

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL 2014 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 C Goldthorp,
Cllr E Hodgkins, Cllr C Kemp, Cllr R Pawsey. Cllr J Robbins,
Cllr A Simmons, Cllr A Sneller and Cllr B Walsh.

Cllr E Lintill (District Councillor).

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

1. There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had nothing to report.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 20th March, having been circulated, it was proposed by Cllr Kemp, seconded by Cllr Walsh, that they be passed and signed.

5. POLICE/PCSO REPORTS

In PCSO Luxford's absence there was no report.

6. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Flag in Rosemary Gardens: Cllr Kemp said that he and Cllr Sneller have not yet taken the flag down but will do so this week. They will then put the Union Jack in its place.

(b) Horsham Road Chapel: Cllr Sneller said they have a lawyer on the team and are trying to obtain advice from Chambers on ownership.

- (c) War Memorial: Cllr Walsh said following the demise of CWO he has obtained another estimate. He and the Clerk have filled in the questionnaire, there are still a few facts to gather but they are 99% there and hope to send in the grant application within the next week.

Cllr Kemp asked if there was any update on the wall. Cllr Walsh said following the meeting with Mr Riley he has heard nothing further.

7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(a) **District Council**

Cllr E Lintill reported on the following:

CDC Parishes Meeting: This will be held on Thursday 1st May at Pallant House.

Beaches: Both West Wittering and Selsey beaches have received awards for best beaches for water quality.

Grange Centre: There will be a Community Open Day on Sunday 11th May.

The Novium: A WW1 exhibition opened on 7th April and continues until 31st December 2014.

Fibre Optic Broadband: This is moving forward. Surveying is being carried out in this area and it is hoped that 90% of the County will be connected by Spring 2016.

Businesses: It has been recorded that 72 new businesses have started up since January 2014, 22 more than in January 2013. Petworth had the most start ups in the district.

SDNPA and CIL Consultation: It is important for the future of the town that a Council response is sent in to this consultation. It closes on 30th April.

Banners: As Cllr Duncton is away she has spoken to the Planning department about banners in the town. An agreement is in existence between CDC and the City Council, but they are not aware of any others. It is therefore up to Councillors if they want to approach CDC.

(b) **County Council**

In Cllr Duncton's absence there was no report.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no members of the public present.

9. CO-OPTON OF ONE COUNCILLOR

The Chairman said that as no one contacted the District Council there is now a notice on the board about co-option. Closing date Wednesday 14th May.

10. PARISH CLEAN UP DAY

The Chairman said that the Clerk has ordered Packs and has confirmed Public Liability Insurance cover for all volunteers. She can be there at 9.00 am to see everyone out but a Councillor is needed to see volunteers back in at noon. Rubbish bags are to be left outside the Council office, their collection is arranged. Cllr Sneller said that in the past teams have worked along pavements from town boundary signs back towards the town. Cllr Chandler considered it was far too dangerous to expect volunteers to work along Horsham Road, this was agreed. Cllr Sneller said he will sort out some routes and put details on the Community Association website.

11. RURAL SOUNDING BOARD

The Chairman referred to the e-mail the Clerk had circulated from the Rural Sounding Board asking for representatives in order to gather views and opinions of rural Parish Councils across England. Cllr Pawsey said she would like to have her name put forward and Cllrs Copus, Fynes and Robbins would like to join the Rural Transport Opinion Panel. These were agreed, the Clerk to inform the Rural Sounding Board.

12. ANNUAL MEETINGS, 15TH MAY AT THE HAMPERS GREEN CENTRE

The Chairman said after last year's meetings only three people stayed to help the Clerk clear up. This year will all Councillors please stay and help, bearing in mind there will also be the election of committee Chairmen after the second meeting.

13. REPORTS

(a) **Traffic and Planning Committee**

Cllr Fox said a meeting had been held on 8th April, there were only two small planning applications and the meeting had mainly been taken up with a discussion on Mr Montyn's e-mail response. A written response has been formulated, it is quite clear that, despite what he says, Mr Montyn is not aware of the town's traffic problems. He is therefore, once again, being asked to attend a meeting in the town so he can be questioned and shown the problems. The SDNPA Local Plan has been passed to Neighbourhood Planning.

