



Petworth Town Council

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING ON THE 14th DECEMBER 2017.

A MEETING OF THE PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL TOOK PLACE ON THURSDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM IN THE PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE, THE OLD BAKERY, GOLDEN SQUARE, PETWORTH

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Chris Kemp (Chairman)
Cllr Alan Copus
Cllr Rob Evans
Cllr Neville Fox
Cllr Juliet Fynes
Cllr Roger Hanauer
Cllr Steve Meakin
Cllr Rosa Pawsey
Cllr Michael Peet
Cllr Tony Rogers
Cllr Jim Scallon
Cllr Carry Smith,
Cllr Jenny Thorpe
Melanie Kite – Clerk

District Councillor Eileen Lintill and County Councillor Janet Duncton were present.

1 member of the public and the press were in attendance.

16/17

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded those present of the fire exit and mobile phones.
Cllr Singleton will be attending later.

17/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

18/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Alan Copus and Melanie Kite, the Clerk declared a particular interest in an invoice having been submitted by him.

19/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Prior to approving the Minutes, an amendment was made to *Item 15/17 - The letter from the Worshipful Master of the Petworth Masonic Lodge*, Cllr Neville Fox had disclosed a pecuniary interest in the Masons. The Clerk had not heard him and apologised for the omission.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017 were approved with the amendment. Proposed Cllr Hanauer, seconded Cllr Smith, unanimously approved.

20/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the meeting.

21/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Adjournment of the meeting for public questions.

Public Questions - Not On the Agenda

Dr. Page who had commented on the high levels of air pollution from the traffic in the town at the October meeting, addressed the council on a recent radio news item that she had heard. The news item highlighted the disturbing levels of air pollution worldwide which is causing illness and death, and estimates that around 9 million people are affected in some way. She felt that this was pertinent to the traffic problems in Petworth.

She also wanted to point out that large, heavy vehicles including coaches and farm vehicles were still coming through the town and along North Street. Cllr Kemp acknowledged this and said that the issue is still being discussed at both the town and district level.

Cllr Kemp thanked her for her comments.

Public Questions - On the Agenda

There were no questions.

Meeting re-convened

22/17 REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Eileen Lintill

CDC have launched a "Warm Homes" initiative which gives financial support to low income households. A high level of the district's properties falls into this category. More information on the web site and there are leaflets.

November saw the start of the trial for the fight against litter done in partnership with Hampshire District Council. Parish and town councils are asked to get involved in the campaign.

Business rates revaluation. A number of local businesses within the district have been severely affected. Central Government has a discretionary fund to support local councils over the next four years, starting in 2017/18, and CDC have also put in place a scheme to compliment the Governments. The fund will be used to help limit increases in business rates for eligible, occupied businesses that have a rateable value of £100,000 or less.

Car Park charges – The Sylvia Beaufoy car park will remain free though there are concerns over it being used for long term/overnight parking. Charges are set and then go to consultation these the latest charges are fixed for the next 2 years. Various different parking levies are being discussed by CDC for the regional car parks and new machines will be installed which is hoped will be more user friendly.

County Councillor Janet Duncton

Pavement improvements are under way and to date 70 have been completed. Last year the County Council spent £2 million this year it will be £3 million on improvements.

Cllr Duncton gave a resume of the discussions from the last CLC meeting. There are about 700 children in care. Foster and adoption families are urgently needed.

The issue about tickets being given to people who stop in the bus stop to load and unload outside the Leconfield is being addressed. One solution being looked at is to move the bus stop. Cllr Kemp said that the PTC have already looked at different places to re-locate the bus shelter, including public consultations, and asked that the PTC to be included in these discussions.

No public libraries will be closed including the one in Petworth. However, it is regarded as a 'low use' library and therefore it would be advisable to look at additional uses for the building which complement the library.

Cllr Kemp said that this is already being looked at to preserve the library. Various Societies may well use the building for meetings and The Fringe will be holding 3 children's events in there over their Fringe Festival. The library service have agreed that the book shelves will have wheels put on them which will allow them to be moved against the walls and the room opened up for meetings and other events.

Cllr Kemp asked the District and County Councillors a few questions:

At the last car parks meeting with CDC there was a commitment to look into the Covenant on the car park. As we have not heard anything could Cllr Duncton chase this on behalf of the PTC.

The PTC is still waiting to have clarified why it is that it has to pay for a Parking Suspension licence in The Square. It is felt that the PTC is being discriminated against and that it receives no service for the amount paid. A full discuss ensued. The Councillors were asked if this could this be resolved as soon as possible.

Cllr Lintill and Cllr Duncton were asked if they were going to support the PTC in its attempt to change the lorry signage in Petworth.

Cllr Duncton said that she would be happy to support it if the plan had gone through all the correct channels and she had seen all the technical information. She would have to agree with the findings of WSCC.

Cllr Lintill agreed that something needed to be done but said that everyone had to be realistic about future plans. She wanted to see the PTC document. Cllr Kemp explained that there was a resolution to have a lorry ban on North Street and Pound Street, and a 7½ ton, except for loading on Angel Street. PTC has done all the research and will be putting forward a very structured and thorough document which will work within the law to WSCC/CDC; principally, there are 12 lorries required to service Petworth businesses, the rest are just travelling through.

