

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2016  
at 7pm in The Council Offices, Golden Square, Petworth

**\*\* This meeting was recorded\*\***

**Cllrs Present:** Mr Chris Kemp (Chairman)  
Mr Roger Hanauer (Vice Chairman)  
Mrs Juliet Fynes  
Mr Hugo Petersens  
Mr Neville Fox  
Mr Michael Peet  
Mrs Liz Singleton  
Mr Tony Rogers  
Mr Rob Evans

**In Attendance:** Town Clerk - Mrs Rebecca Knifton

**Apologies:** Mrs Maggie South  
Miss Sam Spriggs  
Dr Rosa Pawsey  
Mr David Burden  
Mrs Carry Smith

---

ECM/1/16 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs South, Spriggs, Pawsey, Burden and Smith.

ECM/2//16 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of Pecuniary, non-Pecuniary or Prejudicial interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with **THE LOCALISM ACT 2011** and the **Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**. There was a Personal interest raised by Cllr Hanauer as a member of the Petworth Society due to their event clashing with the date of the proposed PetFringe.

ECM/3/16 PetFringe 2016

To consider the following items were discussed in no particular order:

- 1 Express its support of the Fringe events particularly on 2, 9 & 10 July 2016;
- 2 Consider any availability of funding to alleviate the cost of the music event;
- 3 Agree to progress the Licence for the Square in time for grant for Fringe '16;
- 4 When the Licence is granted, assist in obtaining the TEN licences for each of the events in the Square;
- 5 Apply for then grant a Licence for Rosemary Gardens;
- 6 Permit the parking of vehicles on Hampers Green to enable the operation of park and ride;
- 7 Close the Square to vehicular traffic on 2, 9 & 10 July;
- 8 Close the Square to un-ticketed pedestrian access after 1700 on 2 July; and
- 9 Such other permits and support as may be needed to ensure the success of the events.

The following comments were minuted:

Cllr Kemp stated that the Town Council had agreed to obtain a Licence in order to cover its events, such as the Christmas Lights Switch-on and the Christmas Fair at an initial cost of £100, then £70 p/a going forward. This however does not stop other organisations from obtaining a Licence. Cllr Kemp had spoken to Licensing to look to see whether PTC would held liable should an incident occur. It was **NOTED** that each event is classed as an individual event. CDC have offered to assist in planning and risk assessment. PetFringe have consulted with 'Pitch Black Ltd', the mobile stage company.

**NOTED** that the Petworth and District Community Association do not want the PetFringe to charge entry to the Square.

Cllr Hanauer spoke of the poor attendance at last year's Fringe and was dubious at the organiser's overenthusiasm in expectation of expecting 1,000 attendees.

All members **AGREED** with the use of Rosemary Gardens for the event, but not to close off the square for a music festival. Further concerns were raised regarding combined traffic and pedestrian use. **NOTED** that the proposed closing of the Square would commence at 5pm.

Cllr Singleton referred to the previous year and hoped that lessons had been learnt with regards to keeping the event more contained. She suggested not spreading the event out over 2 weekends.

Cllr Kemp explained that the proposal from PetFringe was on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend to have music during the day at Rosemary Gardens and then to close the square between 5pm and 11pm and continue the music festival from there. The 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend would be purely for the food festival.

It was **AGREED** that a reintroduction of the food festival for Petworth was fully endorsed by PTC.

Cllr Fynes gave some back history explaining that the food festival used to be run in September but at that time, there were no willing volunteers to run it. She also reiterated that she believed the event was too ambitious and that the closing of the Square to traffic would cause serious inconvenience. She was in favour of the entertainment but not in Market Square.

Cllr Hanauer was concerned that PTC should not support an event that could be considered as causing conflict within the town and between its various voluntary organisations. He stated that the Petworth Society Book Fair is always held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.

Cllr Kemp wished to highlight that all members were aware of the clash of bookings.

Cllr Petersens thought that the PetFringe proposal was very positive but the plans were too ambitious and did not agree with charging entry to Market Square.

Cllr Fox wished to raise 3 points.

- 1) Full closing of the Square – not appropriate and could potentially cause serious issues. He suggested that if this were to happen, the fencing only goes up to the curb line;
- 2) Closing the Square should not be supported for a Private/Charging event;
- 3) PetFringe are a Limited Company – would they be making a profit?

Cllr Fox stated that he did not support the Square as a venue.

Cllr Singleton raised a query into their financial research and questioned whether they would need to sell 1,000 tickets to break even. She requested that PTC should have sight of their financial workings. Cllr Kemp informed members that the projected cost of the event was estimated at £8k but that Shepherd Neame are contributing £3k.

Cllr Rogers wished for PTC to know that he supported the event but that the funding was wrong, Cllr Hanauer seconded this with regards to the fact that PTC should not be supporting a private event.

Cllr Peet reiterated that using Market Square as a venue raised concerns for a private event. Unlike the Christmas events which were free, to close off the Square and charge for entry was not acceptable. He suggested closing off part of the car park to host the stage as it would be easier to cordon off. He believed that the strategy and planning was far too ambitious.

The Chairman brought the meeting to order and wished to clarify the main concerns which he believed were;

- 1) Too big, too soon; and,
- 2) Paying to be in a public area.

He proposed that PTC should support the event as they are trying to seek out and promote local talent but that Rosemary Gardens would be a better venue and attendees would be able to sit on the grass.

He went on to suggest that PTC should give PetFringe 3 months in order to produce the relevant documentation to support their application. NOTED that the ticket prices had been suggested as costing £10 per ticket.

Cllr Evans wanted to state that he fully supported the event and its ethos as PetFringe are trying to engage those who are disengaged within the town.

**Final Synopsis:**

Music Festival – PTC endorses the concept but not the use of Market Square. Proposal is to utilise Rosemary Gardens and the Car Park. Proposed by Cllr Hanauer and seconded by Cllr Rogers.

**RESOLVED**

PTC does not agree with closing the Square for a private, charging event. Proposed by Cllr Peet and seconded by Cllr Petersens.

**RESOLVED**

Food Festival – PTC endorses the concept but due consideration must be given to the clash of dates with the Petworth Society’s book sale in the Leconfield Hall. **AGREED** that a recommendation should be given to PetFringe in order to ‘prevent dissention between factions within the town’ and that a possible change of date should be considered.

Proposed that PetFringe should speak to Peter Jerome directly. PTC will not ‘broker’ conversation. Proposed by Cllr Hanauer and seconded by Cllr Singleton.

**RESOLVED**

**ACTION:** the Chairman to contact PetFringe and explain the outcome of the meeting.

---

Meeting closed – 8.52pm

Signed.....  
Chairman