

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 14th JANUARY 2008

PRESENT: Coun. G COWIE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood & J Scott

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

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

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Robbins, C Austin, M Milsom, M Cartwright and J I Measor.

67. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENS ASSOCIATION – GREEN
WASTE SCHEME

The Chairman welcomed two Officials from the Leisure Gardens Association to the meeting to discuss a green waste scheme.

The Officials advised that at present the majority of members were composting their own waste, they did try to encourage all members to carry out this practice.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) **the Officials advise their members of the Council's dissatisfaction at the manner in which the skips which had been provided by the Council were being misused and the provision of skips would cease if this practice continued;**
 - ii) **it be incorporated into the Association's Rules and Regulations that all gardeners were encouraged to compost all of their green waste;**
 - iii) **the overall situation be closely monitored, and, if required a further meeting be convened to resolve the matter;**
 - iv) **the Secretary of the Leisure Gardeners Association place an appropriately worded notice on site with regard to the skip usage and composting of green waste.**
68. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which has been circulated to each Member, were approved.

MATTERS ARISING –

- (i) Minute No. 49 – Lowhills Road Car Park – Replacement of Recycling Banks
The Town Clerk informed Members that the recycling bank would remain at the present location.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

- (ii) Minute No. 56 – Grit Bins – Lowhills Road/Westmorland Rise
The Town Clerk advised receipt of a reply from Durham County Council advising that no funds were available to purchase an additional grit bin at this location.

RECOMMENDED that the Ward Members for this location liaise as to whether they wished to re-site one of their allocated bins to cover this location, and, if so, to inform the Horticultural Supervisor as soon as possible.

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

a) Helford Road M.U.G.A. Scheme

The Supervisor advised Members that works seemed to be going satisfactorily, and the Contractors envisaged these works would be completed by the end of February 2008, which included a two week delay due to inclement wet weather.

A Member reported that he had visited the site and stated the site was in an appalling state and was also concerned at the time scale of these works, as when the contract commenced the end of October 2007 it was for a twelve week contract.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk contact Burns Architects in relation to this Contractor and ascertain in writing why the contract was running late.

COUNCILLOR H BENNETT MBE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

b) Eden Lane 'Water Leak'

The Supervisor reported that a large water leak had been discovered prior to Christmas, within the Eden Lane Car Park/under the Peterlee Football Club/Social Club area. The Northumbrian Water Board had been contacted and had referred him to Pipework Solutions, as the leak was not coming from a Northumbrian Water main, but, from the Council's own domestic feed. The leak appeared to be coming from either under the floor of the Social Club or from an area within the Football Club itself. After consultation with Burns Architects it had been decided that the Town Council should complete several test digs at the most likely areas that the leaks could occur. Whilst carrying out these test digs it had become apparent that the main feed into the Social Club was in a poor state. The Architect suggested that it may be prudent to by pass the feed under the Club and put in an alkathene water pipe tapping into an existing alkathene pipe from Eden Lane depot. The advantages would be that by bypassing the old metal

pipe it would effectively be renewing an area of pipe work which due to the corroded state of the pipe would alleviate future problems. Another possible advantage would be that by eliminating a large area of water pipe from under the concrete floors of both the Football Club and the Social Club it could ensure that any possible future leaks were detected at an early stage, therefore, reducing problems under the buildings themselves.

In view of the urgency of this matter an order had been placed with S Griffiths and Son, of Houghton le Spring, for this work to be carried out immediately.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council's Architect's report, be awaited, and the action taken in this regard, was endorsed.

c) Pre Inspection of Peterlee Newtown Football Club

Member's had been advised at the December 2007 meeting of Peterlee Town F.C. intention to seek the promotion to the Arngrove Northern League. Mr T Golightly, had inspected the pitch and grounds and reported that there should be no problems with the Club's playing facilities should they be successful in achieving promotion. Mr Golightly had requested that the paved stones within the terraces, and could be problematical in a DDA perspective, and should be repaired. As the problem areas appeared to be localised to step edgings the Supervisor advised that this matter could be addressed using an appropriate surfacing material, with these works being carried out by 'in house' staff.

As the area in question was also mentioned in the Zurich Municipal Health and Safety Review Report of 2007 as an area that would require attention at some time in the future, the Supervisor recommended that this work be carried out as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor be given authority to ensure to have these works carried out as soon as possible.

13 Jul
2009

70. PETERLEE & DISTRICT SUNDAY LEAGUE – PARKING AT LOWHILLS ROAD

The Town Clerk advised that a reply had been received from the League Secretary of Peterlee and District Sunday League Football Team, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Horticultural Supervisor advised that the surrounding areas to the football pitch had been damaged when a member of the Sunday League had been erecting the nets, as he had driven onto the pitch with a vehicle.

The Supervisor had also been carrying out an exercise whereby he had monitored the number of vehicles attending last Sunday's League match and out of 30 no. vehicles, 24 had parked on the grass and 6 in the provided car park next to the bowling green.

Members agreed that stronger action needed to be taken in unauthorised parking and it was suggested that a wheel clamping company be engaged or drivers be issued with on the spot fines.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk investigate the legal implications in engaging a wheel clamping company and report back to Members with the outcome.

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. PROPOSED MEMORIAL SEATING/TREE SCHEME

The Cemetery Officer, Mr Wayne Harriman had prepared a detailed draft report, a copy of which had been circulated to Members for consideration. He asked Members if they had any questions or comments. The Cemetery Officer advised that he

obtained prices for 100% reclaimed teak chairs, which by January 2009, would be the only type available. A Member asked prices could be obtained for recycled plastic seats.

Members were extremely satisfied with the suggestions put forward by the Cemetery Officer.

RECOMMENDED that the scheme be agreed with 100% reclaimed teak seating being used. The Cemetery Officer liaise with the Town Clerk on implementation of the scheme.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a report detailing the number of burials be circulated to Members on a monthly basis.

73. SECURITY CAMERAS - QUOTATION

The Supervisor advised that two security cameras had been stolen from the Parks Department. Members discussed various security measures that could be implemented.

RECOMMENDED that security measures, as discussed, be implemented as soon as possible.

74. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – AGREEMENT FOR PARTNERS CONCERNING CASTLE EDEN DEN NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

A copy of the above agreement had been circulated to Members for their information. The Clerk advised that this was for the balance of this financial year, a new one would be negotiated from April 2008.

Members made reference to the other contributions made by neighbouring authorities and asked the Town Clerk to make investigations so as to ensure all contributions were equal.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk make investigations as to the contributions made from other authorities.

75. SALE OF THE FORMER WARDEN'S HOUSE – LOWHILLS ROAD – FEE QUOTATION FROM AGENTS

The Town Clerk had circulated a report to all Members for consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the fee quotation submitted by Alexander and Bowtell Estates of Peterlee, be accepted in the sum of £750.00 plus VAT and £200 for a Home Information Pack, be paid on engagement of the agent.

76. ILLNESS – MR BILL TODNER

The Town Clerk sadly advised Members that Mr Bill Todner, a joiner who had carried out works for the Council for a number of years, had been diagnosed with aggressive M.S., and had been admitted to Sunderland General Hospital.

RECOMMENDED that a basket of fruit be sent to Mr Todner with the Town Council's heartfelt thoughts, and best wishes.