



Petworth Town Council

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

A MEETING OF THE PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL TOOK PLACE ON THURSDAY 25th OCTOBER AT 7.30PM IN THE PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE, THE OLD BAKERY, GOLDEN SQUARE, PETWORTH

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Chris Kemp (Chairman)
Cllr Simon Atkins
Cllr David Burden
Cllr Alan Copus
Cllr Neville Fox
Cllr Juliet Fynes
Cllr Tony Rogers
Cllr Jim Scallon
Cllr Carry Smith
Melanie Kite, Clerk

County Councillor J. Duncton, and Jenny Mouland (press) were in attendance.

116/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that the next Open Spaces meeting would be held on Thursday 8th November.

The November Council meeting date is 22nd November.

Due to the generosity of a number of local resident's money had been received towards the replacement of the stolen navy and airman silhouettes.

117/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Hanauer, Cllr R. Pawsey, Cllr M. Peet, Cllr E. Singleton, Cllr J. Thorpe

118/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

119/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Copus noted that item 103/18 – Chairman's announcements. The second point should read - the Community Gardens had won an award which the Chairman received on its behalf.

Item 111/18 - The Clerk had not attended this meeting and was therefore unable to give guidance on item 111/18 at the time.

The internal audit report had been considered and accepted at Finance and General Purposes meeting in August and forwarded to the External Auditor who was aware that this would be seen after the AGAR forms had been signed and submitted.

As requested, the clerk had spoken to the internal auditor regarding the supporting statements. Business Development Group had been corrected to read a Community Investment Company (CIC).

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2018 were approved subject to the correction in the wording as above.

Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Copus, unanimously approved.

120/18

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

121/18

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Adjournment of the meeting for public questions.

No members of the public were present.

Meeting reconvened

122/18

REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor J. Dunton reported that:

- In addition to going to council meetings she had been attending parish and town luncheon clubs which had enabled her to get around more of her councils.
- Crowd Funding was continuing to be popular and she had visited some of the 14 official ones funded by WSCC.
- The meeting of the Watershed Grant had been cancelled and will now be held next week. However, payments were still being made and she felt sure that money would be kept in those budgets.
- Members Development Group on which she sits, is a group formed to gain a better understanding of what concerns people might have (child care, disability) who want to stand in the local community and possibly join local government. Events will be put on ahead of the next elections.
- Budget - times remain tough. The county has £155m to save over the next 3 years having already saved £156m.
- She attended the AGM at Lodge Hill and emphasized what extremely good facilities they have for young people.
and
- At the last weeks County Council meeting she put forward a motion with regard to the delegating of oil and gas exploration to central Government, and objecting to it. She said that this sort of decision needs to be kept locally – “making it clear that we will oppose attempts by government to dilute local democracy”. It was supported unanimously by all parties in the Chamber.

Cllr Kemp asked if Cty Cllr Dunton had heard anything about the re-arrangement of the Partnership and Community Team as he had received an email from Rachael North. She confirmed that Peter Lawrence is the officer looking after the North of the Downs area.

123/18

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings held on (as amended by the meeting held on 18th September 2018) were adopted.

Proposed Cllr Copus, seconded Cllr Scallon, unanimously approved.

124/18

INVOICES FOR APPROVAL

All invoices had been approved for payment at the meeting.

Cllr Copus added that 3 additional invoices from John Bridle had arrived after the meeting. These were for his work watering of the summer hanging baskets and tubs, and for weekly playground inspections at both Hampers Green and Rosemary Gardens. He proposed that these invoices should be paid, seconded by Cllr Evans, all members agreed.

125/18

GRANT APPLICATION

The finance committee had considered the grant application from a parent at the Petworth Primary School asking for £400 to start an out of hours book club. This is supported by the school.

Cllr Copus made the following points:

This would have to be regarded as a project set-up. The Town Council would not guarantee to keep the book club going.

Should the club fail, the school would still have the use of the books.

That Cllr Fox suggested that the organiser come to council meeting, on a quarterly basis, to give an update on how the club was doing. This had been agreed.

Subject to the organiser agreeing to give a 3 monthly update the finance committee recommended to award the full grant.

Cllr Scallon asked how this would be integrated with the library which is in desperate need of support to keep it going. Cllr Kemp replied that although the library could arrange to get as many books as required and that these could be kept for a period of 7 weeks, it was felt that the library did not adequately fulfil all the book club's criteria. The organiser also wished to build its own library which would be used for future year students. It was felt that the library had limitations for this book club.

Cllr Fynes also pointed out that it would be good for children to use the library but also to encourage them to go to second hand book sales.

Cllr Copus proposed, seconded Cllr Rogers, all agreed.

126/18

BUDGET 2019/20

The Clerk had prepared a draft budget but it was decided to discuss this in a working group at a separate meeting next week.

127/18

HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings held on 12th September 2018 were adopted.

Proposed Cllr Rogers, seconded Cllr Smith all in favour.

