



# Petworth Town Council

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## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

A MEETING OF THE PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL TOOK PLACE ON THURSDAY  
15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30PM IN THE PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE, THE  
OLD BAKERY, GOLDEN SQUARE, PETWORTH

### MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr Chris Kemp (Chairman)  
Cllr D. Burden  
Cllr Alan Copus  
Cllr Neville Fox  
Cllr Juliet Fynes  
Cllr Roger Hanauer  
Cllr Rosa Pawsey  
Cllr Michael Peet  
Cllr Tony Rogers  
Cllr Jim Scallon  
Cllr L. Singleton  
Cllr Carry Smith  
Cllr J. Thorpe  
Melanie Kite – Clerk

The press and one member of the public were present.

**15/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reminded those present of the fire exit and to turn mobile phones to silent. The meeting is not being recorded.

**16/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr R. Evans and County Councillor J. Duncton

**17/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Clerk declared a particular interest having submitted an expense claim form and Cllr C. Kemp declared an interest in that Mrs F. Kemp has submitted an expense claim form.

**18/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were approved.

Proposed Cllr Peet, seconded Cllr Thorpe, unanimously approved.

19/18

**MATTERS ARISING and ACTIONS RESULTING FROM THE MINUTES**

The controversy over the road name of Barton or Bartons Lane had been looked into by the Clerk and documentation being received from Cllr Fynes. The clerk had also been contacted by the Midhurst and Petworth Observer which carried an article on this topic. Cllr Kemp commented that the press article stated that the Town Council had been consulted about the correct spelling of the name some years previously. This is not correct, the Council has never been consulted at any time.

This matter falls under the District Council should a parishioner wish to take this matter forward.

20/18

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Adjournment of the meeting for public questions.

There were no questions.

21/18

**GARDENING CLUB**

Judith gave a short presentation on the achievements of the Gardening Club and the work and planting that it will be doing for Petworth Town this year.

They will be entering Petworth in the South and South East 'In Bloom' competition this year.

Achievements to date: Planting beds and borders in Sheepdown Drive and Midhurst Road; clearing and planting on the 'Boy's Grave'; planters around the town;

Work in progress: Gardeners club allotment; Station Road high bank; Hampers Green

Future plans: Invite local communities to plant up their neighbourhood; Main car park entrance; Rosemary Gardens; Hampers Green Gateway; Litter picking; Continue bulb planting.

Other activities: Petworth Gardeners Club; Petworth Secret Gardens, 24 June

Meeting re-convened

22/18

**REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Duncton

Fire and Rescue Service: We have just taken on more new recruits who have now started their 14 week training. I am hoping to visit them during the next few weeks just to see how they are going, not to take part you understand. Well I may climb a ladder and there is a chance I may have to get rescued from water but I will let you know later.

On the same subject I am also attending the Fireman's conference in Newcastle in March.

We have just allocated another £90,000 in operation Watershed which as you all know has been a very successful initiative and I hope will continue. It has enabled many Parishes to sort out some of their problems for themselves which is bound to be quicker than waiting for County to get around to it in the way we have to operate now.

Before long I think that the new Highways Contract will be awarded. As yet none of us know who will be the supplier but the process has been rigorous and thorough and whoever is the final contractor will have to be ready to start by the 1st July.

As you all know the next CLC is at Wisborough Green on the 6th March. Before the main meeting I think from 6pm there is the opportunity to see the new scheme for Grants; how it works and the opportunities etc for funding projects in your communities. My personal opinion is that it will give new and bigger opportunities to our Parishes but of course as ever there are concerns as to how it will all work out. This is understandable but if after the first year it has not worked out as expected then of course we will have to think again.

In my opinion opportunities for communities to get help with funding for projects is a must and in the time I have been involved with the CIF fund it has helped many in the communities provide much needed smaller items for their community like say new tables and chairs in a

Hall and new Curtains for again, community benefit in a village Hall. There have been some larger amounts from different funds like the Members big Society Fund but this is no longer available so my hope is that the new scheme will more than compensate for this.

By the time most of you meet you will know that the County Council part of the Tax bill will increase by 4.95% which is an increase on a Band D property of some £80 per year. Not good news but with grants from central Government getting smaller and our responsibilities getting more we have to find ways to fund what we need to do including the care costs in later life and child care and of course education which we are working hard with MP's and others to get better, fairer funding for our Schools. To me this is imperative.

On the subject of Schools. I have 6 in my division and have gradually been visiting them. Despite everything they are all very good Schools and performing well. I wish I could get more help for them with their buildings but with a lot of self help and some help from County they are gradually getting the buildings and play areas that they need. We are very lucky to have such very good Schools.

