

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 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 J Fynes, Cllr C Kemp,
Cllr A Simmons, Cllr A Sneller and Cllr B Walsh.

Cllr E Lintill (District Councillor)
Cllr J Duncton (District Councillor).

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Bramley Smith to the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr L Pearce, Cllr R Pawsey and Cllr J Robbins.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th January, having been circulated, it was proposed by Cllr Sneller, seconded by Cllr C Duncton, that they be passed and signed, subject to the following amendment.

7 (a). District Council. Skateboard Park. Line 6. Delete 'Estate' and insert 'District Council'.

5. POLICE/PCSO REPORTS

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

6. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Horsham Road Chapel: Mr Don Simpson has reportedly said that the ownership of the chapel does not belong to the Town Council. The Clerk to contact him.
- (b) Jubilee Board in Market Square: Cllr Fynes said Mr Wootton has agreed that the Estate will erect the board. She suggested it should be unveiled on Sunday 2nd June, the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation, by Lord Egremont.
- (c) Hanging Baskets: Cllr Kemp asked if it had been agreed that the Community Garden should provide the hanging baskets this year. Cllr Allan said he didn't think so, they need a poly tunnel to raise the plants and will not have funding to purchase one this year. Cllr Kemp suggested they buy the plants. It was finally agreed that the Clerk ask Cllr Robbins, who works with the Community Garden group, to obtain a definite answer from Ms Brickell. If the answer is no, then the Clerk will ask Mr Spriggs to provide them.
- (d) Pedestrian Crossing in Church Street: Cllr C Duncton said he didn't see, when everyone connected with the crossing want the colour to be red, why the National Park should insist on buff, he thought its decision should be challenged. Several Councillors concurred with him and said that there are many other red markings on the roads in Petworth, do the National Park want them all to be changed? Cllr Fox reminded the meeting that funding ran out at the end of March. The Chairman to speak to Mrs Baker.

(Clerk's Note: The National Park has agreed that, as the community are in favour of red, it will go along with that colour.)

- (e) Stalls: Cllr Allan said the Town Council's £800 donation towards the stalls that the PBA propose to buy will entitle the Council to hire them at no cost for the Christmas event each December, but not for any other event it might hold. Cllr Kemp said one of the proposed stalls had been erected in Market Square yesterday but no one had liked it, so the PBA will be looking at others. The PBA will be writing to the Council about its contribution. Cllr Chandler asked about the storage and transport of the stalls. The Clerk said they will be stored and transported by Mr Riddell.

7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(a) **District Council**

Cllr E Lintill reported on the following.

Finger Posts: These are being improved by repainting and highlighting.

Licensing: The government is cutting regulations on some licensed functions, but a start date has not yet been agreed. Information can be found on the CDC website.

Petworth Town: A meeting was held between Mrs Tudor, Chairman of the Business Association, and District Council officers from the Economic Development Team to look at the town. It is hoped to set up a similar group to the Midhurst Vision in which the Economic Development Team will work with Town Councillors, the National Trust, traders and others. District Council officers are keen to move this forward and a report will be going to the Cabinet meeting in March asking for funding to pay for the project. Once funding has been agreed, Mr Kenrick Garroway, Economic Development Manager, together with Melanie Burgoyne, who is currently working as co-ordinator for the Midhurst project, will become involved. Personally she thought it was a really good idea, it will help Petworth to promote itself as a specific entity, she hoped Councillors would support it.

Grange Centre: The framework is now up and the work is progressing well.

Skateboard Park: Cllr Sneller asked if there was any further progress. Cllr E Lintill said she had no comment to make.

(b) County Council

Cllr C Duncton reported on the following.

Finance: They are on target to save £79 million. There will be no increase in the Council Tax this year.

Potholes: Due to the wet and freezing conditions £8.5 million has been taken from reserves to carry out repairs to the roads. Six extra teams have been employed and they are repairing about 1,250 potholes a week. Part of the problem is the water has to go somewhere, they are working with landowners as the situation will only improve if they are partners in this.

Schools: Over the next 2/3 years they will have to find an extra 3,500 school places so they are working with schools in Horsham, Crawley, Rother College and the primaries.

Herbert Shiner : The building is now being used by the Sussex Youth Orchestra to store its instruments.

CLC: As the last meeting was cancelled it has been amalgamated with the March meeting and will be held at Fernhurst on Wednesday 27th February.

County Council Elections: These will be held on Thursday 2nd May.

Pound Street Road Closure: During his time as County Councillor he has never had so many complaints as he did while the work was being carried out by Southern Water. Thankfully they finished in record time.

