#### PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the ANZAC ROOM, Community House, Meridian Centre, Peacehaven on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7:30pm.

**Committee Members** 

Councillors:

Wayne Botting

Andy Loraine

Rachael Coles (Vice Chair)

Ron Maskell

Lynda Hallett (Sub)

Dave Neave (Chair)

Job Harris

Robbie Robertson

Jackie Harrison-Hicks

**Melvyn Simmons** 

Present

Councillors:

Jean Farmiloe (Sub)

**Robbie Robertson** 

Reg Farmiloe (Ex-Oficio)

Melvyn Simmons

Dave Neave (Chair)

In Attendance:

Claire Lacey - Town Manager

Campbell McBryer – Leisure and Amenities Manager

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **LA180 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Health & Safety**

Thank you for attending this evening. We are not expecting any emergency evacuations from the building, however In the event of an emergency, please leave the building by the safest route possible and meet on the grassed area on the opposite side of the car park. Do not re-enter the building until you are informed by a member of staff that it is safe to do so.

Please also switch your mobile phones to silent and refrain from using during this meeting.

Out of Courtesy this evening we have to remind you that this meeting is being audio recorded. The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the Council, committees and subcommittees was established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014. A copy of the legal definition of this PROTOCOL ON THE FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHING AND RECORDING OF COUNCIL and COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS is available.

#### <u>Vandalism</u>

Vandalism in Peacehaven is again a problem for Council Officers. Young people have been damaging memorial benches at the Meridian Centre and the information board at Memorial Park. There has also been damage to the patio seating area in the park and youths have been breaking the paving slabs against the Memorial Wall. Whilst this is completely unacceptable, the Council Officers remit is to pass on this information to the authorities and to clear up the mess. Please be assured that CCTV and photographic footage is available of the

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#### LA180 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

offenders, the police are aware and the damage will be repaired as soon as resources allow. Officers are currently researching opportunities for Stewards and Community Warden Patrols. We shall bring you more information shortly.

The Meridian Park slabs have been repaired by Lewes District Council however they have not been replaced, the void has been filled with concrete.

## Weeds

We would like to thank Sue Griffiths who volunteered to clear the weeds at the back of Community House and we trust you have been reimbursed for the salt purchased.

Debate:-

None

## **LA181 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

## Gary Johnson - Peacehaven Task Force

The rabbits at Howard Peace Park are creating so many holes in the grass and I'm fed up of turning my ankle in the holes, they need getting rid of, they are causing a danger to anyone who uses the park.

Peacehaven Town Council (PTC) recognises that rabbits are a problem at Howard Peace Park. Research has been undertaken by PTC to identify effective and humane ways of dealing with the rabbit population. At this point Council have indicated their reluctance to introduce control methods, Officers from PTC will continue to explore options as to how to humanely control the population.

The Oval requires wheelchair access; a gate needs to be in place that provides access.

Unfortunately access to the Community Garden is not DDA compliant. There was strong resistance from some residents in relation to the creation of the Community Garden. These concerns were taken into account by Council and it was felt that any changes to the structure and environment at the Oval should be kept to a minimum. As such there are no plans to alter the access to the Oval.

Also there is a mole problem at The Oval which needs addressing as its creating a danger to the public again with hidden holes.

Whilst there are clearly a number of moles at the Oval, the risk to the public from their holes has been assessed and been found to be low. The Oval is an area designated as a natural habitat within an urban environment. It is necessary to continually assess the impact of any one species on this habitat and environment. At this time the presence of the moles has not been found to have a sufficiently detrimental effect on the park as to require the introduction of control methods.

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#### LA181 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME continued

When Peacehaven Taskforce goes out to clear weeds we would appreciate it if the grounds team then follow up with weed killer to avoid us having to go back a month later to clear again.

This will be raised with the Grounds team to see if this is possible on a job by job basis. PTC would ask that Gary Johnson liaises with the L and A Manager in relation to each project.

#### Claire Lacey on behalf of Dawn Paul

Angels Walk have requested support from Peacehaven Town Council to follow up on their correspondence with Lewes District Council regarding a maintenance fee being charged for the charity abseil on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Septem ber at Friar's Bay. They feel that maintenance at the site does not warrant a charge of £310.

Cllr. D Neave to follow this up on behalf of Ms Paul at Lewes District Council.

Action: Cllr. D Neave to query with LDC charge of £310 for Angels Walk abseil event on 03/09/17

#### Sue Griffiths - North Ward

At the last meeting of this committee Councillors were asked to respond with ideas for spending CIL monies by the 14<sup>th</sup> July, can I ask how many Councillors responded and what ideas did they suggest?

