

## PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2013 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr K Lintill (Chairman) Cllr D Burden, Cllr R Chandler,  
Cllr A Copus, Cllr N Fox, Cllr J Fynes, Cllr E Hodgkins,  
Cllr C Kemp, Cllr R Pawsey, Cllr A Simmons, Cllr A Sneller  
and Cllr B Walsh.

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

The chairman welcomed a member of the public.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr C Goldthorp, Cllr J Robbins, Cllr J Shepherd, Cllr E Lintill (District Councillor) and Cllr J Duncton (County and District Councillor).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rosemary Lane Development: The following response had been received from the developers on the Council's choice of Mance Court.

'We have now had the opportunity to discuss the Town Council's suggestion of Mance Court for our new development in Petworth. We have already undertaken some research into the history of the site and our view is that we would prefer not to have the development specifically associated with the House of Correction given that the institution and its governor, John Mance, do appear to have had a harsh reputation.

However, we do appreciate that it would be appropriate to relate the site to its history in some way and would like to put forward The Old Court Yard as a possible alternative. We would welcome the Town Council's comments on this proposal.'

The other names suggested by Councillors had been Courthouse Close, Courthouse Walk, Courthouse Way, Courthouse Lane and Court Close. A short discussion followed, Councillors did not like the word 'Yard', Cllr Fox thought 'Close' or 'Walk' were more appropriate. Rather than prolong the discussion the Chairman said the Clerk had prepared some ballot papers and it was agreed to vote on the name. A large majority were in favour of Courthouse Close. The Clerk to inform the developers.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th September, having been circulated, it was proposed by Cllr Walsh, seconded by Cllr Copus, that they be passed and signed, subject to the following amendment.

10 (c). Petworth Business Association. Last line. Delete 'drawing up a new' and insert 'revising the'.

5. POLICE/PCSO REPORTS

PCSO Luxford said he had very little to report.

Sylvia Beaufoy Car Park: Two motor cyclists have been riding in a reckless and anti-social manner round the car park. One has been arrested, the other still has to be apprehended.

PSCOs: Two new PSCOs will be starting in the area on Monday. This will be a help to him and it will be great to have them.

6. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Website: Cllr Pawsey said the website is ongoing. She would like to propose to the Council that a launch date of 1st January 2014 be set. Cllr Sneller asked the name of the website, Cllr Pawsey said she didn't have it with her, she will let him know. The Chairman said he considered all communication should be through the Clerk and he only wants his name and position on the website. Cllr Pawsey asked all Councillors to let her have their details as soon as possible.
- (b) Assistant to the Clerk: The Chairman said a short list of five had been drawn up, but one has pulled out. He is now taking up references after which interviews will be held.

7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(a) **District Council**

In Cllr E Lintill's absence her report had been circulated.

Directors: Steve Carvell and Paul Over have been appointed Directors. Amanda Jobling will leave the council next May, in the meantime her emphasis will be on getting the Local Plan through. The eleven Assistant Directors have been through the selection process and were notified this week of the results. These appointments will be ratified by council next week. I will confirm names and responsibilities at the next meeting.

Fracking: SDNPA held a public meeting this week where there were four presentations on fracking. It was very interesting especially the professor from Keele University. The presentations will be on the SDNP web site for those that are interested.

(b) **County Council**

In Cllr Dunton's absence her report had been circulated.

Highways: A very interesting all day seminar on Highways. Some 2,500 miles of roads to be looked after and actually only a small proportion of the money spent on highways goes to the famous potholes. I think we are getting through to the Highways department that although it's a smallish problem in the grand scheme of things it is the thing most noticeable to the public. I am hopeful that they will no longer leave potholes next to one another because one isn't quite deep enough so 'we'll come back and do it later'. I make no promises but us new boys and girls have made our feelings known on this subject.

Children in Care: I'm now Safeguarding Champion and of course all County Councillors are Corporate Parents. I attended a Corporate Parent Panel yesterday and we had an interesting talk by a young man in care who is Chairman of the Children in Care Council. We had a question and answer session to see how our answers to questions compared with those of the young people in care. On some we seemed to be on the same wavelength, but other items needed some work.

Oil Exploration: In my division I have the Kirdford/Wisborough Green oil exploration coming up and as you can imagine there is a lot of interest and concern. I have attended a couple of seminars and now think I have a fair idea of what happens. I attended the South Downs National Park seminar on fracking held before its Board meeting on Tuesday which was very enlightening.

Gatwick Development: This is, or is not, still going on and I don't have much in the way of updates at the moment.

Watershed: There is still some money in the Watershed pot.

Winter Maintenance: At a Highways meeting there were some small machines which distribute the winter salt, I think they cost about £200 each, but apparently they are very efficient in delivering the right quantities which are actually very small. 1.5 kilos could cover an area of the room we were in which I would guess was about 40ft long and 30ft wide. The point being it doesn't take much to do the job if applied properly.

Cllr Kemp said he would like to know more about the machines for distributing salt that Cllr Duncton referred to. The cost of £200 is cheaper than those that had been looked at before. The Chairman said he will look into this, but there must be people who are willing to use them and he questioned if one would be sufficient for the town.

