

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 11th JULY 2011

PRESENT: COUN. MRS M MILSOM (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor &
J Black

Messrs: J Hardy, T Jones, D Milsom,
R Huitson, R Kyle, R Jones,
C Watkins, E W Hall, C Austin,
C J Metcalfe & C Robbins

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

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- H Bennett MBE (holiday), G Cowie (asthma), J Alvey (poorly) and R Curtis (holiday).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

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

MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 3 – Summer Parks Inspection – 23rd July 2011

Members were asked to confirm their attendance, or otherwise, as a seven seater bus had been booked from 9.30am until 1.30pm.

12. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS SUPERVISOR

a) Play Area Issues

The Supervisor gave Members information on the current condition of several of the play areas, which had been closed at various intervals due to vandalism and play surface problems.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) **the Supervisor prepare a priority list with costings for each play area,**
- ii) **at least two of the play areas be visited during the Annual inspection**

b) Peterlee in Bloom

The closing date for 'Peterlee in Bloom' was Friday 8th July 2011. The judging day would be Monday 18th July, the Presentation evening would be Wednesday 27th July.

RECOMMENDED that Members confirm their attendance, or otherwise, by no later than 17th July 2011.

c) Sports Pitches and Fees

All pitches had been allocated to sports users who had paid their fees and a standard letter had also been included within each Team's pitch confirmation pack. The Council would continue to use the £50 deposit system as a "fine" to any of the Teams who flouted their pitch terms and conditions.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

d) Autumn Planting scheme

All plant schemes had been completed for the Autumn/Winter bedding schemes and were in line with previous years. The Supervisor sought permission to leave the roundabout on Burnhope Way (Post Office) unplanted.

This would not only benefit next year's Summer bedding scheme it would also enable a financial saving of £1,092 to the Parks Department.

In relation to the A19 bed (carpet bedding) Members were advised that a design would have to be created/costed within 2011 budget for the intended Peterlee Show 40th Anniversary in 2012.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

e) Burials

May	5 burials	1 ashes
June		2 ashes

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

13. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPORTS USERS HELD ON 3RD JULY 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

14. COUNCIL TAX REPLY

The Town Clerk had circulated a copy of a draft letter to be sent to a minority of residents who had queried the increase in this year's Council Tax.

Members stated that the Town Council did not receive any direct Government support/funding and agreed that this should be included in the letter.

RECOMMENDED that the draft letter be amended to incorporate the following vital facts:-

- i) the Town Council did not receive any Government grants/funding,**
- ii) cost of vandalism to play areas etc. within the Town**
- iii) in Paragraph 3 – include that the increase equated to approximately £7.00 per year.**

15. 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.

16. HELFDOR ROAD CRICKET & SOCIAL CLUB

The Town Clerk circulated a copy of a Statement for Legal Counsel Opinion with regard to the above Club.

Members discussed at length the background and history to the present situation with the above Club.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) **the Town Clerk contact Zurich Insurance to ascertain in writing their position with regard to a full and final settlement for this claim;**
- ii) **the Town Clerk ask the Social Club for the relevant information again;**
- iii) **the Town Clerk be given authority to seek the necessary legal advice in relation to this on-going claim;**
- iv) **the progress with the repair project be placed on hold until such time as the critical information outlined in the Town Clerk's report, is received.**