

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2011

PRESENT: COUN. R CURTIS (CHAIR)

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

Messrs: D Milsom, R Huitson, J Alvey,
C J Metcalfe, H Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey,
C Watkins, C Robbins, R Kyle, C Austin
& E W Hall

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

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Hardy
(Mayor's duties).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

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

*COUNCILLOR MRS J I MEASOR DECLARED AN INTEREST
ON THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE
DISCUSSION THAT ENSUED.*

In connection with Minute No. 9 – Invoice received from Peterlee Town Football Club – Repositioning of the flood lights, Eden Lane

The Parks Supervisor advised Members that invoices amounting to £110.00 had been received for work which Peterlee Town Football Club had engaged themselves in without the Town Council's consent.

RECOMMENDED that a letter be sent to the Football Club advising them that the Council would not be paying the invoices, and in future no such tasks were to be undertaken without prior consent from the Town Council due to the strict requirements of health and safety.

COUNCILLOR D LANGAN ENTERED THE MEETING AT 8.00PM.

19. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS SUPERVISOR

a) DENE PARKS

The Parks Supervisor referred to a recent report of the discovery of a corpse within the South Denes area of Peterlee. This was an area which had been for a number of years the subject of large scale finds of discarded hypodermic needles and other drug related paraphernalia.

The Supervisor expressed his concerns on a number of levels in relation to this incident. Firstly, that this was an area which saw very few visits by either the Police or the Street Wardens, unless there was an incident. Secondly, there was anecdotal evidence to suggest that the needle finds were from the Easington Substance Misuse Scheme (ESMI) which was based in Lee House, Peterlee. He was currently seeking advice as to disposing of the discarded needles and also seeking assistance from other agencies in order to reduce this ongoing problem.

Councillor C Austin also advised that there was a major problem in the Passfield Ward area, in particular the Pasmore Pavilion.

RECOMMENDED that the Parks Supervisor establish a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of

the Parks Committee, Leader and Deputy Leader, Police, Street Wardens and the Easington Substance Misuse Scheme (ESMI) to consider these issues.

b) CEMETERY

Burials 2

Ashes 1

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

c) USE OF THE MUGA

July 64

August 68

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

20. **TREE PLANTING TO MARK THE QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE**

An initiative had been set up by the Woodland Trust with the view of tree planting to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Communities could apply for free Jubilee packs of 105 or 420 no. trees to plant in their area.

RECOMMENDED that the Parks Supervisor ensure that the relevant Staff apply for a Jubilee pack and have a schedule/timescale in place, so the Town Council did not miss out on this opportunity.

21. **THANKS & APPRECIATION – ROUNDABOUT DISPLAYS**

A thank you card had been received from a local resident expressing her appreciation to the Parks Staff for the exceptional roundabout displays in the Town.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

22. **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.

23. PRICING OF SOFT DRINKS

This item had been referred from the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RECOMMENDED that a drinks price list be displayed both at Shotton Hall and The Pavilion.

24. PARKS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

a) Tree Surveys/Maintenance

The Supervisor advised Members that he had sourced three companies who had conformed to all requests for the following information:-

- Public Liability Insurance
- Qualifications/Experience
- Provision of Method Statements/Risk Assessments
- Local availability (0191 areas)

They had also been chosen for their pricing structures which appeared to give various options for the Health and Safety liabilities of the current tree stocks. He had sought quotations for a number of trees in various areas of Peterlee and intended to use, at some point all three companies, rather than relying on one particular company for obvious reasons, however he still recommended that for the time being the Council continue to use Dendra Consulting for the tree surveys. The rationale for this being that we could also obtain Bat surveys within the same pricing framework because of the mutually beneficial method of operation.

The companies requested to use for outstanding tree issues were:
Arbor Division (Durham)
Premier Tree Services (Peterlee)
Olivers Tree Services (Durham)

RECOMMENDED that the above Companies be accepted for inclusion on the list as an “Approved Contractor” with an agreed Schedule of rates.

b) Surplus Vehicles (Vans/Pick ups)

Members were advised that following Audit protocol, surplus vehicles (2 Vauxhall vivaro 1.9 DTi vans, 2 Daihatsu Hi Jet Pick up trucks) had been advertised on 6th August 2011 in the Sunderland Echo, Hartlepool Mail and Peterlee Star on a sealed bid basis. The four vehicles were being sold as spares or repair and had no tax or test.

The Supervisor advised Members of the bids received.

The highest bid for the Vivaros was £2,200.00 from N.E. Motor Salvage.

The highest bid for the Daihatsu pick ups was £400.00 from Mr F.Hindle (private buyer).

The vehicles would be sold as seen and this had been made clear and would be re-iterated that there could be no come back to the Town Council regarding the condition or use of the vehicles.

RECOMMENDED that the two separate highest bids be accepted as follows:-

- i) £2,200 from North East Motor Salvage for the Vivaros,**
- ii) £400.00 from a private buyer for the Diahatsu pick ups.**

c) Future Job Fund Personnel

The Parks Supervisor asked Members to examine the possibility of extending the period of employment for the existing Future Jobs fund personnel, which would currently end in December 2011. He felt that these personnel were an asset to the Council as the vandalism had significantly reduced.

RECOMMENDED that the Parks Supervisor prepare a Report for Member's consideration consisting of the costings, comparisons and possible funding opportunities.