I attend meetings of the Rural Services Network at the LGA and last week we had a special meeting on the rural economy. Country wide it is clear that the whole of the rural economy is dependent on getting good Broadband cover. As we know in the rural areas the cover is not good but many businesses working from home and our smaller Industrial Estates are desperately in need of good Broadband cover. All I can say is that we have a department at County working tirelessly with BT Openreach but how and when it will happen is anyone's guess. Let's hope it's sooner rather than later. You will see claims of 95/98% high speed coverage. I don't doubt this but it's in the urban areas not the rural and we need to speak up, which we do. Some villages are more vocal than others but County is definitely shouting. If any of you have issues for me to look into please let me know and I will do my best.

Cllr Hanauer noted that this was the third consecutive Council Meeting that County Councillor Janet Duncton had not attended. He hoped that she would be attending in March as he has a question to put to her.

#### District Councillor Lintill

Meetings have been held between. PTC, Eileen and Andy Howard and the new lady who is responsible for street cleaning. Littering around the Coop would be targeted. The council could supply gloves, hoops and bags for a litter pick. They could be kept in Petworth for ongoing use.

Diane Shepherd, Jane Hotchkiss and Tania Murphy came to Petworth and met with Janet, Eileen, PTC and Petworth Vision to discuss how they could help with (if required) the various projects being considered. It was agreed meetings would continue to take place on a quarterly basis. Following the meeting Eileen took Diane to see various areas in Petworth to further her understanding of the issues.

Council approved the renewal of the NHB scheme. Parishes will be notified of the indicative amounts. Schemes will be considered that have Parish/Town Council support but they don't have to be implemented by the Town/Parish Council.

Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council a net budget requirement of £12,988,300 for 2018-19

And that Council tax is increased by £5 from £150.81 to £155.81 for a band d equivalent.

Cabinet approved the contaminated recycling bin policy. The issuing of fixed penalty notices will only be used where all other avenues have been used to get the household to recycle only recyclable items.

Cllr Burden mentioned the problem of the blocked culvert on the A272, Horsham road again. Cllr Kemp and the Clerk had had a meeting out at the culvert with CDC and a contractor. The contractor will be looking at ways to repair the broken pipework, with as little disruption to the traffic as possible, and report back to CDC.

23/18

## **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES**

### **Finance and General Purpose Committee**

Cllr Copus gave a report on the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February  
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were adopted.  
Proposed Cllr Copus, seconded Cllr Hanauer, all in favour.

### **Payments**

Cllr Copus proposed that a direct debit should be set up for the monthly payments to Vantage Publishing. Proposed Cllr Copus, seconded Cllr Smith, all agreed.  
All payments were approved.  
Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Rogers, all agreed.

### **Bank Reconciliation**

Proposed Cllr Copus, seconded Cllr Peet, all in favour

### **Planning Committee**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were adopted.  
Proposed Cllr Singleton, seconded Cllr Scallon all in favour.

24/18

## **TO RECEIVE UP DATES FROM WORKING PARTIES AND GROUPS**

### **(a) Vision Group**

Cllr Fynes had attended the Vision meeting on Monday but a decision had been made by the group not to publish the Minutes.

Cllr Fynes was able to inform the committee on some points from the meeting: a) the Vision is in the process of updating the original booklet; b) it is still looking at the 'Gateway' project, however, this is being scaled back until CDC have finalised its proposals for the refurbishment of The Old Bakery; c) Destination Petworth – it wants to get all the Visit Petworth and other websites linked and co-ordinated.

Following the meeting with PTC, CDC and WSCC the Vision came away feeling that the PTC were not keen to work with the Vision. There are problems with communication, working at cross purposes and lack of co-operation. Cllr Peet pointed out that the Vision had not acknowledged an email in which PTC had put forward a few projects where the Vision's help would be appreciated.

The group wish to clarify their remit to all councillors and requested to do a presentation in 'closed session' before the next council meeting.

This, as stated by both the Clerk and the Chairman of the Council, would not be allowed as 'closed session' is only for discussing matters of a confidential nature and deemed not in the general public's interest. It was agreed that the group could do a short presentation during 'Public Participation'.

Cllrs Kemp expanded on the meeting saying that the members of PTC felt it had been useful and informative. These meetings would be a regular quarterly feature.

### **(b) Petworth Business Association**

An update was received from Cllr Kemp.

The chairman of the association is to undertake a project to get Petworth a 'No Plastic' business town.

The PBA is expanding its membership further out to incorporate businesses from our closest villages who do not have a business association or trade and commerce.

The mini maps will be out shortly.

**(c) Neighbourhood Development Plan**

It was agreed at the SDNP planning meeting that following the external examiner's report to include the land south of Rothermead, called H8, there will be a six week consultation period. This will be managed by SDNPA and run to 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The referendum will follow this six week period.

Further discussions on what the council needs to do will be brought to the next meeting.

**25/18 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The annual town meeting will now take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**26/18 MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

Cllr Hanauer enquired about progress on the art work on the former boy's school site.

Cllr Kemp replied that no further information was available and that the Clerk was chasing this up.

Meeting Closed: 9:00pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_