

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2009

PRESENT: COUN. D LANGAN (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor & J Black

Messrs: R Kyle, T A Jones, W M Jeffrey
J Hardy, R Curtis, C Robbins, D Milsom,
C Austin & E W Hall

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

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted on behalf of Councillors S McDonnell, M Milsom, G Cowie, R Huitson, H Bennett MBE, J Alvey & R Jones.

29. COMMUNITY PROJECT PROPOSAL – TREE NURSERY SITE
AT ESSINGTON WAY

The Chairman welcomed Barbara Chrisp to the meeting.

Ms Chrisp explained the project was still in its infancy, but she had been working with Walkers Snack Foods and other interested parties to establish a community garden in Peterlee to address concerns about poor health and lifestyle which exist in the area. She was also talking to Business Link about the best way to set up

a non profit making company. The company would employ Ms Chrisp and a business partner, but the business would be run by a “board”. Initially, any salary costs would have to be funded from grants. Ms Chrisp was asking the Town Council if we had a site which could be used for the project and the former Tree Nursery Site on Essington Way had been identified as a possible location.

There then followed a question and answer session. The Leader of the Council asked Members to take a look at the site so further consideration could be given to this request at the Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked Ms Chrsip for her presentation.

RECOMMENDED that this request receive further consideration at the next Council Meeting.

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

Matters Arising -

a) Minute No. 18 – Request to erect a fence at the former Wardens House, Lowhills Road, Peterlee – Report of the Site Meeting

The Town Clerk gave Members details of the Council’s solicitors views on this request.

RECOMMENDED that this request be turned down.

b) Leisure Gardens

RECOMMENDED that the original decision of the Council stand ie. That no internal fencing be allowed, but the Horticultural Supervisor ensure that the site is protected at the boundary by a satisfactory chicken wire fence.

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

a) Peterlee Show

The Horticultural Supervisor advised that the site had been left in a satisfactory state, but a meeting had been arranged with Mr Noble to discuss certain matters for next year’s Show.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and progress on the meeting be awaited.

b) Sports Development Officer

Sharon Pounder, the Sports Development Officer, was in attendance at the meeting, and gave an over view of what she had done in her first two weeks in post, including meetings with various sports bodies, attending grant funding seminars, carrying out a survey and putting forward suggested ideas for taster sessions for activities.

Local Members asked her to consider:-

- (a) approaching the Learn East Organization; and
- (b) to consider transport provision to and from sessions.

RECOMMENDED that the report be received and the Sports Development Officer be given authority to proceed with the taster sessions.

c) Mr Ron Gibson donation

RECOMMENDED that the action taken in accepting the gift of the Californian Redwood Tree from Mr Ron Gibson and arranging for it to be received and planted in the grounds of Shotton Hall, be approved.

d) Annual Bedding Sponsorship

The Supervisor had received written confirmation from Mr Unsal Kirmizi from Chilla Pizzas for sponsorship for two annual flower beds which had been discussed at a previous meeting. He was in agreement with all the conditions set by Peterlee Town Council and was currently to be invoiced. Mr Kirmizi had also enquired as to whether this sponsorship deal could also be mentioned in the next issue of the “About Town Magazine”.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted, and Mr Kirmizi’s request to be mentioned in the next issue of “About Town” be agreed.

e) MUGA Usage

The total of MUGA usage was 80.5 hours.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

f) Cemetery & Burials

There had been two burials since the last meeting and four burials of ashes.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

32. REGENERATION OF PETERLEE – DATE OF MEETING – REFERRED FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF 7TH SEPTEMBER 2009

The Town Clerk reported he had yet to be advised of the date of this meeting, and so would contact the organisers and advise Members accordingly.

RECOMMENDED details of the date of the meeting be awaited.

33. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE EDEN LANE FOOTBALL CLUB LIAISON GROUP OF 22ND JULY & 19TH AUGUST 2009

It was reported the painting of the ladies toilets would take place this week.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the above meetings, be agreed.

34. PREPARED FOR A PANDEMIC

Correspondence had been received from the Local Government Association, copies of which had been circulated to all Members, for their information. It was noted that two Councillors had received training on dealing with a pandemic.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

35. DURHAM OPEN SPACE, SPORTS & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A letter had been received from Durham County Council regarding the above heading, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members.

The County Council had commissioned Consultants to prepare a comprehensive open space, sports and recreation needs assessment. This project would consider the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space, sports and recreation facilities across Durham. It would set and then apply local standards for provision.

To help develop these local standards, they requested the Town Council's views on the provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities in the community. This would enable the Town Council's views to be taken into account in the final assessment. It was programmed that this project would be completed in November.

RECOMMENDED that this request for information be further considered at the Council Meeting.

36. B1320 BURNHOPE WAY, PETERLEE – PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING

Notification of the above had been received from Durham County Council, a copy of which had been circulated to Members.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

37. MOBILE SKATE & BIKE PARK/CRAZY GOLF – PILOT SCHEME

The Town Clerk had circulated a report regarding the above subject. Over the summer holidays the Town Council had in partnership with the North Peterlee Neighbourhood Pathfinder had in place the mobile skate/bike park and crazy golf facilities in Woodhouse Park.

These facilities seemed to have been well received and there was a good take up of both facilities. Both bikes and skate boarders used the facility regularly and the number of users had been recorded at

various times during the day, i.e. 11am, 2pm, 5pm and 8pm, on both facilities.

Unfortunately, on 2nd September, the trailer which housed the equipment had been severely vandalised, damaged, and the records relating to usage of the facilities had been taken from the trailer and left scattered. Staff managed to save some of the records, but not all. Examination of the records saved showed that the average number of users were:-

Skate Park

11.00am	13
2.00pm	14
5.00pm	15
8.00pm	15

Minimum number at any time 7 no. Maximum at anytime 50 no.

Crazy Golf

9am – 1pm	9
1pm – 5pm	11
5pm – 8.30pm	11

In terms of Health & Safety although there were some minor injuries reported, there were no reports of serious injury.

The reports that had been received suggested that there were only a small number of incidents of anti social behaviour, but those that did take place had an immediate impact on users. The people involved had possibly been identified.

Unfortunately, the recent weather meant that the facilities had to be closed regularly for health and safety reasons.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that an appropriate press release be made on this attack of vandalism.

38. BONFIRE, 5TH NOVEMBER 2009

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an e mail from the Arson Reduction Officer requesting that the Town Council consider holding a bonfire on the 5th November, in an attempt to reduce unauthorized bonfires. The Town Clerk advised that a meeting had been arranged with the Police to discuss this proposal. A Local Member asked if there would be any grants available towards the costs of a bonfire.

RECOMMENDED that progress be awaited.