

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2006

PRESENT: G COWIE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: A Laing & M Cartwright

Messrs: R Kyle, D Milsom, H Bennett MBE,
R Curtis, D Coates, R Huitson, G Calvert,
C J Metcalfe, E W Hall, T Jones &
R Jones

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

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors; J I Measor, W M Jeffrey, C Robbins, B Scott & M Milsom.

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

MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 41(b) Cotoneaster & Conifer Hedges – Woodhouse Park, Hedge & Clearance Work in the Dene Parks

The Town Clerk circulated to Members a quotation received from an outside contractor for this work, and also reported to Members costings for the work to be carried out by in house staff.

In view of the closeness of these costs the Town Clerk had asked the Estate Manager to review these costings.

A local Member expressed his concern as to why when the Town Council has its Parks Staff were we seeking prices from private companies.

The Town Clerk explained that grant funding may be available for part of this work and it was the grant funders who required tenders to be sought.

RECOMMENDED that this matter be further considered at the next Council meeting.

53. THE PARKS SUPERVISOR'S PROGRESS REPORT, a copy of which had been circulated to Members under the following headings:-

a) Woodhouse Park

On two occasions the main gates into the Park had been damaged by vehicles trying to gain access when the Park was closed. This had resulted in repairs having to be carried out to the gates. It was hoped these were isolated incidents which would not reoccur. The Parks Supervisor stated that if the problem persisted then further steps would have to be considered in the future.

The planting of the seasonal bedding was now complete. Grass cutting and maintenance within the Park had been carried out where necessary.

The addition of 8,500 daffodil bulbs to 'The Field of Hope' was due to commence soon.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) Cemetery

The planting of the seasonal bedding was now complete.

The roses were in the process of being pruned (topped) for the Winter period. The north hedge line had been lightly pruned alongside the headstones to aid access for visitors attending graves.

The installation of concrete rafts was currently taking place.

More regular visits by the attendants were taking place in an attempt to reduce vandalism in the Cemetery.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

c) Eden Lane

Approximately 100 cubic metres of bark mulch had been delivered at Eden Lane. The only cost to the Town Council was the haulage charge and the JCB hire for one day. This mulch would be used on the shrub beds at Woodhouse Park and in the Cemetery.

The Parks Supervisor advised that the MUGA continued to be well used, although there had been problems with the floodlights tripping out. This problem was being dealt with.

The tennis courts were still proving to be popular and were in regular use.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

d) Fine Turf

Both bowling greens and the cricket square had been scarified, spiked, topped, dressed and seeded.

The football fields were over marked weekly and rolling and spiking would be carried out over the Winter months when conditions permitted.

The grant application forms for the upgrading of the football posts from square to round were being submitted to Sport England next week. If successful, this work would hopefully take place before the beginning of next season.

The Parks Supervisor reported that he had obtained three quotations for the supply and spreading of a sand dressing to the new pitch at Lowhills Road which would bring this pitch into operation next season. This would give more flexibility allowing

the ‘resting’ of pitches, whenever necessary, to improve their quality.

RECOMMENDED that the lowest quotation received from Thompson’s of Prudhoe, in the sum of £19.25 per tonne, be accepted, and an order be placed.

e) Play Areas

Weekly safety inspections were taking place and any damage was being repaired promptly.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

f) Shotton Hall

The planting of seasonal bedding had been completed.

The East Lawn had been weed sprayed, scarified, hollow cored, top dressed and seeded to improve its quality. This process would now take place each Autumn.

The Winter/Spring hanging baskets had been delivered and would be in place by the end of the week.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

g) Highways

The repair of footpaths around Peterlee was being carried out by the Community Highways Worker.

The removal of any illegal signage was taking place and the cleaning of road signs was being carried out.

The Community Highways Worker had been of great assistance during the planting of the seasonal bedding and was a valued member of the Parks Team.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

h) Peterlee Football Club

Further quotes were awaited in relation to the heating system at the Social Club. Three companies had been approached to submit quotations for the renewal of the pipe work, as requested at the last meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

i) Floral Displays

The planting of seasonal bedding had been successfully completed in all areas.

The flower beds on Surtees Road Roundabout, Burnhope Way Roundabout and the A19 bed at Passfield Way had all new top soil added to them to improve their appearance.

The planting of the roadside floral containers was now taking place.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

j) Helford Road

The Bonfire and Firework Display at Helford Road went ahead as planned. Once again, large crowds turned up and everyone seemed to enjoy the events of the evening.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

54. PETERLEE CEMETERY

i) Tree Planting & Seating – Memorial Schemes

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members for consideration the initial suggestions made by the Cemetery Officer regarding the above Schemes.

RECOMMENDED that Members pass any views to the Estates Manager so these schemes could be further developed.

ii) Cemetery of the Year Competition

A copy of a letter had been circulated to Members advising that the Peterlee Cemetery had unfortunately not been successful in the Cemetery of the Year Awards 2006.

The Clerk added that this was the Town Council's first attempt and hoped next years attempt would be more successful.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

55. DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

The Town Clerk drafted the above Policy and circulated a copy to all Members, requesting endorsement and implementation.

RECOMMENDED that this Policy be implemented for the protection of both Members and Officers of the Town Council.

56. REPLACEMENT OF FOOTBALL GOAL POSTS

The Parks Supervisor advised that five sets of goal posts required replacing at Peterlee Town Football Club, this would bring the Club up to date with F.A. Rules. An estimated cost to the Town Council would be £500.00 per set, however, there may be grant funding available which may meet half these costs.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be agreed and noted.

57. COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE, BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT – BUSINESS PLAN

A copy of the above document had been received and circulated to all Members for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the document, be received.

58. 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 & PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1961 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

COUNCILLOR B JOYCE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION THAT ENSUED.

59. HELFDORD ROAD – NOTES OF MEETING BETWEEN HELFDORD ROAD WORKING PARTY REPRESENTATIVES AND HELFDORD ROAD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH OCTOBER 2006

A copy of the above notes had been circulated to all Members for their information.

The meeting had been extremely useful and there had been a good repor between the parties.

A local Member expressed the view that much detail needed to be sorted out before any formal agreement was entered into. The Clerk advised this had been recognised at the initial meeting and regular meetings would have to be held as the scheme developed.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

60. PETERLEE PUMA’S (RUGBY LEAGUE)

The Town Clerk advised Members that the Peterlee Puma’s had recently won the National Club of the Year. Members agreed this was a fantastic achievement.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk send a letter of congratulations to the Peterlee Puma’s.