

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH APRIL 2013 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.30 PM

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

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 28th February, having been circulated and passed at the Council meeting on Thursday 21st March, were signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Hanging Baskets: The Clerk said Mr Spriggs is supplying them, they are being planted now and should be ready late May. She had subsequently received a phone call from Mr Dann who said he could get a quote from a supplier used last year who might be cheaper, but she had told him they had already been ordered. Mr Chandler said he had spoken to Mr Ticehurst about new brackets, these will cost about £20 each. Mr Sneller said it isn't only some of the brackets but the fittings to go on the buildings that need replacing, these could constitute a Health and Safety hazard affecting the Council's Public Liability should a basket injure someone. The brackets and fittings will be checked once it is known when the baskets are arriving. Mr Sneller said he had received a phone call from Lorraine Smith from the PBA, they are looking to put hanging baskets outside shops, and he had been asked if the fittings used to put up the lights could be used. This was not agreed, they would not hold the weight of the baskets, which are very heavy, especially when wet.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr Chandler said that another walk around the parish to look at the seats, bus shelters, etc. needs to be carried out. Mr Robbins offered to do this, Mr Chandler thanked him.

6. SKATEBOARD PARK

Mr Chandler referred to the letters from residents in Hampers Green and Old Pond Mews who had concerns about noise, car parking and lack of nearby toilet facilities. Out of all the residents living there he said there were only 8 letters of complaint, and two were duplicates. The Clerk said she had only received copies of these, none from anyone else. Mr Lintill produced a drawing of the skateboard, together with a letter to his wife from Mrs Peyman giving the specifications. A long discussion took place, during which various options as to where a skateboard park could be sited were looked at. Finally, it was agreed to leave this as ongoing and give further thought to what had been discussed.

7. ROSEMARY GARDENS

(a) Play Equipment Inspection: The Clerk had circulated copies of Wicksteed's play area inspection report. There were no high risk items, mainly painting of equipment. This will be looked at more fully at a later date.

8. HAMPERS COMMON

(a) Play Equipment Inspection: The Clerk had circulated copies of Wicksteed's play area inspection report. She said she had received a phone call from the inspector saying one of the links had broken on a swing and it should be removed. She had spoken to Mr Blunt who had gone out and repaired it. There were no other high risk items, as for Rosemary Gardens, mainly painting the equipment which will also be looked at more fully at a later date.

9. ALLOTMENTS

(a) General: The Clerk said she wished to talk about three allotments.

1 Station Road: Mrs Thomas had asked if she could place a beehive on her allotment. Her knowledge amounted to a one day course on bee keeping at West Dean College. She had spoken to Mr Allan and Mr Moore, Chairman of the Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association, who said this is not enough experience to keep bees. She needs to be a member of the Beekeepers Association and have at least two years practical experience of keeping bees. She had informed Mrs Thomas accordingly.

4A Tillington Road: She had written to Mrs Murphy several times last year about her allotment, it is now covered with planks of wood made into beds, but there is nothing growing. Mrs Bowden, who has just taken on 4B is keen to have it, so Mrs Murphy has been given 1 months notice.

30 Grove Street: Mr Howard has given up this allotment but when doing so told her that Mrs Longly, who has allotment No. 6 Grove Street, has been working half his allotment for some years. As this was a verbal agreement between them she has written to Mrs Longly saying this had come to an end. She had then spoken to Mr Smithson, the new tenant, who will meet Mrs Longly and come to some arrangement about the removal of her produce.

Stakes: The Clerk said she would like to thank Mrs Simmons who, on a freezing afternoon, had come with her to distribute as many of the stakes as possible. This meant she only had to post about 10, a considerable saving on postage.

- (b) Inspection: Mrs Simmons and Mr Robbins said they have carried out an inspection. All allotments are looking really good, they did not have any to complain about. For the first time the allotments on the western end at Tillington Road, which have always caused problems, have been well worked. Mr Chandler thanked them for giving up their time.

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

Grass Seed: Mr Chandler told Mr Robbins he has ordered the grass seed but it hasn't yet arrived.

North Street: Mr Sneller said that in North Street, by Somerset Lodge, the rainwater is unable to get away and is flooding the footpath leaving a dirty puddle. The Clerk to follow this up.

Hedge on Littlecote: Mr Sneller said the hedge outside the former County Council children's home, which is now up for sale, is overhanging the footpath. The Clerk to speak to Mr Duncton.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