## 8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman invited Mr Evans to speak.

Mr Evans thanked him, he has come here on behalf of his wife who wrote the letter and is at another meeting. They have lived in Petworth for 4 years and love the town. Last year they were delighted with the new white 'starburst' lighting in Golden Square and were led to believe that this was the beginning of phasing in white lighting

throughout the town. There is a body of opinion who consider the lights are archaic, the town looks like a fairground and white lights would be far more sophisticated. Cllr Kemp said he was surprised to hear this, no member of the group, apart from Mr Bird who had always expressed a wish for white lights, had raised this. He was unaware that there was this feeling in the town and, if so, why hadn't someone come forward before, anyone is welcome to join the organising group. Mr Evans suggested he canvas opinion from the residents and businesses in the town. There needs to be more co-ordination. Cllr Kemp replied that to save energy all lights will be LED this year. Cllr Sneller said from what he heard everyone looked towards Petworth when it came to the Christmas lights, there have been coloured lights in the town for over 50 years. Cllr Fynes agreed with Cllr Sneller, 'sophisticated' is not a word to describe Petworth, she loves the coloured lights and didn't consider they make the town look like a 'fairground'. Mr Evans asked if there is anything to stop individuals putting white lights on their property, Cllr Kemp said no. If there is funding available and a majority want white lights this can be looked at next year.

The Chairman drew the discussion to a close by thanking Mr Evans for coming along. With the purchase of new LED lights coloured ones will have to go up this year, but if there is this body of opinion for white lights then those concerned should join the group.

## 9. REPORTS

### (a) **Traffic and Planning Committee**

Cllr Fox said a meeting had been held on Tuesday. The minutes are not yet available.

Highways: The Clerk is still trying to arrange a meeting with Mrs Baker and an engineer to discuss the crossing in Church Street and the traffic problems in Angel Street and North Street, plus any other Highways problems. He asked if Councillors have anything to raise they should let the Clerk know.

Planning: The committee had lodged an objection against the proposed new signage on the Sue Ryder shop. This has been approved by CDC, but both our District Councillors voted against it. A new application had been received from The Leconfield wanting to extend the opening times of the courtyard from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm. They have had an acoustic survey carried out, interestingly, no member of the public turned up. No formal objection has been lodged, but a request that two conditions are imposed, a year's trial and that District Council Planning set a maximum noise level.

North Street: Cllr Sneller said there is going to be serious accident in North Street. Recently, on separate occasions, both he and his son, who had been carrying his grandson on his shoulders, had been hit by cars. Cllr Fox said the Clerk is doing all she can to arrange a site meeting, the problem is Highways, like everyone else, is short of money. Cllr Fynes said part of the problem is that the pavements are too low, Cllr Fox replied this is something the town has to live with as they can't be raised.

A previous meeting had been held on 17th September, the minutes had been discussed at the last Council meeting and since circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Burden proposed and Cllr Sneller seconded that the minutes be passed. This was carried unanimously.

(b) **Petworth Pages**

Cllr Fynes said the current edition has been delivered. There are spare copies in the office.

(c) **Petworth Business Association**

Cllr Kemp said the AGM will be held on Thursday 24th October, 6.00 pm in the Audit Room at Petworth House. The Officers and current committee are all standing down and there will be new committee elected.

(d) **Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Fox said they are making progress, the boundary has been approved by both SDNPA and CDC. They are now inviting tenders from consultants which they hope to have for the next meeting on 7th November so their recommendation can be put to the Council at its meeting on 21st. Lord Egremont, Mr Knight and Smiths Gore are taking a great interest in the process. Having been Chairman since the group was formed he has decided, through pressure of work, to stand down but will continue to be involved.

(e) **Christmas Events**

Cllr Kemp said all is going to plan, the lights will start going upon 3rd November. More helpers are needed, bacon butties and coffee are provided and Chris Connor at The Star has offered a free pint. Cllr Fox referred to Mr & Mrs Evans' request for white lights, there used to be white ones across Saddlers Row. Cllr Kemp said they were provided by Mr Gardner. Cllr Sneller said if a straw poll was held he is sure a very large majority would want coloured lights. Cllr Kemp said it is hoped to have a lantern parade this year organised by Seaford College. The usual window competition will be taking place, the theme, 'A feast for your eyes' ties in with the Petworth House exhibition, plus some 'live' windows. There are still some stalls to be let in Market Square and helpers are needed on the day. Cllr Fox asked if it would be possible when the tree is lit for all the lights to come on in Market Square at the same time. Cllr Kemp says the problem with this is that although timers are set some get switched off, then plugged in again so the timing is all wrong. This happens a lot at the Leconfield Hall.

(f) **Clerk**

The Clerk said she had nothing to report.

10. TO CONSIDER OTHER ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Community Website: Cllr Sneller said the website will be up and running by the end of the week.

Bonfire Night: Cllr Sneller said this will take place on Saturday 3rd November on Hampers Common, 6.00 pm bonfire, 7.00 pm fireworks. They are working with the Scouts.

Horsham Road Chapel: Cllr Sneller said this is progressing, the Leconfield Estate has put a fence around the building and boarded it up. There will be a public meeting on 13th November. He and Mr Riddell will be meeting with Mr Robbie from Crownhall Estates who is acting on behalf of the landowners for the proposed development. A usage now needs to be found for it.

Boys' Grave: Cllr Simmons said she had received a phone call from a very old friend whose brother had lost his life in the bombing. She and her sister had visited the grave and were delighted to see that it looked so wonderful.

Notice Board in Car park: Cllr Fynes said although the old map has been replaced in the District Council Notice Board the actual board needs some work on it, the frame is in tatters. The Clerk to report this.

Finance: Cllr Walsh said the current financial statement has been circulated. Three quotations had been received from the revised specification for the work on the wetpour surface in Rosemary Gardens. In consultation with the Chairman, and Vice Chairman of the F&GP committee, it had been agreed to accept the quotation of £2,400 from Playsafe Playgrounds of Elsted. Funding will come out of the Contingency budget. The Clerk has received notification that she has been awarded a pay rise, the first since 2009. Her hourly rate, back dated to 1st April 2013, is to be increased by 10p which will add £85 per year to her salary. He asked that this be agreed, on a vote this was unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