The Chairman invited Mr Smith to speak.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Sheepdown Drive: Mr Smith thanked him and said he has come to speak about his concerns over the parking in Sheepdown Drive near its junction with Angel Street. There is an accident waiting to happen as vehicles are parked all day from beyond the yellow lines on the right hand side of the turning from the A283 into Sheepdown Drive. There is only a very narrow carriage way at the entrance to the road, built by the developers as a traffic calming measure. Vehicles coming up meet vehicles going down, and there is often a tailback resulting in a jam on the A283. The Chairman said there is a TRO in place for further double yellow lines, but County only carry out three in the North of the Downs each year. Cllr C Duncton said it is moving up the list, so hopefully the work could be carried out in 2014/2015. Mr Smith asked if the kerbs and verges which have been damaged by heavy vehicles will be reinstated. Cllr C Duncton said this won't necessarily happen. The Chairman thanked Mr Smith for coming and said the Council will keep pushing for the double yellow lines.

9. REPLACEMENT FOR MR MCCOLL AND MR SAXTON

The Chairman reported that with Cllrs Chandler and Walsh, he had interviewed Mr Michael Naldrett of Naldrett Garden Services. They have been contracted to maintain Hampers Common, and maintain and empty the bins in Rosemary Gardens. Cllr Kemp asked if this is within budget, the Chairman replied it is.

10. REPORTS

(a) **Traffic and Planning**

Cllr Fox said a meeting had only been held yesterday evening so no minutes are available.

New Pharmacy: Notification has been received that a new pharmacy, to be sited in the house next to the footpath by the surgery in Grove Street, has been received by the Primary Care Trust. This is only for information as, should it be agreed, there will have to be a planning application for change of use. Any comments have to be received by tomorrow. He asked Councillors for their views. A discussion followed, some Councillors thought the present pharmacy did a very good job, there was no need for another one which would be in competition, but others found the staff less than helpful. It was finally agreed that no representations should be submitted.

Planning Application: A planning application for a development at Woodlea had been received. Mr Hamish Robbie, acting on behalf of Mr & Mrs Howard, had come to speak to the committee. He said it is planned to move the access road to North Street, relocate the memorial stone near the entrance to the development, there will also be a new footpath to the cemetery and two parking places for visitors. 13 properties will be private housing, consisting of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses, 8 will be affordable housing managed by a Housing Association, run under a 'Cascade Mechanism', which is only for local people. These properties will only be for rent or shared ownership, but the latter can only own 80% of the property, and all properties go back to the Housing Association for further local use in perpetuity.

Angel Street and North Street: The Clerk had heard from Mr Michael Scammell, Historic Buildings Officer for the western end of the National Park, that he is working on a new Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Petworth. He would like to have a walk around the town. She will ask him for some dates.

(b) **Petworth Pages**

Cllr Fynes said she is now working on the next edition. Copy should be with her by the end of this month

(c) **Petworth Business Association**

Cllr Kemp said he had been asked to find out the answers to the following.

Farmers Markets: Who fixes the dates? The Clerk replied the District Council.

CCTV: Following the break in at Twenty he has been asked to find out who pays for CCTV as the PBA would like to find out if a camera could be put in East Street. The Clerk said they need to contact the District Council, Mr Kenrick Garroway would advise, but she's sure there would be no money available to pay for it. The Town Council contributes £5,000 per annum.

(d) **Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Fox said there is no further progress to report, the group will be meeting next month.

(e) **Clerk**

S106 Money: She had heard from the District Council that the Town Council will be receiving £21,000 from the Morgan Court development. To meet the criteria it has to be for community use for the elderly. She will be contacting various groups in the town who meet the criteria.

Holiday: She will be away from Sunday 3rd to Monday 11th March.

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

Christmas Lights: Cllr Allan said Cllr Kemp would like to buy some LED lights from this year's budget. Cllr Kemp said the older buildings cannot cope with the amount of electricity needed to power the lights, LED ones are only 2.5 kw and will use less. He had spoken to Cllr Allan who said there is about £500 left in this year's budget but he should go to full council before spending it. The budget is being reduced next year. Cllr Allan said he proposed that Cllr Kemp spends the remaining money this year but before doing so checks with the Clerk to ensure he doesn't go over budget.

Assistant to the Clerk: Cllr Kemp asked if there is any progress. The Chairman said not as yet, the first thing to do is to write a job description, he will be setting up a committee of himself and the committee Chairman.

Flower Tubs: Cllr Sneller said on several occasions the flower tubs to the west of the Co-op have been moved, he suspected to park a van there, and have not been put back. They are needed there as they stand where the bollards used to be. The Clerk to speak to the Manager.

Farmers' Market: Cllr Sneller said he will be back in time to put out the bollards to-morrow at 5.00 pm.

Rother Valley Together: Cllr Sneller reported that the contract with Age UK has been terminated, they are sourcing food and volunteers and are still looking at providing meals in Petworth. Cllr Fynes said she didn't know this, it would have been helpful if Mr Hughes had been in touch with her. As she had heard nothing she and Cllr J Duncton are looking to open a lunch club at the Hampers Green Centre. Cllr J Duncton said it will not be in competition with the existing Petworth lunch club, it will be run along the lines of one held at Northchapel and will be for the whole community. Cllr Sneller said the group wouldn't want to work in competition with them, Cllrs Fynes and J Duncton need to have a discussion with Rother Valley Together. There is funding in place for 3 years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

