

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2013 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.30 PM

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

In the Clerk's absence Mr Sneller took the minutes.

Cllr Chandler welcomed Cllr Shepherd to the committee.

1. Apologies were received from Mrs J Huggett (Clerk).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29th August, having been circulated and passed at the Council meeting on Thursday 19th September, were signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Horsham Road Chapel: Cllr Chandler asked Cllr Sneller to outline the current situation. A group has been formed as a reaction to the suggestion, made by the council, that the Chapel be demolished on health and safety grounds. It is made up of both local people and those from further afield. A public meeting is being held at 7.30 pm on November 13th in St Mary's Church. A charity will be formed to take responsibility for the chapel but, until a clearer picture emerges as to potential use, it is unclear as to whether this should be an association or a trust. It is hoped that a clearer understanding will emerge after the meeting on the 13th.

As Cllr Shepherd was unable to attend yesterday's Extraordinary Council meeting a review of the discussion was given. Cllr Sneller pointed out that the £50,000 was being offered as a gesture of goodwill to meet a need, not as a bribe. As it was hoped that agreement would have been reached by the end of this month, it is currently unclear whether this potential funding will be lost, or whether the landowners will delay the planning application.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hanging Baskets: Brackets need replacing - this is the best time to address this. Cllr Sneller will hopefully get the baskets down while putting up the lights this weekend and also one bracket to use as a sample. Cllr Chandler will seek quotations.

6. SKATEBOARD PARK

Cllr Lintill said it appears that it is unlikely that the skate park will be located at Hampers Common and another site is being considered. Once the owners have been contacted it will be brought to full council for consideration as to suitability. Cllr Lintill stated that this should more truthfully be called a 'skate-ramp' as it is not a full 'skatepark'.

7. ROSEMARY GARDENS

Trees: A planning application has been made to CDC - once planning permission is received quotations will be sought. Cllr Chandler thanked Cllr Robbins for his work on this.

Wetpour Resurfacing: Quotation of £2,400 has been accepted and work is in-hand. No date yet.

Play Area: The painting of the railings etc. is nearly finished and all agreed that the lads have done a great job. The council could never have afforded to have the work done commercially.

8. HAMPERS COMMON

Fallen Tree: This came down in the weekend's storms and is on the Martlett side of the ditch - Cllr Lintill has made initial contact with Martlett homes but is awaiting a response. It was agreed that it would be good to use the trunk from this to block the potential access to the common at the north side by both London Road and the Balls Cross road.

Ditch: Cllr Chandler said that the ditch will need attention before too long - but will hopefully last this year.

9. ALLOTMENTS

Allotments Inspection: Cllrs Simmons and Robbins have undertaken an inspection - overall all is looking very good. Allotment 17a Station Road needs attention and the tenant will be written to.

It would appear that someone has been spraying the verge (and removing the ivy from the wall) adjacent to John Kavanagh's allotment. Apart from legal consideration, concern was expressed over the negative impact on the structure of the wall. It was agreed that a letter should be written to all allotment holders warning them that it is illegal for anyone to spray without a proper license.

Hedge at Grove Lane Allotments: The hedge on part of the south side of the allotments has grown too big – with substantial trees - and needs cutting. The Clerk is informing Cdr de Pass as he owns the adjacent field.

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

Bus Shelter: Cllr Lintill said the Midhurst Road bus shelter was severely damaged by a tree felled during last weekend's storms and will need to be replaced. Hopefully this will be covered by our insurance.

Trees: Cllr Shepherd referred to trees at Egdean that overhang the road and passing traffic causes damage to properties on the other side of road.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm