

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 12th JULY 2010

PRESENT: COUN. W M JEFFREY (CHAIR)

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

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

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

THE LEADER WAS NOMINATED AS CHAIRMAN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor;- C Robbins (Mother ill).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

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

MATTERS ARISING -

Replacement of Case Tractor

RECOMMENDED that it be noted that approval had been given at the Council Meeting to replace this item of machinery.

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

a) BEDDING AND SUMMER MAINTENANCE

Members were advised that all bedding was in situ throughout Peterlee and that a large number of positive comments had already been received by the public at large. All personnel had been involved and had achieved daily targets of planting 9,000 plants, with 42,000 plants being planted. They had also completed an early sports field maintenance regime. Unfortunately they now had a situation where due to the increase in temperatures watering had become a daily problem, overtime working had been necessary.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

COUNCILLOR MRS J I MEASOR DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION THAT ENSUED.

b) FOOTBALL PITCH COSTS

Further to discussions at the last meeting and at the Council Meeting, an interim costing to enable the use of a third team at the Peterlee Newtown or pitch 2 at Eden Lane, the total detailing the anticipated maintenance was given.

The Horticultural Supervisor advised the pitch itself could stand up to 3 no. teams playing during periods of good weather, however, this would become a problem as the season progressed into the winter months. He felt another potential problem which may arise with fixture conflict and/or un-played games, or if there was a period whereby one team had been unable to play for a period of time, due to poor pitch conditions.

RECOMMENDED that this request not be agreed to at this present time, however, if in the future the Black Bull FC were

promoted into a league that required an enclosed field, then this request be re-considered.

c) TROLLEY WISE RETRIEVAL (DENE PARKS)

Progress on this initiative was given. The Horticultural Supervisor had a meeting with the Company to identify other areas in Peterlee that required attention.

Members were pleased at the results so far and agreed for it to continue and a progress report be given.

RECOMMENDED that another letter be sent to all the supermarkets in the Town.

d) HELFORD ROAD MUGA

The grounds team had reported that the MUGA had sustained damage within the penalty spot area. This was believed to be from the use of studs on the surface, which was prohibited and formed part of the booking conditions. The Supervisor had spoken with Facilities Team who maintained that the teams were checked for the wearing of studs. In the interim period extra signs had been displayed advising that studs were prohibited. He had contacted a local company who may be able to rectify the problem; however, they had suggested that the Council go back to the original company who supplied the Muga grass matting.

RECOMMENDED that the Supervisor make further investigations into this issue and report back to a future meeting.

e) HELFORD RD MUGA USAGE

A total of 81 no. hours.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

f) EDEN LANE CEMETERY

A total of 2 burials were completed in June 2010.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

g) SUMMER PARKS INSPECTIONS

The date for the Inspections had been agreed as Saturday 24th July 2010, assembling at Shotton Hall at 9.30am. An invitation

to attend would be sent out in due course to all Members, but an indication at the meeting of whom was likely to come along on the day would assist in making transport arrangements. Attached was a suggested comment sheet to be used at the visit.

RECOMMENDED that Members advise the Office of their intentions as soon as possible.

h) GARDEN IN BLOOM PRESENTATION NIGHT

To date very few replies to the invitations sent out for the Presentation night had been received. It was asked if all Members could let the Office know either way of their attendance to assist with arrangements. Members were reminded that the date of the Presentation Night was to be held on Wednesday 28th July 2010. During discussions comment was made on the poor attendance at this event last year.

RECOMMENDED that Members advise the Official of their intentions as soon as possible.

15. **REQUEST FOR OUTDOOR CRICKET PRACTICE AREA AT HELFORD ROAD**

Following discussions at the last meeting, the Supervisor gave a progress report after a meeting with Mr James Pratt from Peterlee Cricket Club.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) the Supervisor prepare a breakdown of costings for all the work involved with this project for further consideration of Members;**
- ii) a letter be sent to all the user groups of The Pavilion advising them if they were to apply for grant funding then they were to advise Sharon Pounder, the Sports Development Officer, as she may be able to support or assist with their application.**

16. TREES – LORIMERS CLOSE

A letter had been received from a resident of Lorimers Close, Peterlee, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, regarding problems with the trees in close vicinity of their house.

