

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2010

PRESENT: COUN D LANGAN (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, L Wood, J I Measor &
J Black

Messrs: J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, J Hardy, W M
Jeffrey, R Curtis, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins
& R Huitson

**MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE
ANY INTEREST, PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.**

70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and approved on behalf of
Councillors D & M Milsom, (hospital).

71. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been
circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 16 – Outside Seating, The Pavilion

The Town Clerk was awaiting confirmation that Broxap could meet the
estimated price of £1,600 for the seats for outside the Pavilion.

RECOMMENDED that the reply be awaited.

(ii) Minute Number 62 – War memorial – Meeting with interested
parties

RECOMMENDED that a Special Parks Meeting meeting be arranged at Shotton Hall with interested parties on Monday 22nd February 2010 at 7.30pm, to discuss this matter.

72. HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR'S REPORT a copy of which had been circulated to Members, was considered under the following headings:-

The Parks Department - Winter Maintenance Regime

The Parks Department over the past month had been primarily concerned with keeping open access to its public buildings and other Town Council owned sites. The severe temperature fluctuations, actual amount of snowfall and the increased usage of our public buildings, particularly over the holiday period had put an increasing amount of pressure on the Parks Department workforce as a whole but the Horticultural Supervisor was confident that the Parks Department were meeting these challenges. Details were given of the procedures being applied to deal with the current situation.

Other challenges the Parks Department have had to face include the large scale taking of rock salt by members of the public, together with Durham County Council not filling some grit bins throughout the Peterlee area, which had an impact on Town Council bins. The Horticultural Supervisor reported that he had negotiated a reduced rate for rock salt from DCC in exchange for the Town Council filling all of the grit bins in the Town, some of which were owned by DCC. In considering partnership arrangements it was suggested that Horden Parish Council should be approached with a request that they assist in some way with the clearing of the steps from Horden to Peterlee on Ellison Bank, or make a contribution towards the cost of work.

The Supervisor suggested a consideration for the future was to adapt the depot to accommodate the storage of rack salt.

A Local Member asked that his thanks be passed on to the Parks Staff for their excellent efforts in helping to keep the Town moving during the severe bad weather conditions.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor request that Horden Parish Council assist in some way with the clearing of the steps from Peterlee to Horden.

"Friends of Group" Public Meeting of 22nd December 2009

Following on from the public meeting of 22nd December 2009 at Helford Road regarding the formation of “Friends of” Groups for Woodhouse Park, the Dene Parks and Peterlee Cemetery it was reported a number of positive issues had arisen from the meeting. The event was attended by 16 persons in total, representing both members of the public, service providers and Members from Peterlee Town Council which was excellent.

Details of feedback from members of the public who attended the meeting were given as well as a copy of a letter from a regular Cemetery user. The main items related to the Cemetery which included theft of watering cans, problem youths etc, ejecting small children and the provision of CCTV. It was stressed that the members of the public were very grateful to the Town Council and commented that they were the only agency/organization that had made any effort to talk to users and they were very appreciative of this fact and wanted to continue to be involved in future meetings. Other related/unrelated points brought up were based upon the following: youth facilities as a whole, Hampshire Place Play Area, under age drinking. The problems of anti social behaviour at Hampshire Place Play Area were discussed and it was suggested that in an attempt to combat problems this park would be one of the first to be closed at night in the summer months.

Given the diversity of some of the issues arising from the meeting the Horticultural Supervisor considered the best form of approach to these issues would be to ‘split’ the groups into various categories relating to the area of concern, e.g. Woodhouse Park Working Group headed by the Parks Development Officer (Mr Dave Rogers) who would liaise with existing users such as Durham County Council Adult Wellbeing and Health Unit (Shinwell Centre), Greenshoots Community Projects, Durham Constabulary local beat unit and link into existing local projects and associations. The most appropriate place to hold any consultation would be within Woodhouse Park itself, e.g. youth pod or Shinwell Centre portacabin area.

