

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY  
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2010

PRESENT: COUN W M JEFFREY (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom, J Black  
& S McDonnell

Messrs: J Hardy, D Milsom, C Robbins,  
E W Hall, D Langan, R Kyle, H Bennett  
MBE, R Huitson, J Alvey & C Watkins

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

IN THE ABSENCE OF BOTH THE CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN  
COUNCILLOR W M JEFFREY WAS ELECTED TO CHAIR THE  
MEETING.

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Wood,  
(Mayors duties), J I Measor, (ill), R W Jones, (family commitments), g  
Cowie, (asthama) and C J Metcalfe, (ill).

**RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.**

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

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 57(d) Peterlee Newtown Floodlights  
At the Council Meeting it was agreed the Horticultural Supervisor get prices to carry out the condition survey on the floodlights.
- (ii) Minute Number 64 – Call out – Peterlee Cricket & Social Club at the Council Meeting it was agreed that the Town Council would pay 50% of the bill for boarding up after the break in, and that the way this contract had been cancelled, be attended to.

70. HELFDORD ROAD CRICKET CLUB FIRE DAMAGE – NOTES OF SITE VISIT ON 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were accepted.

71. NALC LEGAL BRIEFING – RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CLEARING SNOW & ICE ON HIGHWAYS

Members gave full consideration to this item, particularly in the light of the recent bad weather. It was confirmed that the Town Council had a duty to clear the snow and ice at all of its premises. It was agreed that an important consideration when vehicles were being replaced was their dual purpose usage.

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

72. TREES IN SHOTTON HALL – ADJACENT LORIMERS CLOSE

Further to the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010, Minute Number 16 refers, attached is the report of Dendra Consulting Limited on the trees in Shotton Hall Grounds. The Horticultural Supervisor advised that he was confident that all issues apart from Number T1 could be attended to.

**RECOMMENDED that costs be obtained to carry out the work outlined in T1. FURTHER RECOMMENDED permission be granted for the Horticultural Supervisor to proceed with talks with Houghall College on possible opportunities for partnership working.**

73. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER, SECOND CONSULTATION – PASSFIELD WAY/DURHAM WAY, PETERLEE

Details of the second consultation on this proposal were circulated to each Member. Members were concerned that resident's views had not been taken into account and it was **RECOMMENDED that Durham County Council be requested to carry out more comprehensive consultation with residents before any works took place.**

74. ENCLOSED OUTDOOR BATTING & BOWLING PRACTICE AREA, HELFORD ROAD

This item had been referred from the Pavilion Management Board Meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 for further discussion and consideration. It was agreed that a letter of support should be given however no financial commitment could be agreed at this current time.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk draft a letter of approval for the proposal to be agreed at the Council Meeting.**

75. 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 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

76. PERMISSION TO TRADE AT LOWHILLS ROAD

Consideration was given to the request received to trade at Lowhills Road. It was suggested that an approach should be made to Acre Rigg Social Club to see if they had an interest in this trade before

consideration be given to it being offered/tendered to any other trader(s).

**RECOMMENDED that this course of action be followed.**

77. HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Consideration was given to the Report of the Horticultural Supervisor which gave details of the Parks Department assets for 2010. A list of equipment was given with a breakdown of vehicles and equipment currently owned by Peterlee Town Council Parks Department. The main spreadsheet gave the year of purchase, estimated current value, current comparative cost of replacement for similar type of machinery and where applicable current expenditure to date on repairs.

**Replacement Vehicles:** The only road vehicle which would require replacing within the next 2 years would be the Daihatsu pick up truck (petrol) due to:-

- Current Model no longer available in UK;
- No Current dealership (limited parts availability), similar model stripped of parts 2008 engine problems/bodywork problems (especially winter);
- Very lightweight and only 2 wheel drive (handling, especially in Winter).

**Replacement Vehicle (Type):** A suitable direct replacement for the Daihatsu pick up truck would be a four wheel drive, diesel agricultural vehicle such as a John Deere Gator for the following reasons:-

- Agricultural vehicles exempt of Excise duty ( Road Tax);
- Diesel engines cheaper to maintain/ more economical also last longer;
- More robust type of vehicle. (750kg + capacity);
- Full off road capability;
- Can be used for horticultural duties, spraying/fertiliser distribution, towing implements.

The report outlined current maintenance implications for future maintenance and repair budgets. Details were also given on warranties in

place for newly purchased vehicles/equipment which brought with them savings.

In summary the report high lighted the number of vehicles the Town Council owned and the implications of costs and replacement.

**RECOMMENDED the offer made by Members for a small sub group to be established to assist in the planning of procurement of parks vehicles, be accepted and FURTHER RECOMMENDED in considering replacements the emphasis be on capabilities ie dual purpose; road tax savings; fuel implications etc.**

Details were given on:-

MUGA hours for November are 82

Ashes - None

Burials - 3

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

78. BBC TV COVERAGE

The Leader reported on the positive coverage received by the Town Council, particularly in relation to the cemetery, on how well the service was coping given the bad weather conditions.

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

79. ELECTRONIC MAPPING SYSTEM

It was reported that an on line demonstration had been offered by Pear Technologies on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010, at 9.30am at Shotton Hall and Members were invited to come along and take part in this open session.

**RECOMMENDED that any Member wishing to come along do so.**

80. INTERNET POSTING

Details were given of an internet posting regarding the Town Council and Councillors.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk make further investigations into this matter.**