RECOMMENDED that the Supervisor engage a Specialist in Arboriculture to do a survey on all of the trees in Shotton Hall grounds.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a letter be sent to the resident of Lorimers Close, advising her of the action taken by the Council at this present time.

17. GREEN BELT ASSESSMENT SCOPING PAPER

Copies of a document relating to the above subject had been circulated to Members for their information, it gave details of proposals to alter the boundaries of the green belt around Durham City to permit its expansion. Members felt that this was a disgrace and strongly opposed this suggestion.

RECOMMENDED that this view be forwarded to Durham County Council.

18. ITEMS FROM THE RECENT MEETING OF THE HELFORD ROAD MANAGEMENT BOARD REQUIRING FURTHER CONSIDERATION

(i) Provision of new Bowling Mats

The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that new bowling mats had been damaged by the water damage from the roof and were unusable. These required replacing in order for the Bowls Club to continue to play properly. The cost to renew these mats would be in the sum of £1,265.48.

RECOMMENDED that the Council's Architect be instructed to write to the Contractor to get them to replace the mats.

(ii) Bike Stands

This provision was to be included in the current contract.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Proposed new activity – Luncheon Club

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that a sum of £500.00 was requested to start up this new Luncheon Club. A Member reported that this amount may be reduced as an offer of some kitchen equipment was being investigated.

RECOMMENDED that this proposal be agreed ‘in principle’, subject to costings being revised.

19. PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS CONFERENCE – 19TH JULY 2010, COUNTY HALL, DURHAM AT 3.30PM

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Councillor G Cowie was no longer able to attend the above Conference, and asked if any other Member was willing to take his place.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor C J Metcalfe attend this Conference together with Councillor S McDonnell.

20. BUDGET MONITOR 1ST APRIL – 31ST JUNE 2010

A copy of the above had been circulated to all Members for their information.

Members made several points of reference to which the Deputy Town Clerk answered and would make investigations and report back to Members.

A Member referred to the Acre Rigg Social Club rental and asked if a copy of the Lease could be circulated to all Members.

Members expressed their concerns at not having the figures for the wages for each Council building, so a true record of profit and loss could be shown. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that after several attempts to obtain the relevant information from Durham County Council Wages Department, this Report had been

prepared as a matter of urgency and a further report would be submitted as soon as Wages was obtained.

RECOMMENDED that the Report be accepted, it being noted that there was concern at not being supplied with timely information on the allocation of wages.

21. 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 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.
22. DEMOLITION & CAR PARK, HELFORD ROAD – PROGRESS REPORT

The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that the Contractor was on a one week delay caused by various issues with the Cricket Club. The Deputy Town Clerk had reiterated to the Contractor and the Council's Architects that these works needed to be completed at the latest 2nd September in readiness for the Peterlee Show.

RECOMMENDED that the Architects be requested to contact the Contractor to see what they could do to try and retrieve this week.

21. HUTCHINSON 3G ANTENNAS – TO BE REMOVED FROM EDEN LANE SITE

The Deputy Town Clerk reported receipt of notification from Arqiva advising that the Hutchinson 3G antennas and feeders would be removed from the above site. A confirmation date was not given and the works would not commence within the next 28days.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contact Arqiva to ascertain the exact equipment that was to be removed and, any reinstatement works to be checked as per the 'dilapidation clause'.

22. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

(i) Letter Deferred from the last meeting – The Cabbage Patch Proposal

After a lengthy discussion on this item it was **RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted and no further decision be made on the matter until outstanding issues were concluded.**

(ii) Bedding Plants

A letter had been received from the Peterlee Leisure Gardeners Association, a copy of which had been circulated to Members for consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the Council donate any spare bedding plants to be planted in the new raised beds to support the Plot No. 9 Project.