

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY  
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2009

PRESENT: Coun. D Langan (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor & J Black

Messrs: J Hardy, C J Metcalfe, R Huitson,  
R Kyle, C Robbins, W M Jeffrey,  
J Alvey, R Curtis, G Cowie, R Jones  
& E W Hall

**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 received and accepted on behalf of Councillors: S McDonnell, M Milsom, D Milsom, C Austin and H Bennett MBE.

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

i) In connection with Minute No. 125 – Meeting with Leisure Gardeners Association held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 a Member expressed his dis-satisfaction as to some of the content in Minute No. 138, however, it was accepted this was a true record of what was said.

**RECOMMENDED that:**

**a) the Town Clerk write to the Chairman of the Leisure Gardeners Association in connection with Councillor Alvey's concerns**

Following receipt of information/guidance from the National Allotments Society it was **FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Council's Policy of no internal fencing be reconfirmed, but that the Leisure Gardeners be given to 30<sup>th</sup> September to remove this internal fencing.**

ii) In connection with Minute No. 129 – Statutory Consultation on Fouling of Land by Dogs (County Durham) Order 2009, the Town Clerk confirmed this included Town Council land open to the public.

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

a) Summer Bedding Schemes

Members were advised that the Supervisor had inspected the plants supplied by Darlington Council Parks Department and reported that he was satisfied with the quality and size of their intended delivery.

The Supervisor anticipated the first delivery to be received on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June which would be planted week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June. Shotton Hall would be planted up first, followed by the cemetery and roundabouts.

In preparation for the arrival of guests from Peterlee's twin town Nordenham, the Supervisor sought Member's approval to plant a bed at Woodhouse Park to resemble the German National flag comprising of black coleus, red begonia, semperflowens and yellow French marigolds. This would be planted the same time as Shotton Hall to encourage early flowering.

The Supervisor had also received a verbal agreement from Mr Unsal Kirmizi stating his satisfaction with regard to the sponsoring of two flower beds within Peterlee, namely the bed opposite the Moorcock P.H. on Burnhope Way and also opposite Evans Halshaw garage on Passfield Way.

Darlington Borough Council Parks Department had gifted Peterlee Town Council with 32 no. sunpatiens (giant busy lizzies) to trial as part of a National Competition with the winning Council receiving £150.00 for their Mayoral Charity.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted, and that Mr Kirmizi’s agreement be confirmed, in writing.**

b) Planters – Burnhope Way & Passfield Way

Having met on site with Mr David Battersby on 13<sup>th</sup> May the Supervisor reported that the flower planters which had been placed at the following locations needed to be moved to comply with section 144 of the Highways Act 1980.

9 no. planters on the grass verge Burnhope Way (Willerby Grove to Burnside)

2 no. planters on roadside Passfield Way (A19 to Old Shotton).

Members were reminded that from a previous meeting a decision was made to “stagger” the six planters in front of East Durham Community College to opposite sides of the carriageway. Mr Battersby had also advised this would not comply with the legislation and the only way round this situation would be to move the planters across Burnhope Way (Woodhouse Park side) adjacent the cycle path.

With regard to the planters situated on Passfield Way one option was to move the planters further down Passfield Way towards the Town Centre. All other planters were deemed to be in an appropriate location and pose no relevant health and safety issues. The Town Council would be required to provide a third party indemnity in respect of the planters on the roundabouts.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

c) PARKS INSPECTIONS

Members were requested to consider setting dates for the Parks Committee annual inspections, (which occurred on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August last year) and which sites they would like to visit.

Last year the following sites were visited i.e. Lowhills Road Bowling Green, Hill Rigg House and Eden Lane Cemetery with the

second visit covering Thorntree Gill Allotments and Woodhouse Park, and also the Dene Parks.

**RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to the Council Meeting.**

d) LOWHILLS ROAD BOWLING CLUB

Member's attention was drawn to the temporary placing of an 8ft by 8ft Jackleg cabin within the grounds of Lowhills Road Bowling Green. This building would serve as a temporary store for bowling equipment and furniture which was used on open days etc. The building itself was gifted to the Bowling Club by Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station Cricket Team.

