

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2014 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.30 PM

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

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

1. There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27th February, having been circulated and passed at the Council meeting on Thursday 20th March, were signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Bus Shelter: The Clerk said the Insurance Company has agreed the claim and will be paying £4,556 towards the cost. The Assistant Clerk has ordered the shelter from Queensbury for £6,244, so with the £100 excess it will cost the Council £1,788. It was agreed that the Clerk increase the insurance cover on the bus shelter to £6,000.

(b) Street Cleaner: The Clerk said that she was waiting to hear back from Waste Management as to whether it is possible to have the bins in Rosemary Gardens emptied weekly in the summer and fortnightly in the winter. A discussion took place on street cleaning and if the council should consider taking it over.

(Clerk's Note: The District Council will commence emptying the litter bins in Rosemary Gardens on 8th May, but it as to be done on a weekly basis.)

(c) Bin in Sylvia Beaufoy Car Park: The Clerk said the District Council has agreed on a bin in the car park, but the Council will have to provide it. It is negotiable as to whether they will empty it.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- (a) Hanging Baskets: The Clerk said Mr Spriggs has the hanging baskets in hand.
- (b) Brackets: Mr Chandler said the brackets have been made, they are galvanised so will not need painting and have silver chains. Mr Kemp has said he will put them up.

6. SKATEBOARD RAMP

Mr Chandler asked if there was any news on the skateboard ramp. The Clerk said she had heard nothing further. Mr Chandler to follow this up.

7. ROSEMARY GARDENS

- (a) Trees: Mr Chandler said he thought Mr Foster had done an excellent job. Mr Robbins said due to the wet weather he had been unable to prune the other trees but will coming back to deal with these.
- (b) Slide: The Clerk said as a temporary measure Mr South is seeing if he can repair the slide. It has been impossible to obtain a new one over here as it was supplied by an American company who now have no agents in the UK. She has been on the website and has their address in the States, she now needs to find the details of the slide. Mr Sneller said he is sure he still has the manufacturers book at home and will let her have it.
- (c) Spring Motor Cycle: Mr Lintill said the motor cycle has been broken away from the spring which is still in the ground. He has covered it up with a cone. The Clerk said she has asked Playsafe Playgrounds to mend it.
- (d) Inspection: The Clerk said Wicksteed have inspected the play equipment, she circulated copies and Councillors went through it. Mr Chandler and the Clerk will make a site visit and look at the items in need of repair or replacement.

8. HAMPERS COMMON

- (a) Inspection: As for item 7 (d).
- (b) Fair: Mr Sneller said that with the wet weather to-day he is concerned about the damage that might be done to the common by the Fair. This needs to be monitored.

(Clerk's Note: Mr Burdett phoned me the day he left to say when the weather is dry he will be coming back to make good any damage.)

- (c) Bonfire Site: Mr Chandler said the grass is growing back well. Mr Sneller said if necessary it could be re-seeded.

9. ALLOTMENTS

- (a) Inspection: Mr Robbins and Mrs Simmons reported on the inspection. With the exception of a few, they had found the allotments to be very well maintained.

The Clerk has details of the tenants she needs to write to. A discussion took place on the cost to the council when tenants are evicted because of the bad state of their allotment, and it was suggested that in future a refundable deposit of £50 be asked from new tenants. The Clerk said she didn't consider this to be very practicable, money could be held by the Council for many years, and it wouldn't be very easy to administer. However, after further discussion it was agreed to go ahead. The question of an increase in rent was also discussed, this and an update on the rules will be considered at a later meeting.

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

Banners: Mr Sneller referred to banners being erected in the town which he had raised at last week's council meeting and had been passed to this committee to look into. He had mentioned this on behalf of the Community Association who would like to advertise the Fete in the Park on a banner hung between The Star and the Leconfield Hall. Other events such as the Petworth Festival and the Christmas Lights 'switch on' might like to use it as well. As Cllr Lintill had reported at the last council meeting an agreement is in existence between CDC and the City Council, but they are not aware of any others. A discussion followed, it was agreed that any banner can only go up 10 days before the event, and it must be down 48 hours after it finishes. It was, however, pointed out that once 'the Cut' is opened the banner would be too low over the road and would have to come down before the event. The Leconfield Hall Trustees and Mr Connor at The Star will have to be asked for their agreement to put fixings on the wall. These would be the property of the Town Council. Finally it was agreed that Mr Sneller put in an application to CDC, Mr Lintill will speak to his wife to find out the way to go about this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