A more inclusive discussion took place regarding parking in the square, the difficulty that lorries have in getting through and TROs.

8:10pm Cllr Lintill and Cllr Duncton leave the meeting.

8:15pm Cllr Singleton arrives.

23/17

THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

A resolution was passed to use the General Power of Competence having complied with all the legal requirements.

Proposed Cllr Peet, seconded Cllr Rogers, all agreed.

24/17

TOWN TRANSPORT

It was decided that as town transport is a major and important topic for Petworth a working party was needed. All issues relating to transport will be looked at by the working party and not by the planning committee. It will report to Full Council.

It was agreed that there would be no more than 6 members and the Chair.

Cllr Scallon was nominated as Chairman.

Members are: Cllr Singleton, Cllr Meakin, Cllr Copus, Cllr Fynes and Cllr Hanauer.

The National Trust have agreed that the crossing from Petworth House to the town needs to be improved. It is now hoped that it will work with and support the town council on this matter.

25/17

LISTING OF HISTORIC STREET LIGHTS

These have now been restored and will be painted next year.

It was felt that these should be listed to preserve them for the future. It is free to get them listed. It was agreed to have listed the five historic street lights and the light on the house in Lombard Street. Proposed Cllr Thorpe, seconded Cllr Smith, unanimously approved.

26/17

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

Finance and General Purpose Committee

Cllr Copus gave a report on the meeting.

An amendment to the October Minutes for approval has been made – *Finance recommends to council to approve payments.*

The amended Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2017 were adopted.

Proposed Cllr Copus, seconded Cllr Hanauer, all in favour.

Payments

Cllr Copus gave an analysis of the payments. Payments approved. Proposed Cllr Copus, seconded Cllr Pawsey, all agreed.

Bank Reconciliation

Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Pawsey, all in favour

Cheques

There were only two cheques this month

Budget 2018/2019

There haven't been any changes from the previous month.

It is possible that CDC will not notify councils of the support grant until after the new year, in which case the figure will have to be an estimate.

Costs for refurbishing the information telephone kiosk needs to be discussed as this could be funded by a grant.

Highways, Traffic and Planning Committee

Adoption of the Minutes of 10th October 2017.

Proposed Cllr Hanauer, seconded Cllr Meakin, all in favour.

Open Spaces Committee

The Minutes of 25th October 2017 were approved.

Proposed Cllr Scallon, seconded Cllr Copus, unanimously approved.

Farmers Market

Following letters to one store holder over the past few months asking for payment PTC have now issued a letter which if not responded to will result in a small claims court case.

Vision Group

There was nothing to report as the last meeting was cancelled.

Petworth Business Association

At the PBA's Annual General Meeting held on 18th October, Mr. Anthony Curl is the new Chairman and Mrs P. Hewlett is Vice Chairman. Chris Woodham will be supporting David Creswell as Treasurer. Jo Cartwright, from Petworth House, will be liaising with the Vision Group.

Memberships are currently being received and signed up.

Visitor maps will be ready in January/February 2018.

The PBA remain keen supporters of PTC's plan on the traffic around town.

27/17

PETWORTH PARK SPORTS CIC (PPS CIC)

Following the signing of the 5 year lease for the sports ground, negotiations will start for extending it to a 25 year lease with the National Trust. An exploratory meeting was held on 16th November which was very positive. There will be another meeting in January to take this further.

A progress report has been put together showing what has been achieved to date and this along with the Sports Development Plan, will be presented to the National Trust when negotiating the 25 year lease.

The main points in the progress report are:

- Painted the exterior of the building.
- Pest control have cleaned the building.
- Restarted Petworth Cricket club this year. There are now 40 juniors and 20 adult members and it had a very successful first year.
- The overall sports budget is now viable and the revenue has covered the running costs.
- The Petworth Park Sports CIC has been set up.
- The Petworth Football Club has appointed a new Chairman and junior football returns next year.
- Applied for a £10,000 machinery funding grant which the PTC is granting £1,700 and £2,500 from the PPS. Have spent £2,200 on renovations to the cricket square and have started their development plan which be incorporated into the Sports Development Plan.
- First Board meeting will be on November 28th. To resolve to prepare a Sports Development Plan to be approved by the National Trust by the end of May 2018 in return for a commitment for a long lease. Separate working group will do this.

The Terms of Reference for the PPS CIC having been approved by the Finance and General Purpose Committee on Tuesday was adopted.

Proposed Cllr Copus, seconded Cllr Smith all in favour.

28/17

2018 MEETING DATES

Dates for 2018 will be looked at again at the next council meeting.

Open Spaces Committee will consider meeting every other month.

29/17

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Cllr Kemp drew the councillors attention to Petworth Town Council's Press Statement in the Midhurst and Petworth Observer. A decision had been made to respond to the various letters about the Town Council by way of a Press Statement and not a letter; members of the public are invited to air their views at Full Council meetings where Councillors will respond.

Cllr Scallon asked for more volunteers for the stewarding at the Christmas Market.

30/17

EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Motion: “In accordance with the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted”

The excluded session is to consider personnel matters.