



Petworth Town Council

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A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2021 AT 7PM VIA VIDEO LINK MINUTES

Present:	Cllr S. Atkins	Cllr C. Sproson
	Cllr J. Fynes	Cllr H. Desai
	Cllr C. Kemp	Cllr P. Hewlett
	Cllr A. Copus	Cllr J. Scallon
	L Smith (Clerk)	

1/21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the absence of Cllr Peet, Cllr Scallon chaired the meeting. He requested that mobile phones should be turned off.

2/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M. Peet.

3/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

4/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2020 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Atkins, seconded by Cllr Sproson and unanimously approved.

5/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

7/21 PLAY AREAS

The committee considered whether to remove the remaining fencing in place at the play area at Hampers Common. It was agreed that the fencing would remain in place with another review taking place at the next Open Spaces committee meeting. Cllr Copus reported that the new signage encouraging social distancing in the play areas have been installed at Rosemary Gardens however the content is not appropriate for Hampers Common. Cllr Copus reported that he will put up the 6 litter signs at Rosemary Gardens & Hampers Common in the spring.

8/21 ALLOTMENTS – The Clerk reported that Etherington & Spicer plan on installing the concrete steps at Station Road allotments during the week commencing 11th January 2021. Cllr Desai reported that there has been some damage to the entrance gate at Station Road allotments. Cllr Scallon asked Cllr Desai to circulate a photograph of the damage to the committee.

9/21 HAMPERS COMMON – Cllr Copus reported that the Leconfield Estate have pruned the trees along the edge of the Common but they haven't removed the cuttings. Cllr Scallon asked the Clerk to contact the Estate to request their removal.

10/21 ROSEMARY GARDENS – Cllr Sproson reported that she has been researching options for the proposed water supply and water fountain to be sited in Rosemary Gardens. She advised that there are water safety regulations that need to be considered during the installation of water fountains and also their regular maintenance. Cllr Sproson reported that she has queried the quote from Southern Water and hopes this will subsequently be reduced. Cllr Scallon asked Cllr Sproson to develop the project plan with costings for installation and maintenance, for the Finance & General Purposes committee's consideration on 19th January 2021. Cllr Kemp asked the Clerk to contact the Council's insurers to establish whether there would be an increase in the premium should the Council install a water fountain for use by the general public.

11/21 PLANTING & HORTICULTURE – Cllr Hewlett reported that the summer plants have been ordered and will arrive at the end of May or early June 2021. She advised that following the discussion with Mr D Sneller at the December 2020 Open Spaces committee, a meeting has taken place involving representatives from Petworth Primary School and the Leconfield Estate to discuss tree planting in Petworth. She reported that the young people from the Sylvia Beaufoy Centre will support with the Estate's existing tree planting schedule however the Coronavirus has limited the potential to involve them in other projects at this time. Cllr Hewlett advised that Mr J Riddell will be delivering mulch to Sheepdown and possibly also to Tillington, that she is developing a new scheme for the pots at the War Memorial and that 500 bulbs have been planted on South Grove which may be affected by cars parking in the area when dropping off and collecting children at the school.

12/21 BT PHONE BOX PROJECT – The Clerk reported that cost of the installation of the 22" hardware, the information sign & the leaflet racks as well as the development of the CMS was approved by the Finance & General Purposes committee in December 2020. She advised that she is awaiting a meeting date from Square Apple to move the project forward and that she would keep the committee updated with progress.

13/21 SPORTS GROUND UPDATE – Cllr Copus reported that the National Trust have rejected the Council's request for various changes to the proposed lease, claiming that the rent paid is low and consistent with the full repairing obligation on the pavilion building. He advised that he has asked the Clerk to undertake some research to establish what other facilities pay for their lease, and for the details of their obligations within their lease. The Clerk reported that following the committee's recent letter to the Chairman of Petworth Park Sports, a response has been received. She advised she would send the response to the committee. Cllr Kemp asked the Clerk to organise a meeting of the Councillors on the Sports & Physical Activity Working Group and with Cllr Singleton, to agree the Council's priorities in order to inform the working group's next steps.

14/21 ACTION LIST

The action list was reviewed, all updates are recorded on the attached Action List.

15/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed
Chairman

Dated.....