

The contact number for the HCC Emergency Planning Team is 01962 846 846 and Clerks may wish to save this number in case it is ever needed.

Hopefully Parish Councils are already aware of the Community Emergency Plan Toolkit which can be downloaded from this page:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanning/prepareyourcommunity>

5. Pulens Lane Traffic-Calming Project

The design work has been making good progress over the Summer. Cllr Mocatta and I have seen some of the emerging proposals and we were impressed. A workshop for local stakeholders will be held on MS Teams on Tuesday 12 September, at 4pm. At this workshop the designs will be showcased and feedback will be sought.

6. Closure of footpaths due to Esso pipeline

HCC has made an Order under Section 14(1)a of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to allow for works in connection with the Esso London to Southampton Pipeline works. Some footpaths in Ropley and West Tisted will be closed until mid-November. The Esso pipeline is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project so I do not think there is any alternative to these footpath closures.

If you wish to examine a pdf showing the affected routes, please click on this link:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/getPublicNoticeAttachment?attachmentFileName=14712.pdf&attachmentTitle=TEMPORARYCLOSUREMULTIPLEROUTESACROSSHAMPSHIRE.pdf>

7. Energise South Downs event at Bedales on Fri 6 October

Our local community energy social enterprise Energise South Downs (ESD) are holding a Future Energy Forum at Bedales School on Friday 6 October. This is a great opportunity to learn more about these important issues.

The evening will be chaired by John Palmer, Deputy Director, Energy Performance of Buildings, Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities. He will oversee a panel of expert speakers across the renewable energy, sustainable finance and housing sectors, including Steve Waygood, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Aviva Investors; Ollie Pendered, Chief Executive, Community Energy South; Rupert Meadows, Campaigns & Engagement Officer, Power For People and Mark Gaterell, Prof Sustainable Construction, University of Portsmouth. That is a really impressive panel of speakers, in my opinion.

This is a free, non-party political event aimed at informing the community. To book a place please visit Bedales Events - <https://www.bedales.org.uk/event/energise-south-downs-future-energy-forum> & for more information about ESD see <https://esd.energy>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

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District Councillors Report for Petersfield Town Council 21/09/23

David Podger – Petersfield St Peters Ward

EHDC ‘Shaping the Future’ Transformation

All directorates within EHDC now have approved plans in place to facilitate their part in the overall ‘Shaping the Future’ project. Key to the delivery of the new operating model for the District Council is the adoption of new IT business systems, upon which the transformation is dependent.

The way in which residents will interact with the District Council in future will change radically, with full use of various digital tools to enable residents’ queries to be dealt quickly and efficiently.

Councillors have received repeated assurances that the transformation programme will meet the cost savings promised and that the project will be implemented on time and on budget.

Norse Joint Venture

Following the separation of Havant Borough Council and EHDC, the Council has negotiated a new contract with Norse.

Contract delivery has been compromised by a variety of factors, including staff shortages, breakdowns of vehicles and, on some occasions, fires in vehicles caused by disposable barbecues.

It is fair to say that dissatisfaction with Norse’s performance is well represented in feedback and complaints from residents. Councillor Matthews has been particularly insistent that there is transparency in the delivery of the contract against key performance indicators. Officers of the Council and representatives from Norse have been asked to attend the next Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting to respond to residents’ concerns.

However, we are assured that the expanded garden waste service will continue to be rolled out. Invitations have been sent to all customers who used to receive the service to re-join the garden waste service from October. Customers will be encouraged to move from a sack subscription to a bin container.

Monterey House (New Barn)

The contract for the refurbishment of the new offices in Bedford Road has now been let and works was due to start in early September with the aim of the building being re-occupied early in the New year. Meanwhile, staff have been ‘decanted’ to Penns Place.

The building will have a roof mounted PV panel and include the installation of 6 electric vehicle (EV) charging points.

