

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2011

PRESENT: COUN. R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor
& S McDonnell

Messrs: J Hardy, T Jones, C J Metcalfe,
R Kyle, C Austin, C Robbins, R Huitson,
W M Jeffrey, H Bennett MBE, J Alvey,
C Watkins & D Langan

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

94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- R Jones (heart problems), G Cowie (sore throat), D Milsom (holiday), M Milsom (holiday) and E W Hall (stroke).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

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

COUNCILLOR R CURTIS DECLARED AN INTEREST ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION THAT ENSUED.

96. REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH SEAT

A letter had been received from a local resident requesting permission to erect a wooden memorial bench in memory of her late Father who had been recently buried in the Cemetery.

Unfortunately, the area specified was on consecrated ground and required special permissions from the East Durham Diocese to enable any works other than burials in this area. It was also stressed that the Cemetery was a formal lawned cemetery and there was a past policy on the areas in the cemetery where benches should be sited.

RECOMMENDED that the Supervisor prepare a report including a map of the area in question, for further consideration at the Full Council meeting.

97. PETERLEE “IN BLOOM” 2011

Consideration was given to the report which had been previously circulated to each Member. The Show Co-Ordinator also gave a verbal report on the suggested changes for the Competition. She advised that it would be publicised in the next edition of the ‘About Town’ including an application form.

RECOMMENDED that;-

- i) the Judging take place on Monday 18th July 2011**
- ii) the Presentation Evening take place on Wednesday 27th July 2011**
- iii) the Co-Ordinator ask Ross, the owner of Plants R Us Garden Centre, if he would consider being a Judge this year.**

98. LOWHILLS ROAD FOOTBALL PITCH NO. 6 – USE OF PITCHES

Correspondence relating to the above subject had been circulated to Members for their information.

The Supervisor expressed his concerns on a number of occasions where upon the Team had been allocated a particular pitch, when they turned up they took it upon themselves to play on another pitch of their choice, without permission.

Members referred to the rules in the contract each Football Team had received at the beginning of the season. This issued had also been discussed at some length, at the Sports users meetings.

There was also the issue of Parking on Lowhills Road which was actively policed by Parks Staff, but with little or no co-operation from the Teams.

RECOMMENDED a reminder be sent to all Teams using pitches that:-

- **pitches being used without permission would not be tolerated;**
- **teams were to play on the allocated pitch at the allocated time;**
- **all players park in the nominated car park and if asked to move their cars, they do so immediately**

Failure to comply with any of these conditions would result in contracts being terminated immediately.

99. COUNTY DURHAM & DARLINGTON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The above document had been received, a copy of which had been circulated to Members for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the document be received, and no comments be offered.

100. NESTA GRANT BID – PROGRESS

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the results of this grant bid were still not known, but, would, hopefully be reported to the Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED this matter be considered further at the Council meeting.

101. 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.

102. HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Members are advised of the following works carried out during January 2011.

a) Dene Parks (North)

Clearing of hazel, elder and ash trees which had self seeded to create safe egress along path ways and also to enable better lighting from street lighting positioned on pathways.

Clearing of Lonicera Shrubs to prevent free flow of water and prevent rubbish/silt build up within waterway.

b) Dene Parks (South)

Coppicing of trees and also clearing of vegetation clearing of leaves especially around steps area. Inspections of pathways for hazards (slips, trips, falls)

Chipping of felled trees back into Dene Areas.

Removal of fallen limbs throughout all Dene Areas to discourage arsonists/ Anti Social Behaviour.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

c) Eden Lane Areas

Clearing of bowling green “Gutters” and preparing for Lawn Sand preparations prior to bowling green opening in Easter Holidays.

Painting of vandalised youth shelter using three operatives from Future Jobs Fund prior to inclusion in March issue of About Town (possible hand over ceremony to Peterlee Town Football Club).

Demolition of vandalised former “Whippet Hut” using Parks staff and assisted by Future Jobs Fund staff together with associated reinstating of grassed area.

Heavy pruning of trees/shrubs within the mobile phone mast compound, because of the increase in Anti Social Behaviour and also to prevent C.C.T.V. “blind spots”

Decorating of Cemetery Office using Parks Dept attendants and also on track to complete Hill Rigg House football changing rooms.

Removal of fly-tipped rubbish within Naisbitt Avenue area (Quarry site)

Installation of ducting for intended 3 phase electricity supply (In house using Parks Dept staff)

Monitoring/fencing of eroded areas of land within the “pony fields” area, possibly from water problems associated with Seascape School or damaged pipework from existing drainage runs.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

d) Helford Road Playing fields

Erection of aluminium football posts creating a second pitch to alleviate the problems associated with the increase in teams of Peterlee Helford United

Removal of Fly tipped furniture/rubbish from shared path area of Castle Eden Denes.