Cllr Kemp reminded members that the Rotherlea housing development will be discussed at the SDNP planning meeting on 8th November. Cllr Kemp and Cllr Rogers will be attending. Cllr Atkins was thanked for his excellent report objecting to the application based on Petworth Neighbourhood Plan.

128/18

OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2018 were accepted.

Proposed Cllr Scallon, seconded Cllr Copus all in favour.

A letter from residents regarding the Hampers Green playground had been circulated for information. The playground at Hampers Green is an on-going issue and measures are already being taken to try to alleviate some of the problems. This will continue to be discussed as an agenda item in Open Spaces.

Litter Pick – Reminder of date, 24th November at 2pm, meet at the town council office.

129/18

TO RECEIVE UP DATES FROM WORKING PARTIES AND GROUPS

(a)Petworth Business Association

The AGM was held last week. There was a change in some committee members.

A proposal to change the boundary for being able to join the PBA is being discussed. The Christmas town maps are now available and being distributed. The PBA will take the initiative for 'Tourism' and will liaise with the town council.

(b) Traffic, bus and highways

The HGV proposal is now with West Sussex Highways for comments on the proposal. The proposal calls for redesigning the signs at the approach roads to stop these vehicles inadvertently coming up North Street and Angel Street.

There is a meeting on November 7th for the residents of Angel Street to voice their views on the traffic situation of Angel Street. Recommendations will then be put forward for both North Street and Angel Street traffic calming.

Cllr Kemp reported that Petworth Town Council's proposal for a pelican crossing on the A272 had been accepted by highways and it will go to the County Committee meeting on 6th November. It would be another 2 years before highways will be putting it in.

Cllr Fynes informed the Members that the County Council is doing a bus survey looking at all their subsidies on certain routes. She felt that this should not be ignored and that as many people as possible should be made aware of it and respond. Petworth Town Council, having already done its own survey should forward the results of this to CDC.

131/18

NEW HOMES BONUS

Motion: To accept the conditions as set out in the 'Agreement relating to New Homes Bonus (Parish Allocations) 2018/19' for the award of £1,940 in respect of new equipment for the Cricket Club.

Cllr Copus stated that the agreement is between CDC and Petworth Town Council and that the money will purchase 2 cricket bowling machines for the Petworth Cricket Club.

Resolution: Cllr Kemp proposed that the conditions are accepted, seconded by Cllr Smith, all members unanimously agreed.

132/18

LECONFIELD HALL – BUS SHELTER AREA, Cllr Fynes

Cllr Fynes gave a resume of the email correspondence between the chairman of the Leconfield Hall, Chris Miles, Cllr Kemp and herself. Chris Miles had asked Petworth Town Council to clean the area inside the bus shelter where the Hall keeps its bins.

Cllr Fynes, in her capacity as a Trustee of the Hall, had replied to Chris Miles saying that she did not think it was appropriate for the hall to keep their bins inside the bus shelter especially as they were blocking the emergency exit to the hall. They had previously been kept inside under the stairs.

Chris Miles responded that the terms of the licence held PTC responsible for maintaining the area inside the bus shelter.

Cllr Fynes acknowledged that, if this was the case, then the council was obligated to keep it clean but asked whether the town council wished to continue to allow the hall to keep their bins inside the bus shelter? This was discussed and the members agreed that the bins should be removed. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chairman of the Leconfield Hall to request that the bins be removed from this area.

133/18

PETWORTH COMMUNITY GARDENS

Cllr Fox wanted assurance that the Tenancy Agreement is acknowledged as specific to the Community Gardens, a charitable organisation, and therefore not to be seen as having contradictory standards. This was agreed.

Subject to the Clerk checking that the allotment lease agreement with the Leconfield Estate did not contain a clause prohibiting the sale of produce, the Tenancy Agreement for the Petworth Community Gardens was approved.

Proposed Cllr Scallon, seconded Cllr Evans, unanimously approved.

134/18

THE BATTLE IS OVER – ROSEMARY GARDENS

Cllr Kemp updated members on the programme for the day which follows the Pageant Master's national time plan.

A piper will start the proceedings at 6am at the War Memorial and the Last Post will sound at 6:55pm.

Volunteer stewards are required for the evening lighting of the WW1 Beacon in Rosemary Gardens.

135/18 HERMITAGE WALL and JUBILEE PATH

The 'Round the Hills' path is now properly closed and will remain so for the foreseeable future. A notice had been posted in the Observer newspaper.

Cllr Kemp and the Clerk had had an informative and useful meeting with all concerned parties and the project manager will be keeping the council informed of proceedings.

136/18 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON EXTERNAL MEETINGS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Kemp reported that he had attended the All Parishes meeting in Chichester.

Topics included: a new policy for the reduction of the use of plastics

A new system for Declarations of Interest

Social Prescribing – a pilot scheme is being tried in Petworth.

Cllr Burden and the Clerk had met with two members of the Arun and Rother River Trust (ARRT). This was to introduce themselves to see how the council and the trust can work together on environmental issues.

Meeting Closed 9:23pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____