Council public-facing premises (hub and spoke facilities)

Plans are being developed with the identification of suitable sites for offices where residents can meet council officers physically. An update paper with recommendations on the Councils approach will be present to Cabinet later this year.

Police & Crime Commissioner Panel

I am also a representative of EHDC on the PCCP. At a recent briefing, later publicised in a press release, Donna Jones confirmed that a police station will be opened in Petersfield next year. This will be a 'hard counter' station with provision for a 'detective suite'.

At the briefing, the Chief Constable of Hampshire and IoW Constabulary, Scott Chilton, outlined details of the approach to policy to be adopted in the county. As he said: "This includes a new policing model, locally focused Commanders, improving investigation skills, and new proactive teams to relentlessly pursue criminals. The Commissioner and I are united in our ambition to deliver a more effective, more visible service for the public."

Other recent initiative by EHDC

- Solar Together East Hampshire: residents sign up together to benefit from lower prices for the installation of solar panels
- Recruitment of an in-house ecologist to help in the production of the Local Plan. Julia Nethercott, EHDC's newly-appointed Principal Ecologist, will 'help to make sure that the local environment remains rich in wildlife'.
- Grants of up to £10,000 available to help communities combat climate change

Councillor Crissey's Questions

Councillor Crissey requested that this report should address the following points:

- 1 The amount of litter in the town
- 2 The assertion that 'no mow May' now extends to September and that the maintenance of street and curb weeds are no longer being done
- 3 The state of the roads, especially in the town centre

To answer Councillor Crissey's request, I used the MyEHDC mechanism to get further information from various EHDC officers. Cllr Matthews has asked similar questions. To date, I have received the responses below:

Query 1: - Ref: REF-169642-F2B3

- When was the last time there were anti-littering enforcement patrols in Petersfield?
- What fines have been imposed for littering offences in Petersfield
- What plans are there to develop further anti-littering enforcement in Petersfield?

No response as yet

Query 2 – Ref: REF-169643-G3R2

- Could you please provide me with details of any recent (within last 12 months) incidents of fly tipping in Petersfield and the surrounding area and the measures taken to identify the responsible parties?

5 cases – not town centre itself, but side streets such as station road or Tilmore Road and Lower Wardown or the Causeway.

Query 3 – Ref: REF-169644-T6Y9 .

- Could you provide details of ways that EHDC has provided resources and/or coordinated the activities of voluntary groups picking litter in Petersfield?

Norse supports community groups – such as the groups during the spring clean events – by providing litter pickers, bin bags and arranged a collection of the wastes after the litter pick.

Query 4 – Ref: REF-169647-Z0C9

- Could you please give further details on measures (if any) to deal with weeds and littering in EHDC car parks in Petersfield?

Just to confirm, we have requested our waste service provider (Norse) to visit the car parks as soon as possible to address the littering.

Regarding the weeds, this is a little more tricky. We are currently having an internal conversation around how best to address the issue of weeds on and around council land, but without using chemical treatments that could be harmful to the environment. Therefore, I can confirm we are working on it, but we don't have an answer just yet.

Car Parks - Litter cleansing daily, as with other areas in Town centre.

Our Environmental Services Team has reduced the use of glyphosate based weed killer in line with our Climate and Environment Strategy 2020-2025.

