

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL

ON MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2016

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames: K Liddell, L M Wood, K Hawley, S Simpson &
V Watson

Messrs: S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, R J Curtis, L Cook,
C J Metcalfe & A Watson

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

PRIOR TO THE MEETING THE CHAIR ASKED FOR A MINUTES
SILENCE AS A SIGN OF RESPECT FOR THE RECENT CASUALTIES
IN FLORIDA, USA.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors S
McDonnell, (on holiday), C J Robbins, (hospital appointments), G
Cowie, (ill), J I Measor, (ill) and H Bennett MBE.

**RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reason submitted for
absence received from the Councillors listed, on the grounds given
above, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

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

3. THORNTREE GILL LEISURE GARDENS

The Chairman asked for permission for Mr Duffy to address the meeting, this was agreed. Mr Duffy thanked Members for allowing him the opportunity to speak to them about his concerns that he felt had still not been fully clarified and he went on to outline what they were.

COUNCILLOR C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE MATTER.

RECOMMENDED the Mayor be given authority to contact the Police on behalf of the Town Council in relation to this matter.

4. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE PARKS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The progress report of the Parks Development Officer was circulated to each Member. The report covered activities at Woodhouse Park and the Dene parks areas. In considering the anti social behaviour issues in the north Denes Area it was suggested the Police Commissioner, Mr Ron Hogg, be invited to a future meeting to speak to Members about this and other issues with crime in the Town.

RECOMMENDED an invitation be extended for Mr Hogg to attend a future meeting.

5. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH APRIL 2016 WITH PLGA

Members were circulated with a copy of the notes of the meeting held with representatives and plot holders of the two leisure garden sites and the Council. A few slight changes were given and agreed. There was discussion about the management of the sites and the Town Council's involvement.

The Acting Town Clerk advised that a meeting had been arranged with Mr Banks in attendance to support and guide the Council on the preparation of new documentation for both sites, and this would be held on Thursday 7th July 2016 at 10.00am.

RECOMMENDED copies of the notes of the meeting held on 14th April, be accepted. FURTHER RECOMMENDED any damage on the sites be reported to the Council for action.

6. ITEM FROM THE CHAIR OF PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Chair had asked that this item be considered at this meeting, a sensory/Herb Garden at Woodhouse Park. A Local resident was interested in volunteering with a community garden and had approached the Mayor. The Horticultural Supervisor advised there were already established partnerships working in Woodhouse Park and it would be beneficial for any volunteers to link into existing partnerships and groups. It was also suggested that perhaps Ward Members may wish to contribute towards this project.

RECOMMENDED the Council agree to re establish the sensory garden and develop it further into a community garden in Woodhouse Park, linking into the existing groups in Woodhouse Park and the Parks Development Officer be tasked to manage and take this project forward on behalf of the Town Council.

7. CRICKET FIELD - MOTOR BIKES CROSSING THE AREA - FENCING

Members were circulated with an email reporting that on two occasions in a recent two week period he had witnessed motor bikes crossing through and over the Peterlee cricket field during a game. On both occasions there were young children playing in the game.

Councillor Watson said in response the sooner the Council could erect a suitable fence to the area the better. At the Parks & Cemetery Meeting held in April it had been recommended community consultation with Pavilion users (local tax payers), to establish what would be of more benefit to them; facility improvements or a fence around the cricket pitch. The consultation be extended to include every resident of the Town and a price be obtained for an organization to carry out such a piece of work on the Town Council's behalf.

There was considerable discussion and it was then **RECOMMENDED prices for fencing the cricket pitch at Helford Road be obtained as a matter of urgency.**

8. PARTNERSHIP WORKING – SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL - FOOTBALL PITCH RENOVATION

Members were asked to approve working in partnership with another local council in renovating their football pitch. Members asked did we

have the manpower to be able to assist and the Horticultural Supervisor confirmed he had.

RECOMMENDED approval be given to this partnership working.

9. 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, 1960 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

10. HORDEN RUGBY CLUB, EDEN LANE – PROGRESS REPORT

The Acting Town Clerk gave a progress report for Members. It was reported that since the start of the internal works on 1st May, Horden RFC had in 30 days spent there, there had been approximately 800 man hours served by members of the club in the building, (amounting to approximately £12,000). Materials had also been provided by them including bi fold doors, new windows to the front and rear at a cost of approximately £5,000. The spectator stand was half down. There was a roof leak that required urgent attention, and would be the responsibility of the Town Council. It was also reported that there were works required to the gents and disabled toilets to bring them up to an acceptable standard at a cost of £4,850, which would also be the responsibility of the Town Council. It was hoped that the move of the Club into Eden Lane would take place on Sunday 10th July 2016.

The Chair spoke about the recent vandalism and asked about the CCTV coverage for this area.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) **sealed tenders be requested for the roof works with them being opened at a Council Meeting and considered, as a matter of urgency;**
- (ii) **approval be given to the works to the gents toilets and disabled toilets, at the price given.**

It being noted both sets of works were to be paid for by the Town Council.

11. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

The report of the Horticultural Supervisor was circulated to each Member for their consideration covering the maintenance of the sports areas, the interim feasibility study for the football at Helford Road and the purchase of equipment and staffing needed for the Department to operate correctly. The report also gave details of the completion of Grot Spot No 3 and the transplanting of plants and the use of wild flowers.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) price be obtained for the on site refurbishment of the rugby posts and also for the renewal of these posts;
- (ii) the results of the interim feasibility on the provision of football pitches, be awaited;
- (iii) approval be given to the immediate purchase of a John Deere 1580 out front mower and flail unit at a cost of £19,818.00;
- (iv) approval be given to the immediate purchase of a Trimax Striker 150 at a cost of £3,600.00.
- (v) a further demonstration of the digital napping software be arranged for Members to consider the system with any benefits and savings.
- (vi) Approval be given for two trainee apprentices to be engaged, via East Durham College, at no cost to the Town Council.

12. SALE OF LAND – WALLFLOWER AVENUE

Members had been previously circulated with a copy of correspondence received from the owner occupier of 8 Wallflower Avenue who had applied to purchase a strip of land from the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED it be noted that the sale was not to proceed however should the resident wish to proceed in the near future, it be agreed it be on the value of the land as given in the District Valuer's report.

13. SALE OF CORSA VAN SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS

Members were advised this sale had now taken place, with sealed bids submitted by interested parties.

RECOMMENDED the action taken with this sale, be endorsed.

14. RECEIPT OF E MAIL MESSAGES

This item requested by the Mayor and copies of the recent e mails were circulated to each Member. The Mayor commented that she felt the e mails were rude and disrespectful. She felt they broke confidentiality and were a form of harassment and bullying.

RECOMMENDED the e emails be received.

15. BODY CAMS

The Chair raised this matter following a recent incident of vandalism at Eden Lane. The Acting Town Clerk suggested there were issues of privacy, safety, appropriate risk assessments, consultation with the staff and their Unions and advice would need to be sought in relation to staff wearing bodycams. It was also suggested Mr Hogg be asked for feedback on bodycams for staff.

RECOMMENDED this matter be considered further at the next meeting of the Health & Safety Committee.