

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS &  
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 10<sup>H</sup> APRIL

PRESENT:- COUN H Bennett (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- A E Laing & M Milsom  
Messrs: T Jones, R Kyle, R Curtis, B Scott  
C J Metcalfe, W M Jeffrey, G Calvert,  
D Coates, G Cowie, R Jones, E W Hall, D  
Milsom & R Huitson

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

IN THE ABSENCE OF BOTH THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR H BENNETT WAS NOMINATED TO TAKE THE CHAIR.

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 79 – Edenhill & Chapel Hill North Residents Association – Hanging Basket Event, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006 – Request to transfer venue from Parks Depot to Newtown Football Ground

The Town Clerk asked for endorsement of action taken in agreeing to re-locate this activity to the Newtown Football Club at Eden Lane.

**RECOMMENDED that the action taken in this regard, be endorsed.**

94. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT

The Chairman welcomed Keith Parkinson & Ian Hoult, District of Easington, to the meeting. Mr Parkinson wanted to update Members on the impact of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act, particularly focusing on the sections of the Act that were already being used by the District Council, for example litter fines and changes relating to the control of dogs. With litter the provisions had been changed so that fines could be set at different levels, anywhere from £50 - £80, and he outlined the options; he stressed that on the spot fines seemed to be more effective and certainly less costly than court action.

Mr Parkinson stressed that he was keen to make an impact on the state of the local environment and wanted to improve standards on the whole rather than as a one-off. He gave details of the zoned working that was to commence mid-April where there would be a Team responsible for an area.

In closing he stressed that the proposals would be more likely to make an impact if the District and Town Council worked together and that the Town Council would be consulted formally on partnership working in this regard.

The Chairman then opened the meeting for a question and answer session.

The Town Clerk advised he had already attended two meetings at the District on this legislation, and there were a number of issues which the Town Council needed to consider before making decisions on this matter. He advised that a further meeting was to be held with District

Officers after which he hoped to be able to give the Town Council a further report on a possible way forward.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their attendance at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

95. ESTATE MANAGER'S PROGRESS REPORT, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was considered under the following headings:-

Woodhouse Park  
Shotton Hall  
Sports Playing Fields  
Eden Lane  
Denes Area Litter Pick  
Parks Staff Training  
Spring Bedding  
Cemeteries, and  
Play Areas

When considering the Denes Area litter pick Members noted that shopping trollies had been returned to Asda and the press had been involved on the day. The Leader of the Council asked if there was any reward given for the recovery of trollies by Asda and if Asda had been asked to come and collect the trollies in the first instance.

Following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED that the Estate Manager write to Asda advising that in future they would be notified of any shopping trollies found on Town Council owned land, they would then be allowed a specified amount of time to come and recover/collect them. If they had not been collected by then, they would be taken and scrapped by the Town Council.**

The Estate Manager was pleased to report that the Passmore Pole sculpture had been successfully re-located from Peterlee Town Centre to Shotton Hall grounds. The Town Clerk suggested that a

press release be issued in due course and perhaps someone be invited to come to Shotton Hall to make a formal presentation on the significance of the sculpture.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk be given authority to make suitable arrangements.**

96. WOODHOUSE PARK - COTONEASTOR HEDGE

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter received from Mr Gary Wheatley of 30 Cleveland Place in response to the Council's recommendation to retain the hedge.

It was suggested that Members visit the site and view the hedge in question and the issue be re-considered at the next meeting of the Parks & Cemetery Committee.

**RECOMMENDED that this item be considered at the next meeting of the Parks & Cemetery Committee.**

97. LEASE OF WOODHOUSE PARK – NOTIFICATION OF RENT REVIEW

Members were advised of receipt of notification of a rent review by the District of Easington for the lease relating to Woodhouse Park, which was due to be reviewed on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1998.

**RECOMMENDED that the result of the review be awaited.**

98. HELDFORD ROAD – DESIGN REPORT – FIRST DRAFT

Members were circulated with the first draft of the design report for the proposed new build for Helford Road Pavilion.

The Town Clerk reported that there was to be a public consultation session on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April from 3 – 8pm where the Council's

Architect would be in attendance to discuss the plans with members of the public.

**RECOMMENDED that the first draft be accepted and the results of the public consultation be awaited.**

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

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM, COUNCILLORS MR & MRS MILSOM DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

100. NVQ WORK PLACEMENT

This matter had been deferred from the last meeting.

**RECOMMENDED that further consideration be given to this matter at the Council meeting.**

101. HELFDORD ROAD – TRAINING AREA & FENCING

Members gave consideration to a report prepared by the Town Clerk regarding this matter.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Council agree in principle to granting a 21 year conditional lease or similar interest to Peterlee Pumas RLFC to occupy, but not exclusively, the proposed training area at Helford Road Playing Fields, on the proviso that**

**should the Pumas fail, the lease/interest would revert back to the Town Council.**

102. ENGLAND SEA ANGLING TEAM - HOME INTERNATIONAL – REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LEAVE

Members were asked to give consideration to the request from a Town Council employee, Mr Wayne Harriman, Cemetery Officer, to be granted paid annual leave to represent England in the 2006 Home Internationals Shore Championships, to be held in Montrose Scotland from 28<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2006.

**RECOMMENDED that approval be given for Mr W Harriman to have additional paid leave on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 to be part of the Team to fish in the Home Internationals in Scotland.**

103. CEMETERY OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The Town Clerk advised that he had been approached by the Cemetery Officer with a request that the Town Council apply to enter the Cemetery of the Year Competition 2006.

One of the criteria to be met in the competition was that the Cemetery must have an appropriate notice board and this was a criteria the Town Council currently do not meet.

**RECOMMENDED that the Council agree to enter the Cemetery of the Year Competition and the Town Clerk be given authority to proceed in the purchasing of an appropriate Information Board for the Cemetery at Eden Lane.**