

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 12TH MARCH 2007

PRESENT: G COWIE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: A Laing

Messrs: D Coates, D Milsom, T Jones,
W M Jeffrey, H Bennett MBE,
B Joyce, R Jones, R Curtis,
T Geldard & B Scott

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

90. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors:- R Huitson, G Calvert, M Milsom, C J Metcalfe, J I Measor, C Robbins and E W Hall.

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

- i) Minute No. 77 – Leisure Gardens – Poly Tunnels
- ii) Minute No. 78 (ii) – Mole Traps – Reimbursement
- iii) Minute No. 78 (f) – New Fire Regulations

RECOMMENDED that the Council's decision on the above items, be noted.



iv) Minute No. 89 – Youth Pod

The Town Clerk reported that he had informed the appropriate Officer at the District of Easington that if the Youth Pod had not been upgraded and ready for installation at Woodhouse Park by the end of the March, the Town Council were unable to accept the Youth Pod.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be agreed.

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

a) Woodhouse Park

Work on the Sensory Garden Improvement Scheme was now well underway with new paving and path construction nearly complete.

The Parks Development Officer was now at the Park and there had been no significant vandalism reported at the weekend. He hoped this would give a way forward and together with more planned events would reduce vandalism.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) Shotton Hall - Tarmac

Bateson Environment had now completed the driveway tarmac repair works at Shotton Hall which had been completed on schedule with the minimum of disruption to traffic and business.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) **these repair works be closely monitored**
- ii) **in future, all tenders be on the basis of a set specification**

c) Shotton Hall – Moles

As requested by Members, following a meeting with Rentokil Pest Control, they had now submitted a written quotation for the control of moles at Shotton Hall. A copy of which had been circulated to all Members for their information. The quotation was for inside

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the grounds of Shotton Hall only, as they could not carry out control work on unfenced land.

RECOMMENDED that the Estates Manager contact DEFRA and the District of Easington regarding other recommended service providers and report back with findings.

d) Cemetery – Update on CCTV Lighting & Cemetery

Work was continuing on the CCTV and Lighting Scheme at Eden Lane Cemetery. Lighting columns had been erected and the connections to the power supply had been made by NEDL. Two CCTV Columns were still awaited which hopefully would be arriving within the next two days and would be erected as soon as possible. Most of the lawn areas affected by trenching of the cables had now been reinstated. Photographs of the works were displayed at the meeting for Members to view.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

e) Eden Lane Play Area – New Youth Equipment Scheme

As resolved at the Council Meeting held on 19th February 2007, the remaining five poplar trees had now been felled after reports from the District of Easington, the Groundwork's Trust Landscape Architects and Maple Tree Services. Replacement tree species BETULA Jaquemontil extra heavy standards would be planted as a more suitable replacement by Brambledown Landscapes. A photograph of the work had been displayed at the meeting for Members to view.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

f) Peterlee to Horden Footpath

Work continued on the Peterlee to Horden footpath, as Debmatt remained on site to start Phase Three. Some reinstatement had been carried out and the Estates Manager would ensure that this work would continue to meet a satisfactory standard. Photographs of the works were displayed at the meeting for Members to view.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.



g) Machinery Purchase

As requested, a purchase order had been placed with Clayton Machinery for the new John Deere X595 compact tractor at a cost of £7,995.00. Delivery by Claytons would be within the next few weeks.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

h) Seasonal Gardener

As approved by the Council, Seasonal Gardener, Barry Nicholson, had been appointed on a week to week basis.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

i) Goal Posts

The Town Council had been successful in a grant application for five sets of new goal posts through the Football Foundation's Replacement of Goal Post Programme. A purchase order had been placed with preferred supplier, Edwards, as recommended by the Football Foundation.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

j) Scout Centenary Bed

A flower bed design had been submitted to Peterlee Scouts to mark the Scouting Centenary and had been approved. Plants for this bed had been ordered with the usual summer bedding plant order from Darlington Nurseries. The bed would be situated on Passfield Way/A19 trunk road, as this would facilitate a better visual impact. The costs of plants for this bed was not dissimilar to the normal costs of plants used in previous years. A design layout had been circulated to Members for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

93. EVENT AT WOODHOUSE PARK – SUNDAY 4TH MARCH 2007

The Town Clerk advised that the event held at Woodhouse Park in liaison with Castle Eden Dene had been a good turnout, but, those who had attended did seem to enjoy the event.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and the Parks Development Officer submit a report after such events.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Natural England staff at Castle Eden Dene for their support.

94. EXTRACT FROM AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY PETER HORROCKS, NORTH EAST REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NATIONAL ALLOTMENT HOLDERS SOCIETY FOR THE NSALG QUARTLERLY MAGAZINE

A copy of the above extract had been circulated for all Members for their information. The article highlighted as a good example of how the Leisure Gardeners Association and Town Council had worked together to draw down substantial grants.

RECOMMENDED that the contents of the extract be received.

95. 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.

96. MANUAL HANDLING AWARENESS COURSE - OBJECTS

The Estate Manager advised Members that he had received a price from Peterlee based Training Company 'Beyond Learning'. A Manual Handling Awareness Course – Objects, which could be carried out 'in house' at a cost of £400.00 for a group of maximum 10 no. delegates.

In addition, the Estate Manager had also obtained a price for a Grave Digging Training Course, this was to ensure there were sufficient staff available to cover for holidays or sickness. The cost would be £450.00 for a one day training course carried out 'in house'.

RECOMMENDED that these two training courses be booked.

97. TOWN COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL OFFER TO ENTER INTO RENEWED LONG TERM AGREEMENT

The Town Clerk advised Members that Zurich Municipal, the Council's Insurer's had offered the Town Council a discount of £9,921.51 on the annual premium upon the renewal of the Council's five year insurance term.

RECOMMENDED that this offer be accepted.

98. ESTATE MANAGER'S PROGRESS REPORT

i) Relocation of Existing Youth Shelter from Eden Lane

The Estate Manager requested Member's views as to where to relocate the old youth shelter from Eden Lane. The shelter had been taken down by Brambledown and was now being stored at Eden Lane Depot. A cost of £670.00 had been obtained by Ludas Leisure to repaint the shelter.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred for further consideration.

ii) Lowhills Road Warden's House – Quotation for Gas Fire

The Estate Manager advised Member's that whilst routine maintenance was being carried out at this property, Gasforce had condemned the existing gas fire for safety reasons.

RECOMMENDED that the Estate Manager make further investigations and report back to a future meeting.

99. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – UNCLASSIFIED
YODEN ROAD, PETERLEE – EASINGTON DISTRICT –
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Notification had been received from Durham County Council advising that an Order was being made under the provisions of Section 14(i) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of which would be to close to vehicular traffic from Monday 12th March 2007, a 55metre length of Yoden Road lay-by adjacent to numbers 104 – 130 Yoden Road, Peterlee.

The closure was necessary to enable carriageway resurfacing and island reconstruction works, which would probably take some five weeks to complete, to be carried out to the length of road.

Throughout the period of closure no alternative route would be available to vehicular traffic.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

100. ACRE RIGG SOCIAL CLUB – PERIMETER FENCING

The Town Clerk advised he had received a letter from the Secretary of the above Social Club informing him that the Club were not in a financial position to make a contribution towards any perimeter fencing. The Club asked if it would be possible to meet with the Council to discuss the matter.

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A local Member suggested an alternative method of protecting the roof which could be investigated.

RECOMMENDED that a meeting with Club representatives, be agreed.

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