

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,
PETERLEE ON MONDAY 10TH JULY 2017 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: COUNK HAWLEY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- S Simpson, K Duffy, K Liddell, S McDonnell & A Long

Messrs:- G L Carne, R Moore, S Miles, R Kyle, T Duffy, S McGlen, A Wilkinson,

L Cook, J Robinson, S Kirkup & A Watson

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair Councillor Hawley was nominated to Chair the meeting.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair asked for a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Bradley Lowery.

The Chairman advised Members of the committee that part of the meeting may be recorded by both audio and video, and it may be that photographs were taken.

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors V Watson, S Franklin, (work), S Meikle & M A Cartwright. **RESOLVED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received from the Councillors listed, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

9. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Councillors K and T Duffy declared an interest in item 10 – Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

10. Minutes of the Last Meeting of the 12 June 2017, a copy of which had been circulated, were approved and signed as a true and correct record, subject to them including reference to Councillor K Duffy raising an item reported to her by a local resident relating to council vehicles driving on grassed areas.

11. Minutes of the Events Sub Committee of the 19th June 2017, a copy of which had been circulated, were accepted and signed as a true and correct record.

12. Vandalised play equipment – Woodhouse Park

The Parks & Horticulture Supervisor gave a verbal update on the current status of the vandalized play equipment in Woodhouse Park. He reported that the damaged piece of equipment was to be removed, however it was not as simple as considering if a piece of equipment could be repaired or replaced as there was also the matter of the rubber safety surfacing. He stressed the Council needed to consider a play area strategy for all of its play areas. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

13. Parks & Play Area Inspections

The Parks & Horticulture Supervisor gave a verbal update on the current inspection regime for the Town Council's parks & play areas. He advised that all areas were inspected on a daily basis with an inspect and make good basic inspection/check sheet. There is then a Weekly inspection by a suitably qualified member of staff, of the equipment with immediate action/faults being rectified where it was possible to do so. If equipment was damaged and needed a repair that could not be undertaken immediately they were closed and the office and local Members were advised and information posted on the web site. An annual inspection was also carried out by the Town Council's insurer with a more detailed report being issued to the Town Council.

A local Member asked about progress with issues in Woodhouse Park including the toilets, flower beds and a rusty rubbish bin and the Parks & Horticulture Officer offered an update explaining the disabled toilets would be fixed and operational shortly and a longer term proposal for stainless steel equipment was being prepared for Member's consideration. **RESOLVED a play area Working Party be established, with all Members being invited to take part, to progress a play area strategy.**

14. Locking and opening of Town Council Parks & Play Areas

RESOLVED consideration of this item be deferred.

15. Tree Preservation Order – Helford Road/Thames Road

Councillor Watson had submitted a motion that the Town Council make formal representation to Durham County Council to make an expedient Tree Preservation Order, (TPO), for the trees in the area of Helford Road/Thames Road as outlined in the plan which had been circulated, in order to protect the trees from being felled, pruned or otherwise damaged as part of a proposed housing development. This motion was seconded by Councillor R Moore. **RESOLVED the Town Council make formal representation to Durham County Council to make an expedient TPO for the trees in the area of Helford Road/Thames Road on the following grounds:-**

- **The trees in question are in clear view and provide enjoyment to the public and local residents;**

- **The trees greatly contribute to the landscape, character and appearance of the area, and,**
- **Many of the trees are mature or reaching maturity.**

16. Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club, Eden Lane – Pitch Drainage Scheme Update

The Parks & Horticulture Supervisor gave a verbal update on progress with sourcing external funding for proposed pitch drainage works to the Eden Lane rugby Pitch No 1. It was reported that via the RFU and Groundsmen Connected Scheme a small award for remedial repairs and a grant towards a 4 in 1 piece of equipment had been achieved. Following site inspections and visits by the RFU a vastly improved drainage scheme than that originally proposed had been put forward, at no extra expense to the Town Council, and was being developed. The Eden Lane ground would also be used to showcase best practice. The drainage and changing room improvements represented a substantial investment back into the Eden Lane site. It was reported there would be time where the main pitch would not be available however it was anticipated the second pitch could be used. Members noted the information and congratulated the Parks & Horticulture Supervisor on his efforts and partnership work with the proposed improvements at the site. **RESOLVED further progress on the grant funding bids for Eden Lane, be awaited.**

17. Rain Shelter – Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens

Members were advised the Town Clerk had sought prices from three reputable companies to hire or buy a suitable alternative rain shelter/meeting room for the Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens site. As there was no budget for this expenditure the Town Clerk was to prepare a report for the Council Meeting to be held on 24 July 2017. In considering this item Members suggested a brick built permanent structure should be considered; it was agreed that the Leisure Gardeners Association were best placed to say what would be preferred type of shelter/meeting room. **RESOLVED the report as discussed be presented to the Council meeting and in the meantime the Association be asked to clarify what their needs were in relation to a rain shelter/meeting room.**