

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 12th OCTOBER 2009

PRESENT: COUN. D LANGAN (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J I Measor, L Wood &
S McDonnell

Messrs: J Hardy, D Milsom, C J Metcalfe,
R Huitson, R Kyle, C Robbins,
W M Jeffrey, H Bennett MBE,
R Curtis, J Alvey, 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.**

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Black.

**RECOMMENDED that these apologies not be accepted, as no
reason was given.**

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

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

The following items will be undertaken by the Parks Dept for the month of October:-

a) Eden Lane Bowling Green

Completion of Winter maintenance programme, moss removal, fertilising and aeration. Also removal of overgrown shrub beds and planting of hawthorn hedge, (as per Parks Inspections July 2009) exterior decoration of woodwork areas and removal of remainder of ivy, (as per D.C.C. stock condition surveys 2009).

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) Eden Lane Windbreak areas

To enable grass cutting regime to be carried out basic branch removal/ removal of dying material from trees within these areas is required. Due to recent high winds localised damage was apparent and for health and safety reasons it was required to be removed.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

c) Lowhills Sports Pitches

For the past two football seasons the Parks Department had removed/thinned out, self seeded hawthorn at the rear of pitches 4 and 6 after numerous complaints of footballs being lost in the dense shrubs. Also the area had been used for tipping/fire lighting etc. The Supervisor intended to clear these areas and complete the thinning out of these areas this month.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

d) Dene Parks

Phase 2 and 3 of the Winter maintenance plan would be implemented by the Parks Department. This would consist of sharps picking in known drug use areas before removal of overgrown shrubs and trees to enable a thorough litter pick of the overall area. In order to fulfil the fire management responsibilities of the area he also intended to earmark trees for removal by either D.C.C. or the Castle Eden Arboriculture Teams which had either been partially set alight or had limbs damaged by fires.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

e) Bedding displays

The Supervisor intended to visit Darlington Nurseries during the week of 10th October in order to check for size/quality of the plants for the Winter/Spring bedding and also to order the Summer bedding.

The roundabouts would be stripped first, with the Cemetery and Shotton Hall planted afterwards. Other areas would then be selected as to how far the existing plants had died back.

He intended to opt for Saturday deliveries so as to enable planting to be started first thing on Monday mornings. He had also consulted with Mr Larry Collins of the Peterlee and District Lions Club with a view to providing a floral display for the A19 flower bed.

Members complimented the Supervisor and Parks Staff on the floral roundabouts in the Town.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

f) Reparative Work (D.C.C. Youth Offending Service)

A number of site meetings with Hugh Ward (Restorative Justices Officer) had been held, with the intention of tapping into additional activities which would enable the Parks Department to cope with the demands put on the department by vandalism etc. The intention would be for the Youth Offending Service to provide “clients” who had committed anti social crime within Peterlee. The “clients” would be managed on a two to one ratio by an adult supervisor, independently of the Parks Department.

The Supervisor sought permission to run a trial scheme within the South Denes area. If successful this could be used at several sites throughout Peterlee.

RECOMMENDED that the Council adopt this scheme, at very minimal costs to the Council.

41. CEMETERY OBELISK

The Town Clerk advised receipt of a request from a local resident, suggesting that the Obelisk in the Cemetery be made a memorial. Members were extremely keen with developing the obelisk as a memorial. The Cemetery Officer had been making enquiries with local Stone Masons.

RECOMMENDED that the Cemetery Officer prepare a feasibility report for Members to consider.

42. GIRLGUIDING UK CENTENARY 2010

A letter had been received from the Girl Guides, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, requesting a commemorative flowerbed in Peterlee for Girl Guiding UK Centenary in 2010.

RECOMMENDED that this be agreed “in principle”, subject to selecting a suitable location.

43. EDENHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN BUILDING

The Town Clerk reported that following the Town Council’s expression of interest in this property he had received from the County Council a request for the Town Council to submit a business plan. A local Member expressed his concerns how long it was taking for the Town Council to receive a response on a short term licence/lease on the Hall to the rear of the White House.

RECOMMENDED that no business plan be submitted in respect of the White House, but that the request for a licence/lease be expedited.

44. THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007 – AMENDMENT BILL

Correspondence had been received regarding the above subject, copies of which had been circulated to Members.

RECOMMENDED that the Clerk send a letter stating that the Town Council expected to be guaranteed a role in formally contributing to proposals to promote the sustainability of their comments.

45. 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 AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

46. REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

The Parks Supervisor had circulated a Report, detailing the need for acquisition of new machinery for grass cutting.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- a) **the Asset Management Register be completed as a matter of urgency**
- b) **the acquisition of new machinery be considered when preparing budgets.**

47. HELDFORD ROAD MUGA – FINAL ACCOUNT

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members a copy of the final accounts for this scheme, together with a letter from the architect advising this account should not be settled because of a latest defect.

RECOMMENDED that a letter be sent to the Contractor advising any costs of reinstatement/repair would be offset against the final account.

48. EDEN LANE DEPOT – ELECTRICITY BILLS – BRITISH GAS

The Town Clerk had circulated to Members a report on a matter which had arisen with regard to back dated electricity bills relating to the Eden Lane Depot.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk ascertain legal advice from NALC and advise Members on the outcome in due course.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a breakdown of utilities for Eden Lane be ascertained.

49. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH BLUNTS FORMER SCHOOL SITE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS

The Town Clerk had circulated a report relating to the above item for Members consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council support the proposals relating to the reprovision of pitches/changing facilities at Eden lane and Helford Road.