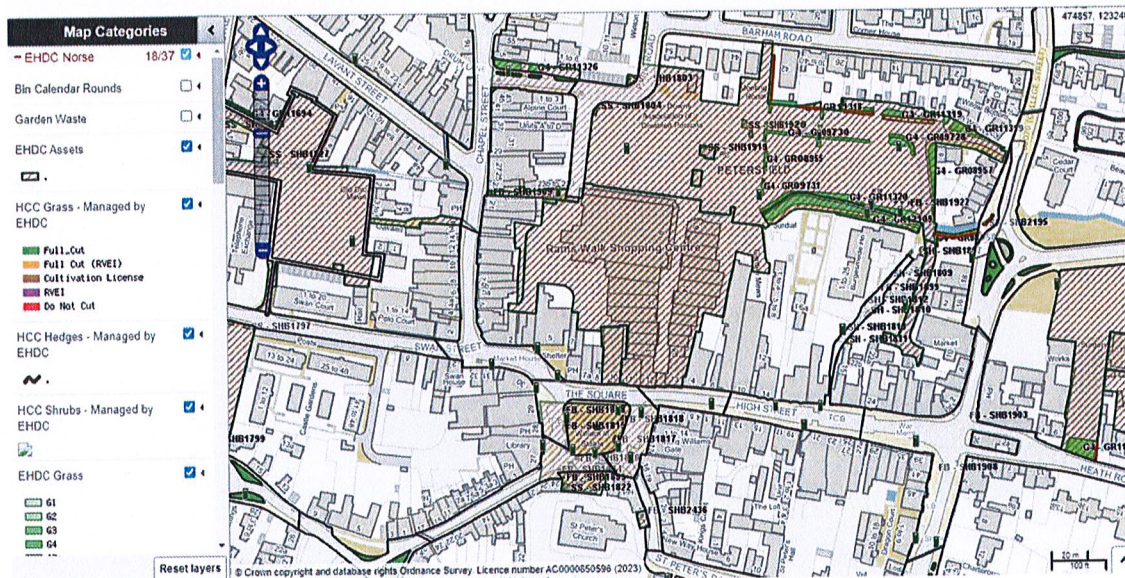
Query 5 – Ref: REF-169651-P3R4

- Who is responsible for ensuring that paths and public footpaths in Petersfield are cleared of overgrown weeds and other obstacles?
- Whether EHDC has extended 'no mow May' to September? (I concede this is more likely to be a Highways responsibility)?

EHDC did not run “NO MOW MAY” in 2023

- Which planters or other street furniture are EHDC's responsibility in Petersfield?

These 2 questions are alike in the essence of land ownership. As you can see here in the map, if its black bordered around the road / path -its HCC adopted and therefore Norse required to maintain SScene activities. Also if it's in the green and brown hatched areas, it's EHDC owned assets, and Norse to maintain under the SLAs of our contract agreement for SScene activities:



Norse also maintain the litter bins that are marked on the map (green rectangles). However, if there is any street furniture that is marked PTC for Petersfield Town Council, Norse don't touch it.

Often we get the queries on alleyways or paths that fall out of these markers. Most common is the alleyway from Greggs Court to Waitrose. This is private land, Norse don't oversee it until the planter and bin at the end.

Mechanical swept 3rd week of August footpaths swept the 1st week of September.

We are having to sweep by hand / using a backpack blower for the footpaths and the square at the moment due to a vacant position for a sweeper driver.

- Street cleaning - when will we next see Norse vans cleaning the streets in Petersfield?

Mechanical swept 3rd week of August footpaths swept the 1st week of September.

We are having to sweep by hand / using a backpack blower for the footpaths and the square at the moment due to a vacant position for a sweeper driver.

We have the cage vehicle there on market days – weds, sat – as well as event dates- otherwise, as above the crews get around either by foot or sweeper.

The large HGV sweeper sweeps the main roads every two weeks this is only where he can get due to parked vehicles.

The schedule for the sweeping of the roads vary from 2 weeks, monthly and 13 weeks, our operative sweeps the footpaths when required the parking bays are difficult to sweep due to the parked vehicles and with this time of year we are having leaf fall and fruit drop so we provide extra help in Petersfield town centre at the beginning of the day.

- Waste bins - I believe Norse also empty certain waste bins in Petersfield. Can you provide details of the frequency of emptying and the SLAs connected with this service?

We have the cage vehicle there on market days – weds, sat – as well as event dates- otherwise, as above the crews get around either by foot or sweeper.

- Particularly, is it a requirement that Norse litter pick in the area surrounding the waste bins?

