

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2007

PRESENT: COUN. R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Messrs: W M Jeffrey, D Milsom, W M Jeffrey,
H Bennett MBE, D Coates, T Jones &
E W Hall

**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 R CURTIS WAS
NOMINATED TO TAKE THE CHAIR.**

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors; M Milsom, A Laing, G Calvert, R Jones, B Scott, R Huitson and G Cowie.

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

MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 63(i) – Green Fires Policy

In considering this matter it was suggested that the Estates Manager contact and discuss green fires with the Fire Authority and also the Council's Insurer's.



RECOMMENDED that the Green Fires Policy be implemented on a trial basis with the Estates Manager monitoring this closely.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that both the Fire Authority and Zurich Municipal be contacted in this regard.

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

a) Woodhouse Park – Cotoneaster Hedge

As requested the Estates Manager had obtained costings as detailed in his report.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) Donation

The Estates Manager advised that two young girls had been caught damaging a window, who were now involved in community work and had donated two planters to the Town Council as a way of saying sorry for the damage that they had caused. Photographs were made available at the meeting for Members to view.

RECOMMENDED that these planters be located in the Shinwell Centre Garden, Woodhouse Park.

c) New Barrier – Woodhouse Park

As Members had instructed a new barrier had been installed in front of the main gates outside Woodhouse Park. The new barrier had already been damaged by vandals whilst being erected, but now was fully installed. Members would be kept up dated on progress. It was reported that a brick pillar had been damaged also and it was asked that the Estates Manager arrange for a repair by North East Ironcraft.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

d) Sensory Garden – Woodhouse Park

Members were circulated with suggested improvements to path and planter.

RECOMMENDED approval be given for this work to go ahead at a cost of £758.20, to be carried out 'in house'.

e) Woodhouse Park Bulb Planting

These works were now in progress and would continue for the next few weeks with 8,500 bulbs to be planted.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

f) Lowhills Road New Pitch

Sand dressing had now been ordered and the first dressing was due to be applied week commencing 10th January 2007, weather permitting.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

g) Peterlee Football Club – Social Club Heating

As Members had requested, D.T.A. an Engineering Consultant had been contacted through Burns Architects. D.T.A. would carry out a thorough inspection to determine the work required and prepare a specification.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

h) Water Pressure

The Leader of the Council was currently making investigations into this matter.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.



i) South Denes Hedge Line Work

As requested by Members following a query from a Member, the Estates Manager had spoken to the Tree Officer at the District of Easington and following a site meeting, he had confirmed that the hedge does not come under the hedgerow legislation of 1976, nor was it within any Tree Preservation Order. Due to the fact that the area was being utilised for anti-social behaviour by persons unknown, the Police and Town Councillors had requested the removal of the hedge. The District of Easington had offered no objections to this course of action.

Maple Tree Services had been authorised to carry out removal of the hedge and this had commenced on 9th January 2007. The Town Council Parks Staff were to carry out a needle search before commencement of any works, using the Council's fully trained staff.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

j) Leisure Gardens – Polytunnel Application

The Town Clerk was currently seeking clarification on the planning aspects of the polytunnels. Currently the policy was "that the erection of temporary growing structures be allowed between 1st April and 31st October each year, subject to the prior approval of the Estates Manager".

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk advise Members as soon as he had a reply on the matter from the District of Easington.

k) Leisure Gardens – Pin Kerbs on Road Way

The Estates Manager reported that when weather permitted, new pin kerbs were being installed on the road ways. This would be on-going throughout the winter months.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

l) Shelter Repairs

The Estates Manager advised he had spoken with East Durham Homes with regard to their quotation for improvement of the leisure garden shelter and asked them to resubmit this using a steel door instead of a roller shutter door, a reply was still awaited. He was also still trying to source other companies interested in these works.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

m) Hill Rigg House

A new bin had been placed in the location requested and had been installed permanently by concreting in position as recommended by Members.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

n) Cemetery

The Estates Manager reported that he had spoken to Durham County Council with regard to the proposed road directional signs and they advised that there was no possibility of obtaining additional quotations from other Companies, as only they were allowed to work on their land and erect any kind of signage.

In addition, the price given by the County Council was a special discounted price, as there was not a considerable amount of cost in the signs involved, but the work in erecting them.

RECOMMENDED that an order for the signs be placed with Durham County Council.

o) Eden Lane – New Scheme Play Scheme

Work had began on this area with removal of some poplar trees detrimental to the scheme at the Architects instruction/advice. There were seven trees in total and the Architect advised that these be removed. The Estates Manager's opinion from an arboriculture point of view was that the trees seemed to be sound. The Architects had checked and there were no tree preservation order's on them, they stated that by nature surface rooting trees existing



tarmac damage was evident and that any new tarmac laid may eventually be subjected to damage.

RECOMMENDED that these trees not be removed and the Estates Manager make further investigations into the cost of works to restrict the trees growth.

p) Fine Turf

Soil analysis was being carried out, free of charge by Gem Professional on Peterlee Newtown and Lowhills Football Grounds as well as bowling greens.

This would facilitate a more specific fertilizer programme to be implemented.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

q) Request to Attend the British Turf Management Exhibition, Harrogate

Permission was sought for the Estates Manager to attend the annual B.T.M.E. at Harrogate to be held on Wednesday 24th January 2007.

RECOMMENDED that the Estates Manager be given permission to attend this Exhibition on the Town Council's behalf.

69. POLICY ON GRASS CUTTING IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Members were circulated with details on the grass cutting service carried out by the District of Easington. Members felt that the grass cutting service should be available to all residents and there should be no difference should the house be privately owned or rented.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

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



70. PROPOSED SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, HELFORD ROAD,
PETERLEE – NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH
DECEMBER 2006

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

RECOMMENDED that the Minutes be received.

71. 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.

72. SHOTTON HALL – RE-SURFACING OF DRIVEWAY

The Estates Manager had received quotations for repairs to sections and resurfacing to the driveways at Shotton Hall. The prices submitted were as follows:-

FIRM A	£8,687.00
FIRM B	£3,950.00
FIRM C	£4,130.86

RECOMMENDED that the lowest quotation submitted by Batson Environment and Leisure of Tow Law in the sum of £3,950.00 plus VAT, be accepted.

73. HELFORD ROAD SPORTS GROUND

Members were circulated with details received from the Council's Architect, of the two quotations from Surveyors to undertake a full topographical survey of the whole of Helford Road Sports Ground and adjacent features.

RECOMMENDED that the lowest tender submitted by ABACUS, be accepted and the Town Clerk be given plenary powers to act immediately in this regard.

74. EDEN HILL PLAY AREA

Members were circulated with a copy of a tender report prepared by Groundwork East Durham in respect of Eden Hill play area.

RECOMMENDED that the lowest tender, that of Brambledown Landscapes Ltd, be accepted and the Town Clerk be given plenary powers to act immediately in this regard.

75. PETERLEE NEWTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB - BOILER

The Estates Manager advised that the boiler at the above premises had been condemned by Gas Force and they had quoted a price of £1,600.00 to provide a new replacement.

RECOMMENDED that the Estates Manager obtain a further two quotes and liaise with the Town Clerk, the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes and Parks Committee as to the best value quote submitted, and following this have approval to place an order as soon as possible for this replacement boiler.

Howie