

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2013 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr K Lintill (Chairman), Cllr G Allan, Cllr D Burden,
Cllr R Chandler, Cllr C Goldthorp, Cllr C Duncton,
Cllr N Fox, 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. Apologies were received from Cllr L Pearce, Cllr J Fynes and Cllr J Duncton (District Councillor).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sneller declared an interest in the Fete in the Park, item 9 (a) Finance and General Purposes Committee.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seat on the Shimmings: The Clerk had received a request from Mr Allnatt and his family to place a seat overlooking the Shimmings in memory of Mrs Gladys Scott (nee Wakeford). This was agreed.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st February, having been circulated, it was proposed by Cllr Walsh, seconded by Cllr Simmons, that they be passed and signed.

5. POLICE/PCSO REPORTS

In PCSO Ian Luxford's absence there was no report.

6. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Horsham Road Chapel: The Chairman said Mr Townsend had written to the Clerk in September 2005 saying the Diocesan Registrar cannot find any evidence that the chapel has ever been owned by the Parochial

Church Council and concludes that the ownership is with this council. The Clerk had spoken with Mr Simpson who said the chapel was endowed in 1852/1853, he didn't know who it was given to, but at that time parish councils were not in existence. It was agreed to see if there is any mention of the ownership amongst the archives held at Petworth House. Alison McCann has now retired from the Records Office in Chichester and is working there, she may be able to help.

(b) Jubilee Board in Market Square: In Cllr Fynes absence the Clerk reported that the board will be delivered to the Estate yard within the next week or two. She will then proceed in getting the artwork designed. Lord Egremont has agreed to unveil the board at 3.00 pm Sunday 2nd June, the 60th anniversary of the Coronation.

(c) New Pedestrian Crossing in Church Street: The Chairman said a certain amount of work has been done but the crossing has not yet been laid. The Clerk said she had asked Mrs Baker when this is to be done but she has not yet got back to her. Cllr Fox said according to the plan there should be hatching on the footpath. The Clerk to contact Mrs Baker. Cllr Sneller asked about parking outside the church, the Chairman said this will not be affected.

(d) (di) Skateboard Park: The Chairman read out a statement he had prepared

Following the article which appeared in the local paper there have been a number of objections and concerns from residents of Hampers Green. As Chairman of the Council I do not feel that we can ignore the views of our parishioners. I would like to propose that the matter of the siting of the skateboard facility be passed back to the relevant committee for further discussion and reconsideration.

A discussion followed, Cllr Chandler seconded the Chairman's proposal that this should go back to the Open Spaces committee. Cllr Fox said no location on Hampers Common had actually been agreed, other Councillors thought that as there is not much in Petworth for youngsters this would have been good for them, and were sorry that a few objectors had stopped it. Cllr Fox thought the committee should have sight of the letters received by the Estate and the Council. This was agreed, the Chairman to contact the Estate.

7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(a) **District Council**

Cllr E Lintill reported on the following.

Petworth Vision Group: It was agreed in Cabinet to provide £30,000 of funding for Petworth. Mr Garroway, Economic Development Manager, and Melanie Burgoyne, co-ordinator for the Midhurst project, will be working with a team from the town.

Council Tax: With the likelihood of future cuts in government grants, a modest increase was agreed.

Local Plan: The Local Plan is now out to consultation for the parishes not within the National Park, its plan is not likely to be out for another year. The Clerk has a copy if anyone would like to see it.

(b) **County Council**

Cllr C Duncton reported on the following.

CLC: In future each County Councillor will receive £6,000 of funding, against the current £4,000, for grants.

Salt Bags: He asked how Petworth had found the delivery of salt bags. Cllr Chandler said it had worked very well, the bags had been delivered on time, but they could do with more this year.

County Council: The full Council is meeting to-morrow. Under discussion will be the need to find additional school places.

County Council Elections: As Councillors know this will be his last meeting as a County Councillor as he is standing down on 2nd May. He had enjoyed his time, although the biggest issue he had to contend with is the state of the roads.