Cllr. D Neave responded that none had been submitted as far as he was aware

A discussion then took place in relation to CIL and Section 106 monies and the difference between the two and the allocation of S106 and CIL.

Would the Committee consider the inclusion of consultation at an event in Howard Peace Park with individual invitations sent to the near neighbours?

Cllr. D Neave agreed that this would be possible.

Is it intended for the flag to be a Peacehaven Flag or a Peacehaven Town Council Flag?

Cllr. D Neave informed the resident that this matter will be discussed during the meeting as it is an agenda item

#### Alan Sargent - West Ward (Chair of Peacehaven Residents Association)

There is no announcement that the meeting is being recorded so would the Chair confirm that it is not? There is no reference to the rules concerning confidentiality at the close of the meeting after agenda item 14.

Cllr. D Neave informed the resident that the requirements for the meeting have been met and the announcements are written on the agenda

C Lacey noted that the Health & Safety Announcement at the start of the meeting includes this information which informs the residents in attendance that the meeting is being recorded

Signed:

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# LA181 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME continued

The Residents Association Committee and a number of members are concerned about the amount of agenda items that are being classified as confidential. The rules that apply are the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Section 100A of the Local Government Act.

Section 100A clearly sets out the rules for excluding the press and public from a meeting, the rules are the same for Council or Committee meetings. The decision if the matter is considered confidential must be made by the Council.

Mr. Sargent continued at some length on this matter.

Ref: LAZOO of O> 11/17 mv. Savgents question, in full app. (1) C Lacey informed the resident that matters may be sensitive and are therefore dealt with confidentially and having looked at these agenda items they should be dealt with on a confidential basis.

C McBryer informed the resident that Council may decide whether they wish to deal with matters on a confidential basis, as you suggest it is a matter for Council and a motion is required to exclude the public. Council may choose to exclude or include the public as they wish, taking account of the nature of the confidential material, this is in accordance with the act and follows principles of procedural fairness.

# Rob Chalk - Friend of Jubilee Green Gym

Mr. Chalk expressed his concerns that there had been insufficient maintenance at the Green Gym and that pieces of equipment had not been installed as promised.

Mr Chalk asked that this area receive urgent attention from the Council and that the pieces of equipment which have been promised be installed.

Cllr. D Neave agreed that this area is well used by residents and that it should receive support from Council.

C McBryer explained that there had been a delay in the installation of the gym equipment and that this had been promised in May by the contractor. The service is being given free of charge and it is difficult to push the contractor on this matter as it was being done by EMCOR as a good will gesture towards the Community.

C McBryer apologised for the delay and the confusion between the Gym Group and Officers of the Council, this is a priority and it may require paying the contractor for this service in order that it be completed as soon as possible.

# LA182 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. W Botting – noted (prior commitment)

Cllr. R Coles - noted (family commitments)

Cllr. J Harris – noted (holiday)

Cllr. J Harrison-Hicks – noted (prior commitment)

Cllr. A Loraine - noted (prior commitment)

Cllr. R Maskell – noted (prior commitment)

Signed:

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LA183 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
None
LA184 TO NOTE THE NON CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017 – signed at Full Council 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Noted
Debate:-
None
REPORTS
LA185 PROJECT/ACTION UPDATE
Noted
Debate:-
C McBryer advised Members that now the water leak had been resolved at Centenary Park it would be possible to simply add boot brushes to the existing facilities to enable football players to clean their boots.

Action: Cllr. R Robertson to report back to Committee with regards to the repair of the paved area in Meridian Park

Cllr. R Robertson stated that the repair to the paved area in Memorial Park is of a poor standard and is not acceptable and as the repair is the responsibility of and has been completed by the Lewes District Council

C Lacey informed Members that the land at the rear of Coffee Haven remains the property of Peacehaven Town Council and a small rental charge is being negotiated with the current tenants of the coffee shop

#### LA186 WATER LEAK AT CENTENARY PARK

contractor; he will raise this with them

The Leisure & Amenities Committee AGREE Peacehaven and Telscombe Football Club should contribute £1,000 to the cost of repairs to the drainage system

The Leisure & Amenities Committee AGREE to add a charge of £150 to the next six quarterly invoices to Peacehaven and Telscombe Football Club and £100 on the seventh quarter (a period of 21 months).

Cllr. D Neave proposed Cllr. R Robertson seconded

**Majority Agreed** 

Cllr. M Simmons against

Signed:

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#### LA186 WATER LEAK AT CENTENARY PARK continued

#### Debate:

Members discussed the amount owed to Peacehaven Town Council by the Football Club being in excess of £2,000. Council agreed that this is a community based club and as such Peacehaven Town Council should bear 50% of the cost on behalf of the club / community.

