

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,
PETERLEE ON MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2018 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, L Fenwick, S Simpson, K J Duffy, K Hawley, A C Long
& V Watson

Messrs:- A Watson, R Moore, T Duffy, G L Carne, A S H Meikle, S Miles, R
Kyle, C Watkins & A T Wilkinson

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.

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors S McDonnell, S Franklin, J Robinson & S McGlen. **RESOLVED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received from the Councillors listed, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

58. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise.

59. The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 11 December 2017, a copy of which had been circulated, were approved and signed as a true and correct record

60. Minutes of the Events Working Parties of the 5th & 19th December 2017

The Minutes from these working parties, copies of which had been previously circulated to each Member, were considered. **RESOLVED the contents of these minutes be noted and approved.**

61. Progress on New Activities

The Sports Development Officer gave a verbal update on new activities being offered at The Pavilion. It was reported there had been 32 new PACES members from the beginning of January 2018 and four new classes were now running. There was also a 6 week mindfulness course being offered. Progress was being made with Town Council public buildings and making them and staff dementia friendly. Free mini massages were being offered to staff during the month and the Town Council were working in partnership with a health trainer who would be on site to offer free advice and support. Details were given on the current sporting activities currently in season. It was asked if details of the new classes and timetables could be circulated. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

62. Progress Report of the Horticultural Supervisor

The report of the Horticultural Supervisor was not available.

63. Litter

This item had been requested by Cllr Meikle relating to a proposed anti litter campaign. Councillor Meikle spoke about his ideas for a campaign with a strap line of "Show a Litter Respect". He reported every area in the Town was suffering with litter problems and he hoped a campaign to educate residents would reduce this problem. The Town Clerk advised on measures he felt would make a difference, some working in partnership with Durham County Council and he asked for approval to take immediate action in ordering rubbish bags to be used as a start to this campaign. In considering the litter issues Members also made reference to drug taking in the Dene Parks areas and it was asked that both Ron Hogg and Chief Constable Mike Barton be invited to a future meeting. **RESOLVED approval be given to the purchase of rubbish bags as a start to the "Litter Respect" campaign and invitations be made as discussed.**

64. Lowhills Road Playing Fields

This item had been requested by Councillor Miles for discussion with regard to the open aspect and access to Lowhills Road playing fields and he gave details of problems with off road motorbikes, quad bikes and indiscriminate car parking. **RESOLVED a final warning letter be sent to all football Team Managers about parking on Lowhills Road, stressing that the conditions of hire would be strictly enforced. FURTHER RESOLVED prices be obtained for a post rail fence to run the full length of Lowhills Road Playing fields running parallel to the roadside and to make tarmac parking bays.**

65. Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens – update

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report of the Town Clerk on the positive progress of forming a new committee and constitution at Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens. Councillor A Watson said he felt he was speaking for everyone when he said all the Council wanted was for a fit and proper organization to operate the allotments and fully supported the provision of allotment sites in the Town. It was asked that the Town Clerk make further contact on the issue of volunteers on the sites working with other agencies/organisations. **RESOLVED further progress be awaited.**

66. Various Items/Updates

Members asked for an update on the fencing of Helford Road cricket pitch, which was given.

An update was also given on the building at Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens.

Councillor Hawley asked that an item be placed on the next meeting agenda – “a patio at the Pavilion”.

There was discussion on the opening and closing of play areas and the cemetery and reference was made to arrangements made over the recent Christmas period.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.