

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2010

PRESENT: COUN. R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom, J Black
& S McDonnell

Messrs: J Hardy, D Milsom, W M Jeffrey,
C Austin, C Robbins, E W Hall, C J Metcalfe,
D Langan, H Bennett MBE, J Alvey, G Cowie
& C Watkins

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

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- L Wood (fractured patella) and J I Measor (poorly).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

55. PETERLEE CRICKET CLUB

The Town Clerk advised that two representatives from the above Club had turned up at the meeting un-announced. A local Member commented that the Town Council should be treating the Cricket Club as a business. As this item was not on the Agenda for discussion it was **RECOMMENDED that the**

Representatives be invited to attend the Public Session of the Full Council Meeting on Monday 15^h November 2010.

56. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.
57. PARKS SUPERVISOR'S PROGRESS REPORT, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, was considered under the following heads:-

a) MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW

November maintenance regimes would consist of tree management, pruning operations and checks of manholes/gulley covers throughout the Peterlee Town Council property portfolio, as well as patching of tarmac road surfaces and reinstatement of traffic lining where appropriate e.g. Shotton Hall, Eden Lane.

It was also intended, depending on weather/temperatures, to pick up from Durham County Council building maintenance reports to attempt to complete exterior painting and staining of wooden canopies within bowling greens at Eden Lane and Lowhills Road.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) EDEN LANE BOWLING GREEN

The bowling green situated at Eden Lane had, for a number of seasons, had a problem with rabbits throughout the bowling season. In an attempt to overcome any would be problems for the forthcoming season the Supervisor sought permission from Members to remove shrubs from a boundary fence which he believed was harbouring a large number of rabbit warrens, in order to reduce further problems. The removal would also enable a more efficient maintenance regime with regard to litter picking the area.

RECOMMENDED that permission be given for the Horticultural Supervisor to arrange to remove the shrubs.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor obtain a price from a professional specialist to resolve the rabbit problem.

c) WINTER GRITTING ARRANGEMENTS

All grit boxes would be checked and topped up with rock salt/grit. All grit boxes were currently being mapped by Durham County Council in order to produce a comprehensive maintenance regime with the addition of a unique code to plot the whereabouts/numbers of grit bins currently in situ (Town Council and County bins.) With the disposal of the Case tractor it would not be possible to load salt onto the second tractor, however, assurances had been given that the acquisition of salt this year would not be a problem. As in other years a working stock of 3 tons would be kept as well as stock within the grit bins.

RECOMMENDED that the Supervisor prepare a list of the Town Council grit bins only and their locations in Peterlee and a copy be given to each Member.

d) PETERLEE NEWTOWN FLOODLIGHTS

There were currently three floodlight systems which were non operational and required maintenance to enable play for night games within the Newtown Ground. Traditionally the Council had used Steadfast (Electrical Division) to do remedial maintenance works because of their ability to acquire larger than average, four wheel drive aerial platforms (Cherry Pickers).

The Supervisor believed that in order to maintain the remaining lights a condition survey should be carried out by an appropriately qualified electrical contractor so as to establish an appropriate proactive maintenance regime for the remainder of the life of the lights.

The replacement floodlight system had 16 bulbs, which at current prices were £85.00 per bulb to replace.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for an electrical contractor to conduct a condition survey on floodlights within Peterlee Newtown Football Ground and the Supervisor report back to Members in due course.

58. DEMOLITION & CAR PARK, HELFORD ROAD OLD PAVILION – NOTES OF THE SITE MEETINGS OF THE 13TH & 21ST OCTOBER 2010

Copies of the above notes had been circulated to Members for their information.

In considering the report reference was made that the area needed to be stone picked as there were concerns these stones may be used as ammunition.

RECOMMENDED that the notes of the meetings be accepted and stone picking be carried out as a matter of urgency.

59. HELFORD ROAD CRICKET CLUB FIRE DAMAGE – NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT SHOTTON HALL ON 27TH OCTOBER 2010

Notes of the above Meeting had been circulated to Members. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Insurance Loss Adjuster had been in attendance at this meeting as ultimately any action/works proposed had to be approved by him.

RECOMMENDED that the notes of this meeting be accepted.

60. LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL – LETTER OF THANKS & APPRECIATION

A letter of thanks had been received from the Lions Club, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the letter of thanks be received.

61. PLANNING APPLICATION – WARDENS HOUSE, LOWHILLS ROAD

Members had been circulated with full details relating to this application. It was confirmed that the fence line was shown at the previously agreed point.

RECOMMENDED that no objection be offered to the application but it be stressed that this property had been sold as residential and no business use should be permitted.

62. LOCAL COUNCILS SEMINAR SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

The Supervisor had attended the above Seminar and had circulated a copy of his Report to all Members for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

63. 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.

64. CALL OUT – PETERLEE CRICKET & SOCIAL CLUB – 25TH JUNE 2010

The Supervisor advised Members that an invoice had been received for the boarding up of the Cricket Club building after a break in, and he gave Members the background of how this invoice had arisen. It was asked that further information be obtained on this matter.

RECOMMENDED that this item be referred to the Council Meeting for further consideration.

COUNCILLOR J ALVEY DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION THAT ENSUED.

65. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENERS - LOAN

The Town Clerk advised Members that a specification and 3 no. quotes had not yet been received from the Leisure Gardeners, as part of the stipulation of the loan as agreed “in principle” by the Town Council.

Reference was made to a nearby Parish obtaining help from the Leader Project.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk contact the Secretary of the Leisure Gardeners requesting they obtain a specification and 3 no. quotes for the proposed work be sought all using this specification to price for the work.

66. GIS MAPPING SYSTEMS

For the forthcoming Asset Management Survey to be of any real benefit to Peterlee Town Council the Supervisor thought it was vitally important that Officers were able to have access to operating systems which could be linked into existing technologies that the Council currently used.

At present all mapping was done using the Terrex manual system, which were a series of A2 & A3 maps which showed ownership details of Peterlee Town Council’s land, but, did not show details of other assets such as trees, hedges, boundaries as well as grit bins/dog bins and signage etc. The biggest drawback of the Terrex system was that information was not able to be passed electronically via email.

The Supervisor had looked at a number of GIS Operating systems by Edge Design and also Rural Business Solutions, however he had had a demonstration of a system by Pear Technologies which he believed could be beneficial not only to the Parks Dept, but could be of benefit to the Tourist Information Department also.

The system could work alongside the current computer operating system and could be beneficial to the Parks Department for the following:-

Cemetery mapping

Grit bins/dog bins/planters and bedding scheme mapping

Tree mapping

Building mapping (mapping of new services e.g. Electricity, water etc.)

RECOMMENDED that Pear Technologies be invited to carry out a demonstration of their system to Members at a Special Parks Meeting.