Cllr. M Simmons disagreed and voted against the motion requesting the Football Club pay the full amount.

The majority voted against this request and the motion was agreed

#### LA187 CITIZENSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Leisure & Amenities Committee AGREE to provide a response to NALC

(IF AGREED the Committee will provide bullet points for the Town Manager to send a letter to NALC with comments on Citizenship and how it impacts in Peacehaven)

Cllr. R Robertson proposed Cllr. M Simmons seconded

Agreed

Debate:-

Members agreed the Town Manager could structure the response to NALC

Action: Town Manager to respond to NALC with regards to Citizenship & Civic Engagement

### LA188 LEASE AMENDMENTS/CENTENARY PARK TOILETS

The Leisure & Amenities Committee AGREE to sub contract the cleaning of the external toilets at Centenary Park

The Leisure & Amenities Committee AGREE to budget accordingly for next Financial Year 2018-19 and include the cost of cleaning the external toilets at Centenary Park

Cllr. M Simmons proposed Cllr. J Farmiloe seconded

**Agreed** 

Signed:

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## LA188 LEASE AMENDMENTS/CENTENARY PARK TOILETS continued

#### Debate:-

Members debated the cost of sub-contracting this work and the possibility of employing staff to complete this as part of the Council caretaking team. It was decided that sub-contracting to a local business was the best option and for this to be managed by the L&A Manager

#### LA189 PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL CALENDARS

This matter was **DEFERRED** until the next Policy and Finance meeting in order that a report could be completed by the Councillors nominated to manage this project. (Cllr's Andy Loraine and Wayne Botting)

Action: Cllr. D Neave to respond at Policy & Finance on 19th Sept 2017 with regards to a Town Calendar

#### LA190 PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL FLAGS

The Leisure & Amenities Committee AGREE to purchase a Peacehaven flag costing £250 (subject to the design being agreed by residents following consultation)

Cllr. M Simmons proposed Cllr. R Farmiloe seconded

Agreed

#### Debate:-

A general discussion took place in relation to what sort of flag should be purchased, from whom the flag should be purchased and how many should be purchased. It was agreed that the Town manager will consult with residents and a flag will be purchased in accordance with their wishes and thoughts. The Town Manager is to action this and to purchase one flag subject to the above resolution.

Cllr. R Farmiloe will approach the Co-op funeral care to explore the possibility of sponsorship

Action: Cllr. R Farmiloe to contact Co-op Funeral Care with regards to sponsorship of Peacehaven Flag Action: Town Manager to consult with residents with regards to design for a Peacehaven Flag

#### **LA191 HOWARD PEACE PARK**

The Leisure & Amenities Committee **AGREE** to extensive research and to provide a public consultation with regards to Howard Peace Park for future planning of amenities

Cllr. M Simmons proposed Cllr. R Farmiloe seconded

Agreed

Signed:

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## **LA191 HOWARD PEACE PARK continued**

Debate:-

Following a general discussion about Howard Peace Park it was agreed that Mrs. Howard should be included in this event

**Action: Proceed with Howard Peace Park consultation** 

**LA192 INFORMATION TO NOTE** 

Noted

NEXT MEETING

LA193 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7:30pm

Noted

Signed:

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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Appendix 1

# Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

# Alan Sargent, West Ward, Chair of the Residents Association

There is no announcement that the meeting is being recorded so would the chair confirm that it is not? There is no reference to the rules concerning confidentiality at the close of meeting after Agenda Item 14.

# Agenda Items 15 to 19 - Confidential Reports

The Residents Association Committee and a number of members are concerned about the amount of agenda items that are being classified as confidential.

The rules that apply are the *Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960* and *Section 100 A of the Local Government Act 1972.* 

Section 100A clearly sets out the rules for excluding the press and public from a meeting. The rules are the same for Council or committee meetings. The decision if the matter is considered confidential must be made by the Council.

There must be a proper reason for exclusion. It cannot be done merely because Councillors feel "uncomfortable" discussing something in front of the public.

Confidential business is limited to:-

- 1. Engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees
- 2. Terms of tenders, and proposals and counter proposals in negotiations of contracts
- 3. Preparation of cases in legal proceedings and early stages of any dispute.

According to the NALC training guide The Council must state the special reason for the exclusion against the agenda item.

No special reasons have been identified against Agenda Items 16 to 19 and why are these Agenda Items subject to confidentiality?

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In addition by the Government bringing in the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 they are demanding Councils to be more open and accountable.

A Sargent