

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2009

PRESENT: Coun. C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, M Milsom, J Black,
L Wood & J I Measor

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

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

110. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor G Cowie.

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

In connection with **Minute No. 109 – Pathfinder Youth Theme
Event** the Town Clerk advised that since the last meeting the
Young Peoples Working Group had written asking whether the
Council would consider granting use of Eden Lane Football Club
and pitches for the above event rather than Helford Road.

RECOMMENDED that this request be agreed “in principle”.

112. ASDA

The Chairman welcomed Lindsey Goldsborough, Asda Manager, to the meeting and a question and answer session ensued.

The following items were raised:-

a) Trolleys

The Manager advised that the Peterlee Store would be under-going a refit commencing the end of March. This included the installation of new metal mats, which would prevent customers taking the trolleys from the store. Asda advised they had also started to chain up the majority of the trolleys on an evening within the store. The problem was customers were taking the trolleys out of the store to either a bus station, taxi rank or home which were then being abandoned.

At the moment Asda had a good working relationship with the Horticultural Supervisor and his Team in retrieving abandoned trolleys within the Town.

b) Deliveries to the Store

The Leader expressed concerns with the parking of the Asda HGV delivery vehicles near the busy roundabout and also on the grassed verge.

The Manager advised that to try and alleviate this problem Asda had asked if they could purchase this land for the purpose of parking their delivery wagons, however, this request was declined by the owners. Recently delivery wagons had started to park up in a lay-by on the A19 until space became available within their warehouse to drop off deliveries.

The Manager invited all Members to attend a Store visit and view the plans for the re-fit .

RECOMMENDED that the Store visit invitation be accepted and the Town Clerk liaise with the Manager as to a date and time and advise Members accordingly.

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

a) Pathfinder & Grit Bins

Members were advised of the purchase of additional salt/grit bins using Pathfinder grant monies to compliment existing Peterlee Town Council grit bin provision.

Members were advised that the grant monies were used to purchase an additional 8 grit bins and 6.5 tons of rock salt using Durham County Council procurement process. These bins would be put out in October.

The Leader highlighted that this service was not a statutory requirement, but, one the Town Council provided to enhance service provision in the Wards.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) Usage/Cost Survey

Members were requested for guidance in relation to the setting of fees relating to various services currently provided by the Parks Department and which historically had only had nominal increases or increases in line with inflation.

The Supervisor was mindful of the fact that for a period of time a number of these services appeared to not have had any close scrutiny in relation to the cost comparisons of other Authorities nor did there appear to have been any comparisons with regard to the type or quality of service in relation to the actual fees that were paid by the user groups concerned.

Sports Facilities to include: Football, Rugby, Cricket, Bowls. To set out costs comparisons with neighbouring authorities and to document any subsidies or concessions given to any particular user group.

Leisure Garden Fees: To propose in this financial year the intention by Peterlee Town Council to carry out a formal review of the Leisure Garden Service including the fees payable by Leisure

Gardeners Association having regard to the service provided by the Town Council and comparisons with neighbouring Authorities.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

114. REPORT OF THE CEMETERY OFFICER

Members views were requested regarding the Cemetery Officer's proposal to increase fees by 3%.

He also proposed that the Council look at the current charges for non residents of Peterlee regarding the exclusive rights of burial fees at this present time. These fees were not doubled as were the interment fees. Some surrounding Local Authorities double and sometimes even trebled for non residents with all burial charges. He was in the process of collating information regarding other Authorities and would be working with the Parks Supervisor who was doing a similar exercise in other areas of the Parks Department.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to a future meeting, to enable all fees and charges to be considered together.

Burials and Interments

Given below were the figures for burials and interments that had taken place from February to March 2009:-

	<u>Burial</u>	<u>Ashes</u>
February – March	4	0

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

Memorial Scheme

There had been 7 no. requests for Memorial Scheme Information Packs during the month of February.

To date, purchases made through the Memorial Scheme included 8 no. memorial trees and 1 no. memorial bench.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

115. SPORTS LETTING FEES & CHARGES 2008/09

The Supervisor had circulated a copy of the above report to all Members for their consideration.

RECOMMENDED that this be deferred to a future meeting to enable all fees and charges to be considered together.

116. AAP INAUGRAL MEETINGS

Correspondence relating to the above subject had been circulated to all Members.

RECOMMENDED any Member wishing to attend the meeting arranged for Monday 11th May 2009 at Shotton Hall, were most welcome.

117. EDEN LANE TENNIS COURTS – LETTER FROM MRS A TURPIN

A copy of a letter received from a resident had been circulated to Members for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the letter be received and the Supervisor prepare a report for the Council to implement a Policy on the Council's tennis courts facility.

118. 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.

119. HELDFORD ROAD RE-BUILD

- a) Minutes of Meeting and Contractors Report – 11th February 2009

RECOMMENDED that the minutes, be accepted.

- b) Minutes of Meeting and Contractors Report – 25th February 2009

RECOMMENDED that the minutes, be accepted.

- c) Financial Statement No. 6 – Client’s Requests

RECOMMENDED that this item be further considered at a Special Helford Road Working Party Meeting to be held after this meeting.

120. INSURANCE OF PLAY AREAS

The Town Clerk advised Members of the costs for the annual insurance premium for the Council’s play provision.

RECOMMENDED that this item be considered at a future meeting, following the necessary risk assessment being carried out.

121. HELDFORD ROAD PAVILION

The Town Clerk advised Members of receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Hearts of Oak Social Club, advising they were locating to new premises, and thanking the Council for their support.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.