It was suggested the same format could also work with the Dene Parks but also include local retail outlets such as Asda, Lidl, Aldi and any new retail outlets which may be coming to Peterlee Town Centre area and the existing Castle Eden Dene staff.

With the Cemetery Group it was proposed that the person heading this group would be the Cemetery Records Officer, (Mr Wayne Harriman)

and that the area to hold any consultation would be Peterlee Town Football Club Café Area or perhaps the Newtown Social Club.

Issues from any of the “Friends of Groups” would be conveyed back to Council Members on a regular basis via the existing Horticultural Supervisor’s report or as part of the Neighbourhood Development Officer’s Report.

The MUGA usage for the month was 63 hours.

There had been one burial during the month.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) the “Friends of” user groups be taken forward as detailed in the report and all partners be encouraged to assist in tackling the many problems of anti social behavior;**
- (ii) arrangements be made as discussed in relation to cctv cameras, particularly in the cemetery;**
- (iii) it be agreed in principle that there needed to be a review on the access regulations in relation to minors being accompanied/supervised in the Cemetery and this be the subject of a further report;**
- (iv) serious concerns be expressed to the Police on the number of Officers available on a Friday night in particular;**
- (v) the side gate at the Cemetery remain closed during school closing times.**

73. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY REVIEW – ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PEOPLE & PLACES

Consideration was given to this letter which advised that Durham Council’s Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee had established a Working Group to conduct an investigation into Anti-Social Behaviour People & Places with a focus on Environmental Crime in parks & open spaces. The Town Council were invited to highlight issues and solutions that were felt important in relation to the topic. Thoughts on how the County Council and its partners are educating, engaging and enforcing actions to address anti social behaviour issues in relation to enviro crime and private sector landlords. The Working Group aimed to publish its report in April 2010.

A Local Member expressed his concern at the problem of food litter and intended making a personal response to this consultation.

RECOMMENDED that further consideration be given to this matter at the Council Meeting and a full reply then be made by the due date.

74. CHANGING THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LANDSCAPE APPLICATION FOR GRANT

The Town Clerk circulated to Members details of the application that had reached Stage Two for Changing the Physical Activity Landscape funding.

RECOMMENDED that progress with the application be awaited.

75. ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2010/11, 11/12 & 12/13

Members were circulated with a second draft of this document for their consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the precept for 2010/11 be set at £1,407,621, representing an increase of 4% on 2009/10 with £279,186 of expenditure being met from reserves.

76. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2011/12

Further details on changes to school admission policies was circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that no comments be made on this document.

77. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

78. PAT TESTING - TENDERS

The Town Clerk advised of receipt of tenders to carry out the Portable Appliance Testing on behalf of the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that the lowest price for this work submitted by Steadfast Security of £1.15 per item be accepted.

79. ELECTRICITY – EDEN LANE DEPOT

The Town Clerk advised Members on progress with this issue of an outstanding account with British Gas covering a number of years.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- (i) approval be given for a cheque for £14,000 to be paid to British Gas, and plenary powers be granted for this to be actioned immediately;**
- (ii) a further agreement be entered into to pay the remaining approximately £9,000, (a discount of £5,000)**
- (iii) weekly readings be submitted to British Gas until a Smart Meter was installed.**

80. HIRE OF PREMISES FOR USE AS A POLLING STATION

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a request to use facilities at The Pavilion for the forthcoming Parliamentary General Election to be held 2010.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given to this use at an agreed rate of hire.

81. THE PAVILION – SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

(a) Girls Football Coaching

Permission was requested to offer a free football coaching sessions to young girls for a month over February to get them interested in sport. The total cost including the use of the MUGA would be £425.68.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given to this request.

(b) Pilates Sessions

Permission was requested for funding to cover the cost of a pilates instructor for 11 weeks at a total of £220.00.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given to this request.