

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 12th DECEMBER 2011

PRESENT: COUN R CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, S McDonnell,
& J Black

Messrs: D Milsom, J Alvey,
R Huitson, C J Metcalfe, T A Jones,
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.**

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor R Jones (wife ill), D Langan (family bereavement), G Cowie (holiday), H Bennett MBE (holiday), C Austin (ill), J Hardy (Mayoral duties) and Mrs J I Measor (family commitments).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

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

35. 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.

36. THE REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

A copy of the Horticultural Supervisor's Report had been circulated to Members, advising that the pruning works for general maintenance and also for security purposes (thinning out) of problematic shrubs and trees would be carried out throughout several sites this winter and beyond to include:

Shotton Hall (Shadforth Close) fence line-
Woodhouse Park (North Gate entrance)
Woodhouse Park (shrub bed, St Bede's fence line)
Woodhouse Park (MUGA Area)
Woodhouse Park (Cotoneaster Hedge)
Lowhills Bowling Green (Fence lines)
Cemetery (Eden Lane)

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor prepare a report detailing the costings for these works.

Overview-

Member's attention was drawn to previous quotations of £20,000+ to upgrade or maintain a number of "rubber crumb" play surfaces within various play areas throughout Peterlee which were at the end of their useful life, (ten years). This surfacing being a requirement under current legislation (EN 1176) and was applicable to all types of play equipment and surfaces; however there was a greater deal of risk attached to play areas which were aimed at younger children and which incorporate equipment which had a requirement to incorporate "fall heights" e.g. swings, slides etc. Simultaneous to this exercise there was also a need to assess whether the present play equipment which was also ten years old, was still fit for current purpose.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor prepare a Report for the January meeting, after liaising with the Sports Development Officer and Town Clerk.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor clarify if the EN1176 was current legislation or a directive.

Queen Elizabeth 2 Fields Challenge (Diamond Jubilee)

The Horticultural Supervisor advised Members of the possibility of a proposal to submit an application for the Eden Lane site into the QE2 Fund.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor liaise with the Sports Development Officer and Town Clerk to produce a detailed report for Member's consideration.

37. STOPPING UP ORDER – 1 – 33 YODEN WAY, PETERLEE

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had lodged a holding objection to the above proposal. A response had been received from the Senior Solicitor, DWF LLP, advising their client did not intend to physically close Yoden Way. Members expressed their concerns as to the exact meaning of their intentions.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk put forward a list of relevant questions to the Senior Solicitor and their comments be awaited.

38. PLANNING APPLICATION – 25 YODEN WAY, PETERLEE – EAST DURHAM CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – OBJECTION – REF NO: PL/5/2011/0485

The Citizens Advice Bureau had forwarded a copy of a letter they had sent to the Area Planning Office, Durham, expressing their objections to the change of use applications at the Castle Dene Shopping Centre.

RECOMMENDED that the letter be received and noted.

COUNCILLOR C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED. COUNCILLOR METCALFE DID SPEAK TO CLARIFY A POINT RAISED ON THE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES.

39. LEISURE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION – RULES

Members discussed at length the outstanding issues relating to the above Association which needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

RECOMMENDED that a meeting be convened with the temporary Chairman of the Leisure Gardeners Association, Councillor C J Metcalfe; Treasurer Mr Eric Miller and the Council's representative Councillor W M Jeffrey and the Horticultural Supervisor. If the Association had no objections to the amended Rules, then these be used as a handbook for all members of the Association.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that the Association notify the Town Council, in writing, of any newly appointed Officials.