No response received as yet

Query 6 – Ref: REF-169652-C3M3

Could you please tell me whether there are any ordinances, by-laws or similar regulations in East Hants relating to shopkeepers' responsibility for maintaining pavements in front of their premises?

Are there any other ordinances, by-laws or regulations enforceable by EHDC particular to Petersfield relating to littering or other acts detrimental to the environment?

No response received as yet



CLERKS REPORT

Members are reminded that the items within this report are provided for information only and are not available for debate. If it is considered that an item listed within the report should be debated fully by members, then it will be placed on the next appropriate Committee or Council agenda. Any member wanting clarification or further information on any aspect of items within the report, please contact me in advance of the meeting.

General Reading and Information

The following publications have been received and are available for members to read:

- ✳ South Downs News, July, August & September editions issued by the South Downs National Park Authority
- ✳ The Rural Bulletin issued by the Rural Services Network
- ✳ July 2023 newsletter issued by South East Employers
- ✳ Parish Councils Special issued by the Campaign to Protect Rural England Hampshire
- ✳ Newsletter issued by the Rural Services Network
- ✳ Enewsletter issued by The Petersfield Museum
- ✳ Access Team's Newsletter issued by the Hampshire Countryside Engagement Rangers
- ✳ Enewsletter issued by Community First
- ✳ South Downs Planning News issued by the South Downs National Park Authority
- ✳ Crime Prevention Bulletin issued by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary
- ✳ August Enewsletter issued by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
- ✳ Enewsletter issued by South East Employers
- ✳ Clerks & Councils Direct
- ✳ McCarthy & Stone Petersfield Resubmission Update September 2023

Other Information

- 1 All members need to be aware of their Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Forms and consider whether there have been any changes since it was last written. If there is a need for any change to be made please contact me and I will supply a fresh document for completion.
- 2 Members are reminded of the 24 hour Charity Angling Event taking place at Heath Pond over the 23rd and 24th September starting at noon on 23rd. The event is being organised by the Heath Bailiff Team and was approved through the Grounds Advisory Group in January. I am sure the bailiffs would be pleased to see your support for this event on the day. All funds

raised are going to Petersfield Armed Forces Drop-in Centre. Any questions should be directed to fishing@petersfield-tc.gov.uk.

Updates on Officer Activities and Actions

Grounds

1. Work has been placed on hold for the time being at Penns Field 'B' because the rugby club hadn't submitted and got approved the report required under the granted planning permission prior to work commencing. This is now in progress and the result awaited. Apart from the flailing work and coppicing of the hedgerows no other activity had been done. There is also an ongoing investigation by the Wildlife Police over whether the work done constitutes destruction of habitat.
2. There will be some significant tree work undertaken on the Ramshill Estate over the coming months. Advice has been received where the priority work needs to be undertaken and the Grounds Manager is in the process of obtaining prices for this to be carried out. Some tree work will also be taking place on the Heath.
3. The overhead car parking barriers have been installed at Love Lane and Paddock Way.
4. The new play equipment to be installed at Bell Hill recreation ground has been ordered along with the safety surfacing.

Public Halls

1. Council Chamber – following the discussion at Public Halls Advisory Group a few months ago, the detail in the report supplied by the Quantity Surveyor has been referred back to them for revision and additional detail. The matter has been referred back to the relevant committee this month.
2. Festival Hall – initial contact from EHDC planners has indicated that the planning application is likely to be refused. It would seem from the information currently available to us that the reasons for refusal are closely linked to the Heritage Officer's concerns over the cladding 'overlay' on the building to meet carbon neutrality standards. In view of this, the views of the Planning Officer at South Downs has also been sought in the hope that this may unlock further action. Their views are far more supportive than those of EHDC officers and Foster Wilson Size have been asked to revise the plans based on the South Downs Planning Officer's comments in the hope that this will lead to a positive outcome.
3. Festival Hall – rigging system – Theatreplan has submitted a proposal for the replacement of the rigging system this week. It was planned to bring this to the next Public Halls meeting in July, however it was not possible to achieve this target date and has been considered by committee this month. The rigging has been passed for a further year although our contractors were really pleased to hear that we were exploring its replacement.
4. Festival Hall – an assessment is being made on all current assets in the Hall with a decision on whether to keep, replace or discard as part of the refurbishment plan being made. It is also being planned to purchase the necessary equipment to enable the Council to run its own events in the Hall using the Maintenance Fund.

