

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2008

PRESENT: Coun. C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J I Measor & M Milsom

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

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

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors:- M Cartwright, J Black, G Cowie and C Austin.

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

In connection with **(i) Minute Number 39(a) – Damaged Gates – Eden Lane** the Town Clerk advised that a response was awaited.



In connection with Minute Number 43 – Restoration of Pasmore Pavilion – Delivery Access the Town Clerk advised a response was awaited.

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

a) WINTER AND SPRING BEDDING

The Supervisor had inspected the spring bedding plants at Woodburn Nursery as per previous reports and had been assured that the plants would be ready for the third week of October. Having inspected the plants he was satisfied that the plants would withstand the Peterlee climate, given the very extraordinary weather throughout the region, and were of a decent quality. As stated in a previous report the roundabout at Surtees Road would be left 'fallow' once the summer bedding had come to the end of its season, this would enable Winter maintenance to be carried out. As in previous years hanging baskets would be ordered and placed in position at Shotton Hall in March 2009.

The redundant summer bedding would be composted within the Tree Nursery, at Essington Way, in a bid to cut transport and costs incurred by the Parks Department.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) SPORTS MAINTENANCE

All sports fields had been aerated and rolled, fertilised and seeded as per the seasonal maintenance programme, with the exception of Helford Road, which due to damage from the Peterlee Show, would not be completed in the required time, particularly in relation to the Peterlee Helford United Pitch adjacent to Oakerside Drive Play Area. The areas of damage were limited to the 18 yard box and also related to diesel spillage in certain areas. Although he was confident that the problems could be rectified, this may not happen until mid October at the earliest due

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conflicting priorities e.g. cricket / rugby damage and also planting regimes.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

c) MUGA USAGE

Due to the Parks Department moving into Winter seasonal hours, the opening and session times had been changed. The MUGA would now open at 8:30am and close at 8:30pm. Users with block bookings had been informed and this had not created any problems. As the days shorten enquiries from the public were increasing, but due to block bookings availability at peak times was very low.

Usage August – 58 Hours

Usage September – 69 Hours

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk and Horticultural Supervisor investigate how the hours of night opening could be extended by alternative manpower resources.

d) LOWHILLS ROAD

Works would commence on the completion of reducing the hawthorn hedge within the 'Beck' area of Lowhills Road, located at the back of the football pitches, after a number of complaints had been received in relation to lost footballs within the very dense hedge area, which ran the entire length of pitches three to five which were currently used by various Sunday League teams. Other problems associated with the area were fire and fly tipping. The intention was to cut back the hawthorn to ground level and chip the excess to provide weed cover, until the hawthorn rejuvenated itself and became more manageable. The wooden fence which ran down Ellison's Bank had once again been subject to vandalism. The Supervisor intended to replace the fence like for like with wood. He also intended to plant the rear of the fence with semi-mature hawthorn. There were a number of these at the Essington Way Nursery site and this therefore would incur no purchase costs, as these items were surplus to the Parks Department requirements.

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By implementing these measures vandalism should be reduced around the site.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

e) DENE PARKS

Work would be carried out to reduce the overhanging branches and dense undergrowth within the North Dene area, together with the removal of several dead or dying trees, as noted in the Parks Inspection of 2008. The Supervisor had approached Easington District Council requesting them to remove a large tree, which due to fire damage, was beyond the capability of the Parks Department staff, and a decision was awaited. If the District of Easington were unable to carry out this work he would make a similar approach to the Castle Eden Dene staff.

RECOMMENDED that in future the Supervisor approach Castle Eden Dene staff as a first point of call.

56. CEMETERY OFFICER'S PROGRESS REPORT

a) CEMETERY

Cemetery staff and the Highway Worker had completed the installation of five concrete rafts, each measuring six meters. These areas had been reinstated using soil from previously dug plots. Work was currently underway to bring the lawned areas at the entrance of the Cemetery to a higher standard than in previous years. Work was also being carried out to repair taps situated within the Cemetery, which had become the source of a number of complaints from visitors. Due to the age of the taps the manhole bodies were corroding in certain areas and were tending to stick preventing use. Maintenance was still underway and the number of complaints was being monitored by the Cemetery Officer.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

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b) BURIALS AND INTERNMENTS

Given below were the figures for burials and internments that had taken place from 3rd September to the 7th October;-

	<u>Burials</u>	<u>Ashes</u>
September - October	3	2

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

c) MEMORIAL SCHEME

To date, one seat had been purchased through the scheme and 5 no. cherry trees. The tree scheme was proving to be more popular with potential customers as the trees were seen as a long term investment. The Cemetery Officer was pleased with the progress of the scheme and the resulting effect of trees being planted increasing the aesthetic appeal of the Cemetery itself.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

57. NHS CONSTITUTION - CONSULTATION

A copy of a letter drafted by Councillor E W Hall had been circulated at the meeting for Members reference. Members were in support of this campaign but enquired if it was known whether Mr Cummings, the local MP had put forward any particular argument on behalf of the residents in the area.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk contact Mr J Cummings MP to ascertain his thoughts on this matter, and whether he had submitted any representations of this matter.

58. THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HELFORD ROAD WORKING PARTY OF 9TH SEPTEMBER 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

59. 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

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THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1961 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

60. ITEC SITE – PETERLEE - RELEASE OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANT

The Town Clerk had circulated for Members consideration an offer letter from Modus Properties in respect of the above.

RECOMMENDED that the Council's Valuers be advised that the financial sum offered would be acceptable, if a more favourable deal could be agreed on the overage.

61. NEW COLLEGE, BURNHOPE WAY, PETERLEE

A Member- referred to the Council's flower display planters leading to the entrance of the newly built College on Burnhope Way, Peterlee. Concerns were raised as to what parking plans/picking up and dropping off points were envisaged for this site.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk contact the Highways Department and report back with outcome.

W. H. H. H.

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