

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2008

PRESENT: Coun D LANGAN (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood & M Milsom

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Cowie, J I Measor, C J Metcalfe & C Robbins.

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

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 93(f) Peterlee in Bloom, a copy of a breakdown of costs for this event was circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that this be re-considered at the next meeting.

- (ii) Minute Number 97 – Eden Lane Football Club – Request for Financial Assistance



To confirm the Council decision of making a donation of £300.00 towards the three final home games along with the decision made at the Eden Lane Football Club Liaison Group that £100.00 per home league game be made to both the men's and ladies senior teams as sponsorship coming out of the profits of the Social Club.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

3. EAST DURHAM ARCHERS

The Chair welcomed Mr Arthur Armstrong, Club Secretary, East Durham Archers who had come along to the meeting to outline their request to use the two bottom fields at Lowhills Road for their Club during the Summer months and to site a storage cabin for their use also.

Mr Armstrong reported that the Club had just over 50 persons in membership and had an age range of 8 to 75 years. The Club had been established for nearly two years and hoped to be able to extend it's membership even further to disabled and other groups.

He explained that the Group were in need of outside facilities and that they had sourced a grant of £10,000 but this needed to be spent by September 2008. The Group currently use indoor facilities at Denehouse School but need outdoor and storage facilities and he suggested that an ideal site would be at the bottom of Lowhills Road. The area was required for Thursday and Sunday afternoons through to evening.

The Chairman then opened the meeting for a question and answer session.

In summary it was suggested that if acceptable the cabin could be located within the rear fenced area at Hill Rigg House next to the Scouts Hut, although this may mean moving the fencing slightly.

RECOMMENDED that the request to use land at Lowhills Road and to site a storage cabin be agreed in principle and the Town Clerk investigate the planning implications.

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

FENCING – Ellisons Bank, Wallflower Avenue & Naisbitt Avenue, Horden

Consideration was given to the report but following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED that further consideration be given to alternatives open to the Council at a future meeting.**

B) BEDDING PLANTS

C) SPORTS FIELDS

A local sports field contractor had expressed an interest in helping Peterlee Town Council improve its bowling green and cricket facilities by providing specialist aeration equipment and establishing a pro-active maintenance regime. There would be no direct costs to Peterlee Town Council and the practices used would be conveyed to a number of smaller parish councils e.g. Thornley, Wingate, in order to educate their grounds staff in current practices which may in turn lead to extra work for the company involved.

RECOMMENDED that this offer be investigated further.

D) SCRAP THEFTS

RECOMMENDED that investigation be mad into what alternatives could be used for the replacement of manhole covers at the Eden Lane Pony Fields.

E) CEMETERY – BURIALS AND INTERNMENTS

The following figures were received from the Cemetery Officer for burials and internments that had taken place from April through to May;

	Burials	Ashes
April – May	3	1

There had been more enquiries about the Memorial Scheme, the figure now stands at 6 information packs being sent to potential customers, and one memorial bench has been purchased through the scheme.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

5. PONYFIELDS – TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

Members were circulated with a copy of the topographical survey produced by Archaeological Services, Durham University on behalf of Peterlee Town Council via a grant accessed by Groundwork East Durham.

RECOMMENDED that the survey be received.

6. PETERLEE TOWN LADIES FC - LETTER OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION, ALONG WITH REQUEST TO USE THE NEWTOWN GROUND FOR TRIALS

Members were circulated with a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Peterlee Town Ladies FC. It was stressed that both the Peterlee AFC and Ladies Team needed to work together for the use of facilities at Eden Lane.

RECOMMENDED that this request be considered at the next meeting of the Eden Lane Liaison Group.

7. PERFORMANCE PLAN 2008/09

A copy of the draft Performance Plan for 2008/09 was circulated to each Member for their perusal and comment.

RECOMMENDED that the Performance Plan be placed on the Council agenda for further consideration.

8. PLANNING PERMISSIONS

(a) Re location of porta cabin – Woodhouse Park

The Town Clerk reported that this application was to be submitted by Steve Clarke, Youth Development Officer, District of Easington.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(b) New Sports and Social Club Building – Helford Road Sports Grounds, Helford Road

The planning permission for the above scheme had been received.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

9. USE OF HELFORD ROAD & EDEN LANE BY JAZZ BANDS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of requests from the Zodiacs and Legionnaires to use Helford Road and Eden Lane Playing Fields on 21st June 2008 and 19th July 2008.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given to these requests and it be recorded in their approval letters that it would be appreciated if the Jazz Bands would show similar support for the Town Council in making sure that Bands were available annually for the Peterlee Show in August.

10. PLAYGROUNDS – LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS FORUM

Members were advised of a decision taken by Durham County Council in not submitting a bid for monies available in a pilot or pathfinder scheme to develop children's play areas. Members asked that a letter of disappointment be sent along with a request for information as to whether this had been an Officer of Member decision.

RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.

11. EDEN LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL – EASEMENT

The Town Clerk advised that he had received a further request from Durham County Council for the granting of an easement but to date he had not been furnished with an exact location of where this easement was required.

RECOMMENDED that this request be approved "in principle" but considered further at a future meeting when it was anticipated an exact location would be known.

12. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1961 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

13. HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR'S PROGRESS REPORT, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, was considered.

RECOMMENDED that action taken in employing Gary McCourt to the post of Seasonal Gardener, be endorsed.

14. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

RECOMMENDED that the Service Level Agreement with Durham County Council for Building Services, be entered into on the terms as set out in the agreement.

15. PROPOSED SPORTS & COMMUNITY CLUB, HELFORD ROAD – NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 12TH MAY 2008

The notes of the site meeting of the 12th May 2008 for this contract, were accepted.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

16. PC LANDSCAPING & MULTI SERVICES – PURCHASE/USE OF THE ESTATES DEPARTMENT

Consideration was given to this request, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that this request be refused, as per Council Policy.

17. EDEN LANE PLAY FACILITIES – CONSIDERATION OF SCHEMES RECEIVED

Members were asked to give their consideration to the schemes submitted by the seven companies that had tendered for these works.

RECOMMENDED that further consideration be given to the tenders and schemes submitted at the Council Meeting.

18. SUMMER PARKS INSPECTION

A Local Member asked if a date had been arranged for this Summer's Parks Visit. It was confirmed that a date had not been set but that Members would be advised in due course.

RECOMMENDED that a date be set for the Summer Parks Inspection.

19. HASWELL & DISTRICT MENCAP SOCIETY – 1ST ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Members were advised of an open invitation to Members to attend the Mencap & District Society 1st Anniversary celebration event at the Lisa Dixon Centre on Saturday 21st June 2008 from 10.00 am – 3.00pm, with a mixture of family fun events, information and stalls.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

20. PETERLEE CRICKET CLUB

The Town Clerk advised that he had received two requests from the Peterlee Cricket Club to :-

- (i) Site a storage container at Helford Road and
- (ii) Install concrete pads to fix the practice nets whilst in use, which could be accommodated on the outfield.
- (iii) To replace and then have advertising on the score box doors.

Members were not keen to have more containers sited at Helford Road and asked that a scheme be submitted to allow this to be discussed fully.

RECOMMENDED that further details be obtained on the proposals.