5. The Order has been submitted to Material Things to undertake the refurbishing of the seating in the Festival Hall. The first batch of seats have already been removed, collected and completed.

Others

1. Investigations have commenced to see what is currently on the market for digital information points. Possible internal and external locations have been identified but the number of locations used will depend on the budget availability and cost of the equipment. One contractor has provided costs so far. It will be brought to the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group once the three quotations have been received.
2. The Visit Petersfield web site continues to grow with information and followers. Phase 3 of the web site has now been launched and focusses on town centred information such as clubs, organisations, charities and religious organisations that are located in the area.
3. The annual staff pay negotiations due to be implemented from 1st April remain in a state of dispute with the Trades Unions. All Town Council employees are paid under the 'Green Book' pay terms and conditions for local government. This means that pay is negotiated centrally and implemented once a majority of unions involved have given their support to the deal. Currently no council employees are members of the three main Trades Unions, so in the event of strike action being called, we would not be involved. The offer made by employers was for a flat rate increase of £1925 per spinal pay point. The latest information is that Unison is balloting for strike action with the ballot closing on 4th July. Their latest communication indicates they will not be taking strike action but will work with other Unions to reach a resolution to the dispute. GMB rejected the pay offer by 64% to 36% and is balloting specific chosen employers for industrial ballot action during September and October. Unite rejected the offer by 75% to 25% and has undertaken a ballot for industrial action. They have indicated that strike action will take place at a number of Councils.
4. All insurance policies have been renewed following a meeting held to discuss existing cover arrangements that was also attended by the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. The total cost is £35,302.04 which is a modest increase from last years premium of £33,133.48. This includes all cover for buildings, contents, public & employers liability, fencing, play areas, sickness/travel cover, engineering & construction inspection and cover, cyber and fleet motor including tractor and all other grounds equipment. We will be obtaining a fresh valuation of all our properties through our insurers over the coming weeks to ensure that protection is sufficient in the event of a claim especially as annual increments for increasing building cover in the last few years may not be as high as building inflation. The last revaluation was done around 4 years ago.

Neil Hitch
Town Clerk
13th September 2023



TRADITIONAL STONE

SPECIALISTS IN CONSERVATION | RESTORATION | STONEMASONRY

Estimate Nr: E.3021

Estimator: Kevin Symonds

Client: Petersfield Town Council

Date: 11/07/2023.r0

Site: Petersfield War Memorial

Address: Petersfield, Hampshire

Stone Type/s: N.A

Supply & Fix Quotation

Ref.1	Ref.2	Description	Qty	Unit	L	B	H	Rate	£
		Scope of Works							
	1	To carefully conservation DOFF clean the memorial in its entirety including bowser and generator	1	itm				2,025.00	2,025.00
	2	To carefully change one letter. (lettercutter minimum charge of 1 day)	1	itm				750.00	750.00

Sub - Total £ **2,775.00**
Preliminaries Included
Quotation Total £ **2,775.00**

These figures are exclusive of VAT or any discounts, where VAT is applicable it will be calculated at the rate current at the time the works are carried out.
This quotation will remain open for a period of 3 months

