

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2016
IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7 PM

Cllrs Present: Mr Roger Hanauer (Chairman) In attendance: Town Clerk, Mrs Rebecca Knifton
Mr Chris Kemp Mr Andrew Ashton-Smith
Mrs Maggie South
Mr David Burden Apologies: Mrs Carry Smith
Mr Michael Peet (L) Miss Samantha Spriggs

OS/15/16 Representations by the public

There was a public representation by Mr Andrew Ashton-Smith.

He stated that he has been a resident of Hampers Green for 8 years. He has 4 children, the eldest of which is 7 years old and the youngest is 2 and ½. He has been watching the developments of the Park at Hampers Common and is hoping for a long and happy residency within Petworth with his family.

He has also watched with some interest, the publicised ongoings with the proposed Skatepark. It was **NOTED** that there had been some difficulties with both Parks.

Mr Ashton-Smith wanted to know how things were progressing and how he could help.

Cllr Hanauer asked whether the Hampers Green Community were behind the Community Centre being used for meetings etc. Mr Ashton-Smith explained that the Centre was regularly used for Children's Parties and Halloween Parties.

Mr Ashton-Smith spoke of the division, not only in Hampers Green itself between the Social Housing and the Privately Rented/Owned but more importantly, between the Estate and the rest of Petworth as a whole.

Cllr Peet arrived

NOTED that Hampers Green resident Lisa Cole had undertaken a petition around the Estate with families in order to ascertain what Playground facilities were wanted.

Mr Ashton-Smith is currently trying to liaise with all members of the community but **NOTED** that there were some that were not prepared to get involved.

He also **NOTED** that there was an existing drug problem in the area and had found a 'drug taking kit' on Hampers Common. He also advised that there had been an attempt to set fire to the new Children's Play Towers and some 'bong' equipment had been found close by at a recent clean up. He suggested that PTC could possibly spread the word through the Petworth Pages Newsletter.

ACTION: The Clerk to speak to Paul Isaac PCSO.

AGREED that as the local Police Service is not as visible, PTC and the local community must report such sightings to show that there is a need.

NOTED that the Police Service within West Sussex had been reduced and that recent restructuring had left rural communities vulnerable.

The Chairman Cllr Hanauer thanked Mr Ashton-Smith for his representation and invited him to observe for the remainder of the meeting.

OS/16/16 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Smith and Spriggs. **NOTED** that Cllr Peet would be late due to Film Club commitments.

OS/17/16 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of Pecuniary or non-Pecuniary 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**.

OS/18/16 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25 February 2016

Proposed by Cllr South and seconded by Cllr Kemp that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. **RECOMMENDED** that the minutes be adopted by Council.

OS/19/16 Matters arising that are not already included in this agenda

(a) Bus Shelter – **NOTED** that one estimate has been received, leaving two more to obtain.

ACTION: Cllr Hanauer to deal. The matter is ongoing.

NOTED that Tony Sneller is looking to obtaining a grant for the shelter through the Community Centre.

(b) Skate Park – **NOTED** that Cllr Hanauer had initiated a Health & Safety Report and that the Consultant had drafted a Risk Assessment. It was **NOTED** that initially this would have been left until the Planning Stage.

Reference was made to Byworth resident, Mr Voden's letter.

NOTED that Cllr Hanauer had written to the Leader of CDC, Mr Dignum.

NOTED that PTC are scheduling a meeting with Gillian Keegan, the Cabinet Member who had initiated the 'No' decision and reversed the decision of the Officers.

ACTION: The Clerk to send out a link to the Petition to all Neighboring Parishes.

ACTION: Approving the Skatepark Contractor will be an agenda item for the next meeting of Council.

Cllr Peet made reference to the qualified Officer's recommendation to approve the Skatepark and that the 'decision makers', i.e. the District Cllr Members of Cabinet had remarked this as only 'advisory'.

NOTED that the Deputy Leader of CDC, District Cllr Eileen Lintill's house was adjacent to the proposed site.

Mr Ashton-Smith asked the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Hanauer if he could pass comment on this matter as he wished to state that Petworth residents are classing the Skatepark saga as a 'Scandel'.

ACTION: Cllr Peet requested that the Clerk make preliminary enquiries with the Local Government Ombudsman.

(c) Footpath around the hills – Cllr South informed Members that she had spoken to Mr Ticehurst who has assured that he will be able to get the bench back in situ as soon as possible.

Cllr South requested that a WG be formed to clear the brambles.

ACTION: Cllr South to circulate a date for a WG to undertake the work. Cllr South to deal.

ACTION: Cllr Hanauer to obtain some quotes to repair the fence the fence.

A suggestion for a memorial plaque and an information board for the footpath was given by Cllr South. Cllr Kemp spoke of a company called Green Barns who make signs locally. Kirdford have one outside their Village Shop. **AGREED** that there should be a sign at both ends of the Path. **ACTION:** Cllr South to deal.

(d) Phone box – **AGREED** that the previous Council resolution be **ACTIONED**.

(e) Litter Bins – **NOTED** that the bins in Rosemary Gardens are loose. This matter is ongoing and the previous resolution is being **ACTIONED**.

(f) Grounds maintenance contracts – **URGENT**: **ACTION**: The Clerk to write a letter of intent.
ACTION: The Clerk to draft the Contract.

(g) Planters – **NOTED** that £200 has been set aside. **AGREED** that PTC will purchase the baskets from Spriggs.
ACTION: Cllr Kemp will speak to John Bridle about the tubs.

NB: John Bridle and Mark Capone will be undertaking the watering.

(h) Hampers Common – **ACTION**: The Clerk to investigate as to whether the Operation Watershed Grant can be used for mole draining.

ACTION: The Clerk to speak to the new Contractor to get quotes for clearing the brambles and the debris on site.

ACTION: The Clerk to speak to BT regarding the phonebox purchase for £1.

NOTED that a bridge could be built to link Old Pond Mews to the Park. **AGREED** to speak to Hyde Martlet.

ACTION: Write to Greenspan.

(i) Seats – **AGREED** to propose the refurbishment of the seats as per Cllr Peet’s email at the next meeting of Council.

ACTION: To be referred to the Finance Committee in the first instance.

(j) Asset register – **ACTION**: WG to be organised by Cllr Hanauer.

(k) Allotments – **NOTED** that Cllr Hanauer has spoken to two allotment holders at Station Road Allotments regarding the new standpipes and associated digging.

ACTION: The Clerk to speak to Nick Blunt regarding fixing the gate.

NOTED that the clearance at Angel Street had gone well.

(l) Mole draining/Sand slitting – As above.

(m) General maintenance – **NOTED** that PTC have taken over the responsibility of the boy’s grave.

ACTION: To form part of the agenda for the next meeting in order to ensure its maintenance in readiness for the memorial on the 29th of September.

OS/20/16 To consider other items at the Chairman’s discretion

Nothing further.

Meeting closed – 8.55pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....