Gulley inspection and maintenance of surface water gulleys within car parks and Muga area (Roddable Gulleys)

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

e) Lowhills Road Area

Maintenance/inspection of surface water gulleys within car park area and also removal of weeds/soil build up to prevent further flooding.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

f) Leisure Gardens (Lowhills Road)

Repairs to fenceline, wire and painting of fence tops with anti vandal paint.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

g) Vehicles

Members were advised of the need to adopt a decision regarding the disposal of several vehicles formerly used by Peterlee Town Council. All of the vehicles were currently in need of attention and it was suggested could be sold as spares or repair only.

The Supervisor recommended to Council that the vehicles were sold in lots (see below) and that sale would be made to the highest sealed bid in line with other years. The current values of the vehicles were very hard to ascertain due to the condition of the vehicles and also due to the current economic climate.

The vehicles in question had been offered as part exchanges in lieu of other vehicle purchases but had been declined because of age/condition. He did not regard the option of sending the vehicles to auction as viable for the above reasons of age and condition, secondly all of the companies approached were liable to charge commission and an uplift charge for transport to place of auction. The closest commercial auction was currently in Washington.

Suggested Lots

Lot 1: Vauxhall Vivaro diesel vans (2 in total) year of manufacture 2003, Spares or repair. To be viewed at Eden Lane, Peterlee, SR8 5DJ.
Offers over £1500.

Lot 2: Daihatsu Hi Jet 1300 petrol pick up, year of manufacture 2000, Spares or repair. To be viewed at Eden Lane, Peterlee, SR8 5DJ.

Daihatsu Hi Jet 1300 petrol pick up, year of manufacture 2002, spares or repair.

Tested till March 2011. To be viewed at Eden Lane, Peterlee, SR8 5DJ.

Offers over £600 (both vehicles)

Lot 3: Various pieces of horticultural equipment, tipping trailer (2 ton), Gang mowers, Gill seeder all classed as spares.

Offers over £250 (sold as one lot only) buyer to remove within 1 month.

RECOMMENDED that:-

(a) the vehicles/equipment details contained in the report, be declared surplus to Town Council requirements;

(b) the vehicles to be sold in two lots as spares or repair only;

(c) these vehicles be advertised for sale both internally/externally and secured by sealed bids only.

103. PONY FIELDS/SEASCAPE DRAINAGE PROBLEM

Correspondence relating to the above subject, had been circulated to Members for their information.

The Supervisor advised that he had erected warning signs at this location stating ‘Maintenance works being carried out’, as advised by the Council’s Insurance Company and he was carrying out all necessary protocols in relation to health and safety.

RECOMMENDED that the Supervisor keep Members informed with progress.

104. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION – LOAN

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

The Association conveyed their thanks to the Council, however, due to financial restraints would not be going ahead with the offer of the loan.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

105. PETERLEE CRICKET CLUB – HALL & CO. LETTER DATED 31ST JANUARY 2011

A copy of a letter had been received from Hall & Co, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members.

RECOMMENDED:-

- i) **Mr Roy Simpson, as Trustee, be contacted requesting the Club to providing proof they had sufficient funds to refurbish and kit out the building, in addition to provide proof of sufficient funds to run a viable business for the next seven years;**
- ii) **another letter be sent to McKenzie Bell, the original Solicitors dealing with this case, if no reply then re-iterate the Council would be seeking advice from the solicitors regulation authority;**
- iii) **an appropriate reply be sent to Hall & Co.**

106. BOWLERS

The Supervisor gave a verbal update on the current situation with the bowlers.

RECOMMENDED that a meeting be convened with the bowlers, Horticulture Supervisor, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parks Committee, the outcome be reported back to Members.

107. ALLOTMENT GARDENS

The Deputy Town Clerk asked Members for clarification as to whether the water charges were to be passed to the Association. This had been discussed at the meeting when the estimates of expenditure were approved and the precept set for 2011/12.

RECOMMENDED that a letter be sent to the Peterlee Leisure Gardeners Association advising them of the rent increase and water charges.

108. LEAK OVER THE CAFÉ - UPDATE

The Council's Architect advised the Town Clerk he had approached the Mechanical Engineer at DTA for advice on the leak over the café.

The DTA advised that as the two leaks occurred outside of the defects period, then they would require to be paid for a survey and report in the problem. The Town Council were asked how they wished to proceed.

RECOMMENDED that this issue be included within the claim currently being collated by Smith and Graham on the Town Council's behalf against the builder.