Referring to that Cllr Robbins said he thought the roads are a disgrace, they are what you expect in a third world country, when is something going to be done. Cllr Duncton replied that the Council is doing its best, £8.25 million has been taken from reserves, six additional teams have been brought in to tackle the pot holes, and they are filling about 1,250 a week. Recently, an officer dealt with 150 e-mails in one morning. It is an ongoing problem, and a lot of it is to do with landowners, who do not always look after their responsibilities.

Lorry Route: Cllr Chandler said foliage is growing out along the Lorry Route and it needs to be cut back. Cllr Duncton took note.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman said Mr Riddell and Mr Castle would be speaking on the grant to the Fete in the Park under the next item.

9. REPORTS

(a) **Finance and General Purposes**

Cllr Allan Cllr Allan said a meeting had been held on Tuesday 5th March, the minutes had been circulated, and he updated Councillors.

Stalls: He had now seen a minute thanking the Town Council for its generous donation of £800 towards the cost of the stalls, and that the

Council will have free use each year for the Christmas Event in December.

Accounts: Copies have been circulated, these are looking good and it seems that the carry forward figure will be higher than he predicted.

Grants: Grant giving is not a statutory obligation of the Council, new criteria have been drawn up as to who grants should be given to and why. It should be something specific to Petworth.

Petworth Festival: The committee felt their request had not been specific enough and the Clerk has been asked to find out how it directly benefited the people of Petworth and, preferably, should be held in the town.

Fete in the Park: The committee had felt that a free concert in the evening was not an integral part of the fete and, as the event would break even without the cost of the concert, £2,000, a grant was unnecessary. Although the committee were not in favour they felt it should come to full Council for a final decision, which of course could be changed. The fete had requested £1,500.

The Chairman thanked him and then asked Mr Riddell and Mr Castle to speak.

Mr Riddell said following an idea from Cllr Janet Duncton, in conjunction with the Community Association, National Trust and Petworth Festival, the fete came into being in 2006. The Festival, under its new Director, has now decided to withdraw its support. Although the free concert is an integral part of the fete and is well supported, the Town Council had not been asked to support this, but the street theatre and dancers.

Mr Castle agreed with Mr Riddell but said he would like to add that the support of the Town Council is key to the visitors who come from Petworth and the wider community, and they very much valued its contribution.

Cllr Sneller, Mr Riddell and Mr Castle left the office.

A long discussion followed. Cllr Fox said it appears that the fete is making a profit, but giving that profit away to other causes. It could be said the Town Council are supporting other worthy organisations. Cllr Walsh said there is no mention of any charge for entry or car parking, even a voluntary contribution would help. Cllr Fox said this could be something the National Trust will not allow. Cllr Kemp thought that by now the fete should be established and supporting itself, he felt grants should be given to help an organisation who is trying to get on its feet. Cllr Duncton said he could not see why an event that is making a loss gives money away. Cllr Chandler concurred, they should have a contingency fund to cover any losses, the Chairman agreed, this council are giving them money to give to pass on to someone else, this year the raffle is in aid of the Sylvia Beaufoy Centre.

After further discussion the Chairman called for a proposer and seconder. Cllr Allan proposed that the F&GP committee's decision be upheld, this was seconded by Cllr Chandler and, on a vote, was unanimously agreed.

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

Cllr Sneller rejoined the meeting.

(b) Open Spaces

Cllr Chandler said a meeting had been held on Thursday 28th February, the minutes have been circulated, and he updated Councillors.

Hanging Baskets: The Community Garden cannot do them this year, the Clerk has asked Mr Spriggs, he will provide them.

Skateboard Park: Covered under Item 6 (d).

Naldrett Garden Services: The Chairman said the Clerk has sent the contract off for signature.

Horsham Road Chapel: Covered under Item 6 (a).

