



Petworth Town Council

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A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY 2020 AT 7PM VIA VIDEO LINK

MINUTES

Present: Cllr S. Atkins
Cllr A. Copus
Cllr J. Fynes
Cllr C. Kemp
Cllr H. Desai
Cllr M. Peet
Cllr C. Sproson
Cllr J. Scallon
Laura Smith, Clerk

50/20 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman requested that mobile phones should be turned off.

51/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr N. Fox, Cllr D. Burden & Cllr J. Fynes

52/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

53/20 ALLOTMENTS - The committee considered the quote received from HJS Land Services to improve the condition of the PTC allotment. It was resolved that Cllr Peet would trim the allotment and advise the Clerk when this has been completed, following which the Clerk would instruct HJS Land Services to spray the allotment in line with the quote of £150. The hire of a skip to enable another clear up at Station Road allotments will be considered further at the next Open Spaces committee meeting. Cllr Kemp confirmed that he had put up the "Allotment Holders Only" signs up at Grove Street allotments.

54/20 PLAY AREA RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY - Cllr Peet advised that the proposed policy should be adopted by the Council following recommendations made by the Auditor. Cllr Kemp suggested the policy be amended to allow the Council to use an alternative approved contractor, other than Wicksteed, for the bi-annual inspections if deemed appropriate to do so. Cllr Peet proposed that subject to the recommendation made by Cllr Kemp being implemented by the Clerk, the policy be recommended to Council for approval. Cllr Peet's proposal was seconded by Cllr Desai and unanimously agreed.

55/20 HAMPERS COMMON - The Clerk advised that she would liaise with Stennetts to establish whether the mole draining of the Common could take place this month as initially planned. Cllr Kemp offered

to change the chains on the swings so they are ready to be used once the play area is able to be used again. Cllr Peet asked the Clerk to advise HJS Land Services that they should cut the grass inside the fencing at the Common.

56/20 ROSEMARY GARDENS – Cllr Peet advised that the painting of the railings around the play area was due to take place this week but has been postponed due to illness. He also reported that he would cut the railings around the benches as agreed at a previous meeting however he needs access to power from the toilet block in Pound Street Car Park in order to do so. Cllr Peet asked the Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hewlett to arrange delivery of the key to the toilet block.

57/20 PLANTING & HORTICULTURE – Cllr Peet reported that as agreed at the last meeting, a letter had been sent to Cllr Hewlett with the response received circulated to the committee. Cllr Copus also advised that Cllr Hewlett had emailed a number of queries to him directly. The content of Cllr Hewlett's letter to Cllr Peet and email to Cllr Copus were discussed by the committee. It was resolved that the Clerk would prepare a letter to Cllr Hewlett advising that she must join the Open Spaces committee and align with PTC processes or she should resign from her role as a Town Councillor should she wish to continue providing planting in the Town. It was also resolved that the Clerk would provide responses to Cllr Hewlett's questions to Cllr Copus, in this letter. Cllr Kemp and Cllr Sproson reported that face masks were available in Austens, with donations made going to Petworth In Bloom. Concern was raised that this arrangement had been made without consultation with the Town Council and Cllr Peet asked the Clerk to include this in her letter to Cllr Hewlett.

58/20 BT PHONE BOX PROJECT – Cllr Peet reported that he and the Clerk had met with Charles Winchester and Mark Rose of the South Downs National Park Authority to discuss the project and that both had been very supportive. He advised that the Clerk is working on a funding application which should result in a grant of £10,000 from the SDNPA's Sustainable Communities Fund. Cllr Peet advised that further meetings are scheduled with other Officers at SDNPA to facilitate collaboration and partnership working.

59/20 WATER STATION – Cllr Kemp reported that Southern Water are providing free water stations and suggested it would be beneficial to site a water station in Rosemary Gardens. He asked the Clerk to explore this further.

60/20 SPORTS GROUND UPDATE – Cllr Kemp reported Andrew Carrington is continuing to liaise with the National Trust regarding the 10-year lease of the Sports Ground and that a final draft would be presented to Full Council prior to signing. He advised that the National Trust have agreed to reduce our fee for the current 6 months' lease period by £300 and suggested the Town Council do not charge the Sports Association for the current period. Cllr Copus advised that this could be considered at the upcoming Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting. Cllr Peet advised that the Sports Association have received a £10,000 grant from Chichester District Council to support the Clubs during the current period and that work is underway to identify how this funding can best be distributed and used. He also reported that the Sports Association is exploring other ways of generating sustainable income streams for the longer term. Cllr Peet advised that the National Trust have sited security guards in the pavilion, who are monitoring Petworth Park during the Coronavirus pandemic. He reported that volunteers are painting the outside of the pavilion, with painting of the inside also scheduled. Cllr Atkins advised that negotiations regarding the planning application for cricket nets at the Sports Ground are ongoing. Cllr Peet reported that he would erect the dog signs in the Sports Ground which Cllr Kemp agreed to help with.

61/20 ACTION LIST

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

62/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd June 2020 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm.

Signed
Chairman

Dated.....