(b) **Petworth Pages**

Cllr Fynes said she was disappointed to come back from holiday to find there are three boxes of the current Petworth Pages in the office when only half a box should be returned to her. She had heard of several people who had not received their copies. The Chairman said he will find out what went wrong with the deliveries.

(c) **Petworth Business Association**

Cllr Kemp said an EGM had been held yesterday when the new Constitution had been agreed and passed. This will allow the committee to implement its three year plan. The membership is being changed to separate the High Street shops from those out of town and will also allow those who don't run a business, but wish to support the town, an opportunity to join the PBA. The monthly networking meeting followed, the Discover Petworth website is not yet up and running. It has been arranged for Alison Stevens to come to the next Farmer's Market on 26th April to see how it is run.

(d) **Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Hodgkins said a meeting had been held on 10th April when it had been agreed, subject to this Council's ratification, to appoint Nexus Planning as the Consultants. There had been concerns about the exclusion of amendments to the plan following submission to the planning authority and attendance at the examination, but these had been clarified and agreed. Cllr Kemp said Nexus Planning are asking for a fee of £30,000, and so far the grants received only total £17,000. Cllr Walsh said there will be further money available but before they can apply again to Locality and the SDNPA the present grants have to be spent first. Cllr Kemp said he would like to propose that the Town Council guarantee the remaining £13,000 from its reserves, the money is there for the parish and this is as good a way as any to use it. Cllr Copus supported this, the Neighbourhood Plan will be ongoing for the next two years and the money will be not be needed immediately. A long discussion took place, not all Councillors were happy that the reserves should be put to this use. Cllr Fox said in his experience the total bill will be nearer £40,000 than £30,000, and before appointing Nexus Planning that sum of money must be in place. He didn't consider that consultants should be appointed unless this happened. Cllr Walsh was asked if there will be sufficient funds in reserve to cover this, he confirmed there would be, but also had reservations about committing such a large sum. After further discussion Cllr Hodgkins proposed that £23,000 be set aside from reserves to cover the fees for Nexus Planning and that they be appointed the Consultants. Her proposal was seconded by Cllr Kemp and, on a vote agreed, with some abstentions. Cllr Hodgkins said that Amie Gordon had suggested that she feature the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan in the Observer.

SDNPA Local Plan: Cllr Hodgkins said concerns have been voiced that in the Local Plan Petworth is only ranked at Level 3, the same category given to small villages, and it was felt to be important that a response is put in requesting that this be raised to Level 2. Cllr Walsh said that at a recent meeting with Mr Knight he had mentioned that Lord Egremont had said that Petworth should be raised from Level 3 to Level 2. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Hodgkins respond to this, Cllr Sneller said the PBA and the Community Association should also respond accordingly.

(e) **Clerk**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

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

- (a) Tour of Britain Race, Saturday 13th September: Cllr Sneller said this is the same day as the Goodwood Revival. Looking at the website it is not clear exactly which route the 7th Stage, which passes through the area, will take. The Clerk to look into this.
- (b) Banners: Covered under Item 7 (a). To Open Spaces.
- (c) Defibrillator: Cllr Sneller said he had been approached by a member of the local Red Cross asking for the support of the Town Council in installing a defibrillator on the outside of the Leconfield Hall. As he understood it there would be no need for training as full instructions are provided. Several local villages have one and, following a heart attack, it is a vital means of increasing the chance of survival. The only cost would be the box it is stored in. A discussion followed, Councillors were unanimous in their support of the idea, and it was suggested a sponsor be sought for the box. Cllr Sneller said he will form a community group and take this forward. If the implementation of a defibrillator on the Leconfield Hall is successful then Councillors will look at siting a second one at Hampers Green.
- (d) Items for next meeting: Courtauld Paintings - Cllr Simmons, Farmers' Market - Cllr Sneller.

Finally, the Chairman said he would like to thank all Councillors for their help and support during his time as Chairman and wished the Council well for next year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.