

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH JUNE 2013 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr R Chandler (Chairman), Mrs A Simmons,
Mr K Lintill, Mr J Robbins and Mr A Sneller.

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

The Clerk took the chair for the election of the Chairman.

1. There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Chandler was proposed by Mr Sneller seconded by Mr Robbins. As there were no other nominations and he was willing to stand, on a vote, he was unanimously elected.

Mr Chandler took the chair and thanked Councillors for re-electing him.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mrs Simmons was proposed by Mr Chandler seconded by Mr Sneller. As there were no other nominations and she was willing to stand, on a vote, she was unanimously elected.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th April, having been circulated and passed at the Annual meeting on Thursday 16th May were signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Hanging Baskets: Mr Sneller said they are up, and he asked the Clerk if any new brackets had been bought from Austens. The Clerk said none but some small items had been bought. A discussion took place, Mr Sneller said he will look 'on line' for brackets and Mr Robbins will check prices with his wholesaler.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Seats along the Hills: Mr Sneller said these are looking very tatty and need replacing.

Mr Lintill said there was some talk of a memorial bench being placed there. The Clerk said this was requested by the family of the late Mrs Doris Scott (nee Wakeford), she had made contact with them but had heard nothing further. She will follow this up. A discussion took place on the best type of seat. Mr Sneller said similar to those bought for Grove Lane and behind the tennis courts but green in colour. Mr Robbins said they are indestructible, but considered them hideous, and thought something more in keeping with the area would be better. Mr Lintill suggested all three should be replaced at the same time. To be an agenda item for the next meeting.

8. SKATEBOARD PARK

Mr Sneller said he considered the best site is the one shown on the design, and he asked Mr Chandler if he had seen Lord Egremont. Mr Chandler replied he hadn't been able to meet him but had sent him a copy of the proposal produced by Mr Sneller with a covering letter. However at the recent meeting with the Estate Mr Knight had been far from enthusiastic saying it is sited opposite an entrance to the park.

9. ROSEMARY GARDENS

Wet Pour Surface: The surface under the slide had been vandalised, this had been repaired and the Clerk is awaiting an estimate for further repair work.

Weeds: Mr Chandler said the whole play area needs spraying but he doesn't hold a license. Mr Robbins said he does and will spray it early one morning. Mr Chandler will provide the chemicals.

Painting: Mr Lintill asked if the Clerk had received confirmation of a start date. She said she hadn't but will follow this up.

(Clerk's Note: Work will commence on Thursday 18th July and will take place every Thursday until completed.)

Trees: Mr Robbins said that when carrying out his inspection he had noted that some work is needed on the trees in the gardens. A copy of his report was circulated. The trees in question need some dead wood removed, there is some internal fluid weeping out and they need to be crown reduced by a third. Mr Chandler asked Mr Robbins if he would have a look at the trees in question and produce a report for this committee as to the amount of work needed. Mr Robbins confirmed he will do this.

Flag: Mr Sneller said the Sussex flag is still flying and referred to Mr Kemp's request for a new flagpole. Mr Lintill said no agreement has yet been made to purchase a new one and suggested he leave the Sussex flag flying.

10. HAMPERS COMMON

Mowing: Mr Chandler said he considered that the contractors are doing a very good job and it is certainly an improvement on last year.

The Ditch: In time there could be a problem with the ditch on the east side, it is becoming silted up and blocking the culvert. To clear this would mean taking away a great amount of soil, etc., and he suggested this is left for the time being.

Parking: The Kebab van seems to be there as a permanent fixture, the Clerk said she has received no further complains from residents. The Burger van is no longer there. Mr Sneller said the area outside the common where vehicles park is becoming a sea of mud, he wondered if it would be possible to cover it with a plastic mesh. After a short discussion it was agreed this would not be practicable.

11. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported everyone has paid their rent, all allotments are now let. She has had to write to Mr Ray Brown, whose allotment at Angel Street is very overgrown, giving him a month's notice. She has also written to Mr Smithson, who has done little work on his allotment in Grove Lane.

12. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

Hedge In Station Road: Mr Lintill said the hedge near the gasometer is overhanging the pavement in Station Road. The Clerk to contact Highways.

Hole in Balls Cross Road: Mr Lintill said Mr Till has reported that although he has spoken to Highways some while ago there is still a hole in the pavement surrounded by a barrier covered by a bollard in Balls Cross Road. The Clerk to contact Highways.

Horsham Road Chapel: The Clerk circulated an e-mail she had received from Alison McCann regarding the ownership of the chapel. The last mention of the chapel is in the vestry minutes of 3rd July 1863 which record: *'It was proposed to build a cemetery chapel with money that Lord Leconfield had promised to give the Rector for that purpose, and the vestry recorded a vote of thanks to lord Leconfield.'* Mr Robbins suggested contacting the Redundant Churches Commission to see if it has anything in its records. A discussion followed, and it was agreed that with ownership unknown the Town Council aren't necessarily responsible for its upkeep. However this doesn't alter the fact that there is the danger of falling masonry injuring someone. A notice could be put in the Observer saying the chapel may be demolished and see if this brings any response. Mr Sneller said the fallen wall on the Horsham Road is now covered by growth and he suggested this be left.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