Cllr Kemp asked about the salt bags and where they had been distributed. Cllr Chandler said he had either put them where requested or in places he thought to be appropriate. 8 bags had been distributed. Cllr Walsh asked about their removal. Cllr Chandler said he will take them away when there is no possibility of any more snow or icy weather.

Cllr Walsh proposed and Cllr Robbins seconded that the minutes be passed. This was carried unanimously.

(c) Traffic and Planning

Cllr Fox said a meeting had been held on Tuesday 20th February, he had spoken on them at the council meeting in February, but they had not then been circulated. This has now been done, and he updated Councillors.

Crossing in Church Street: The SDNPA had bowed to local opinion and agreed that the surface can be in red. Covered under item 6 (c).

New Pharmacy: Nothing further to report.

Traffic in Grove Lane: Cllr Duncton asked for an update on the development of the Courthouse and Courtlea sites. Cllr Fox said the demolition firm had breached the conditions as demolition was not supposed to take place until a contract has been signed. This has not been done, as yet there is no time scale.

Cllr Goldthorp proposed, and Cllr Kemp seconded that the minutes be passed. This was carried unanimously.

(d) **Petworth Pages**

In Cllr Fynes absence the Clerk said the April edition is in hand - a very healthy number of advertisements, ie. a profit.

(e) **Petworth Business Association**

Cllr Kemp said there wasn't much to report.

Farmer's Markets: The businesses in Golden Square would like the market moved to another venue. The Chairman said it has already been tried out in Market Square and the car park. If they wish to discuss it then they should make a proper presentation.

Petworth Vision Group: The committee are pleased about this new initiative.

Market Stalls: Another stall has been chosen similar to the one displayed in Market Square. Asked where they will be stored he said Mr Riddell will have them in a trailer on his farm.

(f) **Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Fox said a meeting had been held on Tuesday. They are making slow but steady progress. They confirmed the boundaries, as ratified by the Council in January, and the Clerk is now registering this with the South Downs National Park Authority. Members had attended presentations by SALC and AirS, and a meeting had been held with Mr Knight who had given his full support and said the Leconfield Estate are keen to be involved. Meetings will now be arranged with the SDNPA and AirS, and advice taken on a consultancy appointment to see the group through the process.

(g) **Clerk**

The Clerk had nothing to report.

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

Website: Cllr Sneller said he had spoken with Cllr Pawsey, the progress on the Community Association's website is slow and he suggested that AirS or SALC should be consulted. Cllr Kemp said he believed his wife knew someone who had recently moved into Petworth, he will follow this up. Cllr Pawsey said she is only prepared to manage the website.

Neighbourhood Plan Meeting: Cllr Fox said that with increasing number of meetings which will involve an extra work load, some clerical assistance may be needed and he asked how an assistant for the Clerk is progressing. The Chairman said no progress has yet been made. Cllr Kemp said before anyone can be employed a job description and pay must be agreed by the full Council. The Chairman suggested, and it was agreed, that this should be drawn up by the F&GP committee. The Clerk was asked to obtain the necessary paperwork from SALC, send it to Cllr Allan, who will then call an extra meeting of the F&GP committee.

Horses: Cllr Kemp said as gates had been left open on Sheepdown some horses had escaped

Waste Bins: Cllr Kemp said the waste bins overlooking Shimmings are overflowing. The Clerk said she had just been told, she has spoken to Mr McColl and they will be emptied this week-end.

SDNP Draft Management Plan: Cllr Pawsey said she had received an e-mail asking Councils to respond to an 11 page survey by 1st April. It was considered this was too short notice to allow the document to be circulated and returned in time to collate it. After a short discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Pawsey fill in the answers, forward it to Councillors for their agreement, collate any changes and send it off.

The Chair: The Chairman said if elected at the Annual meeting in May this will be his last year. The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Dunton will both be leaving the Council and he asked Councillors to give thought to a Vice-Chairman, who will be prepared to take over as Chairman in May 2014, and two new Councillors.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.