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Supply & Fix Quotation

Ref.1	Ref.2	Description	Qty	Unit	L	B	H	Rate	£
		TRADITIONAL STONE RESTORATION LTD (TSR) Terms and Conditions are as follows: -							
1.00		General conditions;							
1.01		This document signed and completed by both parties must form part of any contract.							
1.02		Being a naturally formed material every stone is subject to variation in colour, texture and quality from block to block. Though all reasonable attempts will be made to obtain uniform colouring, texture and quality, some variation is inevitable. In the event that this is not acceptable we reserve the right to extend our program until acceptable colouring, texture and quality is available, any costs related to recutting or delays experienced would be recoverable by us. Likewise any delays experienced in obtaining block of sufficient size would not be the responsibility of TSR and any costs relating to such delays would be also be recoverable by us							
1.03		Unless other wise stated samples provided are indicative only, they are not control samples. To see an indication of the full range of colour, texture and quality of the chosen stone we recommend quarry visits to view the full range at first hand.							
1.04		Control samples will not form part of the finished works.							
1.05		We have allowed for detailing, this includes for adapting the construction issue drawings provided by the designer to show jointing and stone indexing. Our price also includes for creating all templates and cutting schedules necessary for the production of the stone, and for installation drawings. These drawings will be submitted to the designer for approval. We have made allowance for a single set of drawings, any revisions will be chargeable at either are daywork rate confirmed in item 1.13 or by a separate price. There is no allowance for design and development or design co-ordination. Where drawings have to be amended or revised due to design, dimensional or structural changes instigated by the designer or client, we will require a written instruction to proceed with the work as a variation to the contract. Drawings produced by TSR should not be used to set out the building.							
1.06		We have not allowed for any structural designs either as a whole or for specialist fixings.							
1.07		Tolerances to BS EN 12059 unless specifically stated otherwise.							
1.08		We have priced our tender on that all existing or new backing structures will be capable of taking the loads imposed by this installation, should this not be the case and work is required, this work would be priced additionally.							
1.09		Production of the new stonework will commence following TSR receipt of approved status "A" drawings from the design team.							
1.10		Once the order has been placed for these works TSR will confirm the works into a production programme, if for any reason the works are delayed or postponed by the client team for any reason outside the control of TSR, all demonstrable direct and indirect costs associated with the delays and postponement will be recoverable.							
1.11		This quotation is based upon drawings/bill of quantities. (list)							
1.12		Where no schedule of quantities was provided, or dimension and detail are not apparent, we have taken quantities and scaled dimensions from the drawings provided and in some instances made assumptions, if the quantities, dimensions or details vary from that allowed, we reserve the right to amend our rates and re-measure the quantities accordingly.							
1.13		Our Quotation is based upon the works being carried out during normal continuous working hours and in one site visit including full and unfettered exclusive access to the area of works for the duration of our installation. If our works are stopped or suspended for reasons outside our control, lost hours will be charged at our daywork rate of £50.00 per/hr for all operatives. Plant, materials and subcontractors recovered at cost +25%							
1.14		We have allowed for the use of Mechanical plant and tools in our site works, if we are prohibited from using this equipment for reasons outside our control we reserve the right to amend our rates accordingly.							
1.15		Further discussions regarding program will be necessary before entering into a contract. We are currently looking at stone procurement times between 6-12 weeks							
1.16		Please Note: inclement weather will have a dramatic effect on our external works, should these works be contracted to take place during winter months we will not apply mortars in low temperatures as prescribed by good practice, We would not be responsible for programme effects due to cessation of works during cold weather.							
1.17		Unless shown separately, preliminaries are distributed across the rates shown above. If the scope is reduced from what is shown in our quotation we reserve the right to review our submission to cater for lost prelims.							
1.18		We strongly advise against using absorbent/porous stone at ground level or below as it can often lead to unsightly staining and failure of the stone, we recommend using an alternative denser, more resistant stone for the lower courses to avoid this and can suggest alternatives and budget variations if required.							
1.19		Coordination & alteration of stone due to stats; buried or surface services is not included. We presume that services will be altered if in close proximity to stonework.							
1.20		Where supply & fix quotations are not split the following split applies: - 70% supply, 30% fix							

