

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2006

PRESENT: G COWIE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: A E Laing, J I Measor & M Milsom

Messrs: R Kyle, W M Jeffrey, C Robbins,
D Milsom, R Jones, D Coates,
R Huitson, B Scott, A Geldard,
B Joyce, D Milsom & G Calvert

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

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors T Jones, C J Metcalfe, H Bennett & E W Hall.

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

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 18(b) Shutters at Woodhouse Park
RECOMMENDED that this item be referred to the Council Meeting.

(ii) Minute Number 20 Annual Parks Inspection

The report of the Parks Inspection held on the 19th August 2006 was circulated to each Member. Items from the report requiring attention were as follows:-

RECOMMENDED

- (a) **The Estates Manager prepare an estimate for maintaining the formal cotoneaster hedge, adjacent to Cleveland Place, so that Members could make an informed decision regarding the future maintenance of this hedge;**
- (b) **The Estates Manager investigate the costs of purchasing equipment required for pruning at height as against the cost of hire and prepare a report on his findings;**
- (c) **Approximately 1 ½ of the 3 Herbaceous beds in Woodhouse Park be retained and replanted where necessary in the Autumn;**
- (d) **A Special Meeting be held to discuss all issues relating to Peterlee Cemetery, with the Cemetery Officer in attendance.**

(iii) Minute Number 21 – Youths Gathering on Lowhills Road

The Town Clerk reported a letter of thanks from a resident of Northampton Road for the quick response shown regarding trouble being experienced on Lowhills Road.

RECOMMENDED that the letter be received.

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

WOODHOUSE PARK

The Rainbow Turquoise Unit had been repaired using metal chequer plate flooring. Nottingham City Council did the works at a cost of approximately £1,600 including materials.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

Vandalism is ever increasing at the Park and a window has been broken in the mess room/office, pictures of which were circulated at the meeting. Video footage has proved conclusive and it is anticipated that a prosecution will take place.

RECOMMENDED that this issue be considered at the Security Sub Committee.

HELFORD ROAD

The Show went well, although inclement weather had effected the condition of the football pitches. All fixtures have been suspended until reinstatement is complete. Straw put down for wet conditions had been bailed and taken to Lowhills Allotments for recycling.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

SHOTTON HALL – Passmore Pole Lighting

RECOMMENDED that the lighting works be held in abeyance.

NEWTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

The new cooker has been installed. Thanks to sufficient rainfall, the pitch was now in good condition after extended drought conditions. A new tap had been fitted during the drought but low water pressure means irrigation equipment will not function properly.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted, and the Estates Manager make enquiries into how additional water supplies can be obtained.

EDEN LANE CEMETERY

The new cemetery sign had been erected. There has also recently been a lot of vandalism in this area. The Parks Department are having to liaise with an increased number of families who have had their loved one's graves desecrated. This has been highlighted in the Peterlee press. Last year quotes were obtained from Steadfast Security for camera systems.

RECOMMENDED that this issue be considered at the Security Sub Committee.

BEDDING

Rainfall has increased the quality of bedding.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

GARDEN COMPETITION

The overall winner of the Garden Competition was Mr and Mrs Gibson, 125 Eden Lane. Feedback from the event was that next year the judging should be brought forward from the beginning of August to the beginning of July.

RECOMMENDED that this suggestion be taken on board and the Garden Competition be brought forward to the beginning of July for future years.

30. **SHINWELL CENTRE GARDEN GROUP**

The Town Clerk circulated for Members a letter received from Colin Bainbridge of the Shinwell Centre Garden Group giving progress on their projects.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

31. **VANDALISM & DAMAGE ISSUES**

- (i) Woodhouse Park
- (ii) Acre Rigg Social Club
- (iii) Eden Lane Cemetery

RECOMMENDED that the issues relating to Woodhouse Park and Eden Lane Cemetery be referred to a meeting of the Security Sub Committee.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a report from the Council's Architect be awaited with suggestions on how to combat problems being experienced at Acre Rigg Social Club.

32. **HELTFORD ROAD**

- (i) Proposed Sports & Social Club, Helford Road – Design Report (3rd Draft)
- (ii) Letter from the Chairman of the Sports & Social Club

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Chairman of the Sports and Community Club advising that the Club would welcome the opportunity to commence discussions on all aspects of the management of the new facility.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- (i) **the Helford Road Working Party meet with representatives of the Sports and Community Club at the earliest opportunity, and,**
- (ii) **that the 3rd Draft Design report be received, subject to comments previously made to the Town Clerk by a Local Member**

33. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENS ASSOCAITION

- (a) Notification of New Officials
- (b) Notes of the meeting held on the 23rd August 2006

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

34. 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, PERSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES(ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS)ACT 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT

35. RENT REVIEW – WOODHOUSE PARK

Members were circulated with a letter received from the District of Easington regarding the rent review for Woodhouse Park.

RECOMMENDED that the offer of collecting the back rent over a period of five years be taken up.

36. ATTENDANT'S SICKNESS

The report of the Estates Manager was considered.

RECOMMENDED that the Estates Manager be given authority to employ operatives from a private company on an “as and when necessary” basis to cover for the Attendant’s sickness.

37. PETERLEE TOWN FC (LTD)

The Town Clerk reported that he has received a request from the Chairman of Peterlee Town FC (Ltd) requesting the Town Council to nominate a Member to sit on their Committee.

RECOMMENDED that this request be considered at the Council Meeting.

38. EDENHILL BMX TRACK

The Town Clerk advised that he received information from the Landscape Architect, Groundwork East Durham, that the Ambulance Service required a tarmacadam surface to access the proposed site and this would cost in the region of £83,000 - £85,000. Unfortunately this could not be accommodated within the budget for the scheme and meant that a BMX track could not be constructed. As an alternative it was suggested that play of equipment older for children be placed at Eden Lane for use by older young people.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and approval be given for the placing of equipment at Eden Lane.