

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2011

PRESENT: COUN. R CURTIS (CHAIR)

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

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

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

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Jones
(Wife ill).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

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

27. LETTER OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION – PETERLEE
TOWN COUNCIL .

A letter had been received from the above Club, expressing their
thanks for the work the Parks Department had carried out in

maintaining the bowling green and surrounding gardens, a copy of which had been circulated to Members.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

28. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Councillor J Alvey advised that he had resigned from the above Association. The Leader, who was also the Council's representative on this Association, added that he had not been invited to recent meetings.

Councillor C J Metcalfe advised that members of the Thorntree Gill site had asked him to be their representative, which he had accepted. He added that a meeting was to be held on Saturday 19th November at 10.00am, which the Leader would be welcome to attend.

RECOMMENDED that the Leader attend this meeting on Saturday 19th November 2011 and report back with progress.

29. 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.

30. THE REPORT OF THE CEMETERY RECORDS OFFICER

A copy of the above Report had been circulated to Members for their consideration.

a) Sanctum Plaques

The Cemetery Records Officer advised that he had been requested to look at services currently being offered by Peterlee Town Council in a bid to further promote services offered by the Cemetery Section. Whilst scrutinising current services it was noticed that the only 10 Sanctum Plaques had been sold since 1998.

Sanctum Plaques were a flat tablet (400mm x 300mm) which were purchased directly from the stonemason and were laid within the Remembrance garden with the option of scattering the deceased's ashes rather than burying them within the ashes plots.

Information of the current fees applicable was detailed in the report. The Cemetery Records Officer advised he had sourced an alternative supplier who was both National Association of Memorial Masons and the British Registered Association of Memorial Masons registered, based locally, who could offer a complete service at a significantly reduced fee of £350.00. This local supplier could also reduce the turnaround to two to three weeks from ordering to fitting the plaque.

b) Ashes Plots

In relation to the ground rental for ashes plots which was currently £50.00 for a larger plot (610mm x 610mm), another anomaly had become apparent. One possible option may be to decrease the ground rental to £45.00 which may provide more interest by the public and would also give a more balanced pricing structure for the current Cemetery services on offer.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council add Stephen Bell Memorials as an approved contractor for the supply of Sanctum Plaques.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the ground rental fee to place a Sanctum Plaque be reduced to the sum of £45.00, with effect from March 2012.

31. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

a) WOODHOUSE PARK CRAZY GOLF COURSE STAFFING

The Parks Development Officer's Report, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, gave up to date progress and future aspirations of this facility.

Members commended the two Future Jobs Funded personnel, who were an asset to this project. It was hoped funding could be obtained to retain these two positions, as funding was to cease in December 2011.

RECOMMENDED that a report be submitted to the next meeting after all funding opportunities had been investigated. The possibility of using FJF personnel at the Eden Lane Community facility would also be investigated by the Sports Development Officer.

32. THE REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

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

a) Peterlee Newtown Football Ground

In a bid to assess the usage of Eden Lane sporting facilities it had become apparent that further co-operation was needed with the existing sports users in a bid to promote a more transparent approach to community participation for the future of the Newtown Ground.

Formal meetings with Peterlee Town Football Club had recently taken place to discuss the feasibility of entering into a joint bid to provide an initial £20,000 grant application for the current upgrade and maintenance of the current pitch floodlighting system which was currently the responsibility of Peterlee Town Council to maintain and also accessing other funding opportunities via the Club's F.A. Charter Mark Status.

RECOMMENDED that a feasibility study be produced to enable a productive and more formal working relationships with Peterlee Town Football Club.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that full information be presented to Members for consideration. A time frame and a project plan to be established in order to achieve this outcome.

b) Theft of Camera

Members were informed of a theft of an external dome camera which had been stolen from the exterior of Eden Lane main Parks depot on Saturday 29 October 2011. The Police and Steadfast Security had been notified.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticulture Supervisor submit a claim with the Council's Insurers to replace this item and works to be carried out as detailed.

c) St Cuthbert's Church

In line with previous years the Parks Department personnel had assisted in the renovation of the current war memorial situated within the grounds of St Cuthbert's Church in Peterlee in readiness for the Memorial Service to be held on Sunday 13th November 2011. Personnel had cleaned the memorial and had weeded and replanted the grounds using surplus plants within the vicinity of the memorial itself and thanks had been expressed by the Church staff to the Parks Department for this work.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.