

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 10th DECEMBER 2007

PRESENT: C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom & L Wood

Messrs: D Milsom, R Curtis, W M Jeffrey,
T Jones, H Bennett MBE, C Robbins,
J Hardy, R Kyle, J Alvey, D Langan,
R Huitson & E W Hall

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

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs M Cartwright, Mrs J I Measor, G Cowie, B Scott and C Austin.

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

MATTERS ARISING

In connection with Minute No. 49 Lowhills Road Car Park – Replacement of Recycling Banks it was noted that the application had been withdrawn.



56. HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR'S PROGRESS REPORT, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, was considered under the following headings:-

a) Cemetery Recommendations

Work had commenced within the Cemetery to prepare for the 2008 Cemetery of the Year Award. This work would consist of major pruning works along the fence lines together with a reshaping of borders, due to grass die back, followed by an intensive litter pick and general clean up of the whole site.

The soil heap would be removed and used to fill in holes at the site of the multi use games area at Eden Lane. This measure would also make it more difficult for motorcyclists to gain access, which would be a problem in this area.

A suggestion put forward by the Cemetery Records Officer, was the possible inclusion of a quiet area, within or close to the children's section, which could be themed to reflect that it was an area for grieving parents. Mr Harriman had a number of ideas which could be worked into a potential project for the Cemetery. Another approach that had been suggested was to survey Cemetery users regarding the above idea. This would be an added advantage if the project went ahead as the Council would have demonstrated public consultation, which was one of the set criteria for the judging of Cemetery of the Year. Any surveys carried out may also give the Council opportunities to gain positive publicity.

The judging criteria for the 2008 Awards would not be released until February 2008. As the criteria changes from year to year the Supervisor stated that he was using last year's requirements as a base line for any improvements, and would then review ongoing works and any additional improvements that may be required in February 2008.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor keep Members up to date on progress with all items relating to the Cemetery.

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b) Peterlee Town Football Club

Due to their ongoing success in the Wade Northern Alliance League, Peterlee Town Football Club were seeking to be promoted into the Arngrove Northern League. Although confident that the Club could achieve this, there would be some implications relating to the grounds suitability. The Supervisor had invited Mr Tony Golightly from the Arngrove Northern League to carry out a pre-inspection of the grounds/club facilities in order to ascertain what works would need to be carried out, and also any financial costs which may be incurred by the Council to have any works completed. If successful in their promotion to the Arngrove Northern League there was the possibility of an increased public profile for both the club and therefore Peterlee Town Council, by association.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor's further report be awaited.

c) Grit Bins

All grit bins were now out at the normal locations with regular checks on their contents levels being carried out by the Council's Highways/Parks Staff. As a pilot scheme, the Supervisor intended to put in place a pro-active maintenance regime, the intention would be to put down rock salt, as opposed to grit at two locations, i.e. Shotton Hall and Peterlee Cemetery before frosts/ice were forecasted to try and prevent the formation of icy patches. Although grit was still to be used by the Parks Department throughout other areas, it had been found that in order for the grit to be reusable with our present machinery it had to be a) perfectly dry and b) to be of a uniform consistency. The Supervisor had also requested two members of staff be available to attend the sites from 7.00am when this occurs the member of staff would also finish work one hour earlier to account for the early start, therefore incurring no extra wage costs. This work would be on a voluntary basis with staff members being placed on a list in advance and then asked to carry out the work as any bad weather arose.



A local Member drew attention to the need for a grit bin to be located at the junction of Westmorland Rise and Lowhills Road.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor provide all Members with a copy of the current locations of the grit bins and any requests for changes be considered.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk speak to the County Council regarding a bin on Lowhills Road/Westmorland Rise.

57. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENS – GREEN WASTE SCHEME

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the above Association, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members.

A local Member advised that this site was being used as a dumping ground and in some instances the burning of rubbish/waste materials had been witnessed.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) **the Town Clerk send a strongly worded letter to the Association and it be displayed on the notice board for all members information.**
- ii) **the Town Clerk arrange a meeting inviting the Leisure Gardeners to discuss the green waste scheme.**

58. DURHAM COUNTY BADGER GROUP – CONSULTATION

Correspondence relating to the above subject had been received and circulated to all Members, for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be received.

59. QUALITY PARISH SCHEME – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES – DRAFT RESPONSE

The Town Clerk had drafted a response on behalf of the Town Council and asked if there were any amendments.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk's response be agreed.

60. AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT

Correspondence relating to the above item had been circulated to all Members. Members had no comments on this policy.

RECOMMENDED that the policy, be received.

61. ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 2007/2008

The Town Clerk advised that both his report and copies of the Estimates of Expenditure 2007/2008 would be available at the Full Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the Estimates of Expenditure 2007/2008 be deferred to the Full Council Meeting to be held on Monday 17th December 2007.

62. 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.

63. HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR'S PROGRESS REPORT

a) Temporary Trainee

Members were advised that the Town Council had been approached by Groundwork Trust with regards to the temporary placement, until February 2008, of a trainee on the ILM Scheme (Intermediate Labour Scheme). Mr Hickson had previously been on placement at the McGregor Golf Driving Range in Wheatley Hill, which had gone into administration. Mr Hickson came highly recommended by Groundwork Trust who would continue to pay Mr Hickson's wages in full, including any training costs or other expenses he may incur. Mr Hickson was currently training for his PA1 and PA6, Herbicide/Pesticide Spraying Certificate(s) and was also training with strimmers and brush cutters. Mr Hickson had

also trained to use mini-diggers and had gained practical experience of horticulture coupled with some sports turf experience. Mr Hickson would work a four day week at the Council and spend one day training/job seeking with Groundwork Trust.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be accepted.

b) Completion of Seasonal Employment

Mr B Nicholson had been employed since April 2007 as a seasonal member of staff within the Parks Department and his contract was shortly to conclude. Mr Nicholson had been a reliable and conscientious member of staff, with 100% attendance record.

RECOMMENDED that a letter of thanks and best wishes be forwarded to Mr Nicholson.

64. ACCESSIBLE W.C. THORNTREE GILL LEISURE GARDENS, PETERLEE

A letter had been received from Burns Architects with three competitive prices for the above works, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the Leisure Gardens be notified of this information and be asked to try and find a suitable grant.

65. DEATH OF MR TOSH IRVING

The Town Clerk advised Members of the death of Mr Tosh Irving. The funeral was to take place on Tuesday 11th December 2007 at St. Cuthbert's Church, 11.00am.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk send a sympathy card to Mr Irving's family on behalf of the Council.

Glover