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Ref.1	Ref.2	Description	Qty	Unit	L	B	H	Rate	£
1.21		When cleaning is priced using a m2 rate the measure includes openings. This increase covers water collection and protection.							
1.22		For any internal stonework we are not responsible for any damage caused by others operating heating systems. We recommend the Stone Federation guidelines are strictly followed.							
1.23		For any vegetation removal we have only allowed to remove vegetation from the surface of the structure only. Any vegetation embedded in the structure requiring removal or treatment will constitute a variation along with any associated masonry repairs, unless these items are covered elsewhere							
2.00		Attendances we have not allowed for, and require to be supplied free of charge by the main contractor/client are listed below;							
2.01		Fully developed and dimensioned construction issue drawings in Electronic (dwg) format.							
2.02		All relevant levels, datum's and gridlines, marked on the building adjacent to our works. Note; our drawing works will not commence until these are in place.							
2.03		A fully independent heavy duty masons scaffolding to all areas of our works (or other approved suitable provision), erected progressively as the works proceed, incorporating provision for lifting and loading equipment, and any temporary support, centering etc. required during the construction of the stonework. Please note the maximum unit weight for this project is app. 1000 kgs, the design of the aforementioned scaffold and provision for lifting, loading and temporary support must take account of the loads expected.							
2.04		Provision of protection for our works from damage from other trades, water or frost penetration or any other hazard and likewise for protection of the public and other trades from our works.							
2.05		240v /110v Power supply adjacent to our works and within 25 metres.							
2.06		A water supply adjacent to our works and within 25 metres .							
2.07		Rubbish skips for removal of debris.							
2.08		Welfare facilities for 4 operatives for the duration of our works.							
2.09		All relevant levels, datum's and gridlines, marked on the building adjacent to our works. Note; our drawing works will not commence until these are in place.							
2.10		A safe and dry storage area sufficient to store our stonework, materials and equipment, please note we have allowed for full deliveries of 8 pallets per delivery, if we are required to make part deliveries these will be charged additionally.							
2.11		Mixing facilities for mixing our mortar.							
2.12		HSE and CDM co-ordinator services, we have made no allowance within our tender for setting up H&S files and the like.							
2.13		Provision for a telehandler or similar to transport materials from delivery point to site storage area and from site storage area to within 5 metres of lifting points/work areas.							
3.00		Payment;							
3.01		We require a deposit for any stone/brick supply of 50% plus VAT with your order along with this signed document before any works can commence PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NON REFUNDABLE . When we have supplied the material the deposit amount is used against the balance of this element. It is calculated as a percentage. So part of the deposit amount will appear until the material is all supplied to site.							
3.02		The Detailing and design work (where applicable), and the procurement and manufacture of stone and materials will be valued as the work proceeds off-site, valuations will be issued monthly or at intervals agreed along with vesting certificates for payment for materials off-site, payment will be within 14 days of invoice or application for payment.							
3.03		Payments for any stone/brick supply must be paid in full (or for larger projects in managed interim installments) before delivery to site. No stone or bricks will leave TSR until payment has been made. If payment is delayed, we reserve the right to charge a storage/interest charge of £25.00 per/pallet, per/week. Or, if an option, resell the goods and remake at a later date when funds have been provided.							
3.04		Site works will be valued fortnightly with payment 14 days from valuation date.							
3.05		Retention is not to be held unless otherwise agreed prior to commencement of works.							
3.06		TSR provides a defects period of 3 months from completion. Within this period any defects or snags as a direct result of workmanship or design (if TSR has a design responsibility) will be rectified free of charge. After this period 'end of defects liability' the responsibility and any resulting costs reverts to the client. If this quotation is acceptable please sign and return with your deposit in confirmation of your order. for and on Behalf of: _____							

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Stone Type/s: N.A

Supply & Fix Quotation

Ref.1	Ref.2	Description	Qty	Unit	L	B	H	Rate	£
		Signed: _____		Print Name: _____					
		Date: ____ / ____ / ____		Position: _____					