The Lowhills Bowling Committee conveyed their gratitude to Peterlee Town Council Parks and Cemetery Committee for their help and support throughout the project.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

4. HELDFORD ROAD NEW BUILD

- i) Minutes of the Meeting & Contractors Report of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009
- ii) Minutes of the Meeting & Contractors Report of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009
- iii) Minutes of the Site Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009
- iv) Minutes of the Site Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**RECOMMENDED that the above Minutes, be received, it be noted a Helford Road Working Party was to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**

5. THE YOUTH VILLAGE EVENT – EDEN LANE FOOTBALL CLUB

The Town Clerk advised that this event had been attended by approximately 250 no. during the day, but that at the evening event numbers were low.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

6. INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET HEADING 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2008 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009 – REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Copies of the above Report together with the profit and loss for the Eden Lane Football Club, had been circulated to Members at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to Full Council.**

7. PETERLEE TOWN LADIES F.C.

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a letter of resignation from Mr Bill Godward from the above Football Club.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

8. PETERLEE CRICKET CLUB – REQUEST TO USE HELFORD ROAD CRICKET GROUND

A request had been received from the Secretary of Peterlee Cricket Club, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, to use the Helford Road Cricket Ground and facilities.

**RECOMMENDED that permission be granted to the Peterlee Cricket Club to use the ground and facility for the 2009 season.**

9. APOLLO PAVILION – OFFICIAL OPENING – SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.**

10. PROVISION OF SKATEPARK – CRANX CREW

A letter had been received from a group of skaters/bikers called the Cranx Crew based at Peterlee Youth Centre. The group were currently developing design and a grant application for the provision of a skate park and were asking if any land at Woodhouse Park or close by could be made available, as it was central for young people to reach in the Town.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk write to Durham County Council requesting if it would be possible to lease land on St. Bedes School.**

11. 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.

12. PERMISSION TO TRADE – ACRE RIGG SOCIAL CLUB CAR PARK

The Town Clerk advised he had received a request requesting permission to trade a hot food van during football matches on a Sunday at Lowhills Road, in the Bowls car park.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk carry out the necessary procedures for a Public Notice and tender process for the letting of this concession.**

13. REQUEST TO ERECT A FENCE AT THE FORMER WARDENS HOUSE, LOWHILLS ROAD, PETERLEE

A copy of a letter requesting to erect a fence at the former Wardens house, Lowhills Road, had been circulated to Members for their consideration.

**RECOMMENDED that a site visit be arranged with the Town Clerk, Parks Supervisor and local Ward Members, and report back in due course.**

14. SURESTART BUILDING AT HILL RIGG HOUSE FUTURE OWNERSHIP – DISCUSSIONS WITH DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

Correspondence had been circulated to Members from Durham County Council regarding the future ownership and management of the building extension of Hill Rigg House, which was occupied by Sure Start.

From the three options suggested, it is **RECOMMENDED** that **Option 1, be agreed, as follows:-**

**“The Town Council to take ownership of the building and to leaseback to the County Council. The County Council would be responsible for all repair maintenance and running costs of the building. It be assumed that the rent would be a peppercorn. The minimum lease term requirement would be 15 years, in order to deliver Sure Start aims and objectives and to comply with funding requirements.**

**RECOMMENDED that Option 1 be agreed.**

15. HELDFORD ROAD – PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL PLAYING PITCH – LATEST INFORMATION FROM MODUS PROPERTIES’ ARCHITECTS

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members a series of options regarding the provision of a further pitch at Helford Road following a site meeting and discussions with Ian Thorp of Michael Hyde and Associates.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted and the Town Clerk be given authority to further develop these possible schemes.**

16. TWINNING VISIT 2009

The Twinning Organiser had reported that hosts were urgently required for the Visit this year. There were 38 no. German guests arriving on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June until Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

- 28 guests had definite hosts
- 8 guests required host families (2 ladies in their 50’s who wished to stay together and 6 no. teenage girls aged 14 – 16)

**RECOMMENDED that the Twinning Organiser make investigations as to the costs of accommodation at Durham University and a caravan at Crimdon Caravan Park. Any Member who could assist with hosting or if they knew anyone were asked to contact the Twinning Organiser at the Information Centre.**