

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2012

PRESENT: COUN. J ALVEY (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, S McDonnell
& J Black

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

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

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- G Cowie (family bereavement), R Jones (wife poorly), Mrs M Milsom (poorly), Mrs J I Measor (ill health) and R Curtis (poorly).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

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

42. INFORMAL CIVIC RECEPTION – FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY 2012, SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL

An invitation had been received from Seaham Town Council inviting the Town Council to an Informal Civic Reception to be held on Friday 27th January 2012 at their Council Offices, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council accept this invitation and any Member wishing to attend this event to notify the Mayor's Secretary.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that a reciprocal invitation be considered at the Council meeting.

43. NOMINATIONS FOR THE ROYAL GARDEN PARTY – 22nd MAY 2012

Correspondence relating to the above event had been circulated to Members.

RECOMMENDED that any Member wishing to submit their name were to contact the Clerk, if chosen, this would be at their own expense.

COUNCILLORS C J METCALFE AND J ALVEY DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT ENSUED.

44. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

(a) Request for Grit Bins

A letter of request for grit bins, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, was considered.

A local Member expressed his concerns at the lack of bins in the Hatfield Place area. Additional bins had been obtained via Pathfinder, which had not been fairly distributed amongst the Wards in the Town and he asked that this be addressed.

The Horticultural Supervisor, advised that he could despatch some Staff to clear the Acre Rigg car park area, during winter months, where necessary.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor ascertain the total number of grit bins in ownership of the Town Council identified on a map for Members' consideration.

- (b) Suggested Rules, as checked by Peter Horrocks, who is prepared to be Arbitrator in the event of any disputes, (NSLGA)

A copy of the above Rules, had been circulated to Members for consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the Rules be adopted and drafted to a handbook for all Members to use as reference.

- (c) Notification of Representatives

A list of representatives had been circulated to all Members.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

- (d) Invitation to their next meeting – 19th January 2012, 7.30pm, Peterlee Catholic Club

RECOMMENDED that the Council's representative, Councillor W M Jeffrey, attend this meeting.

- (e) Water supply to the sites

The Leisure Gardeners were querying water usage on different sites. It was advised that as the Association were now paying for their water supply, it would be their responsibility.

RECOMMENDED that the Association themselves carry out any necessary checks on water usage.

45. ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

The Town Clerk advised Members that she had met with a Finance Manager at Durham County Council who had confirmed that setting the Town Council's precept in the sum of £1,468,466, would have a zero effect on the Town Council's element of the Council Tax demand.

RECOMMENDED that the Precept of the Council be set at £1,468,466 for 2012/12 financial year.

46. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE WAS ASKED TO PASS THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

47. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S PROGRESS REPORT

A copy of the Sports Development Officer's progress report had been circulated to all Members.

In relation to Playing Pitch Provision the Sports Development Officer expressed her concerns as to the lack of pitches, and the big implications it would create in March with an overlapping situation for the different teams.

A Member suggested that identified un-used land could be used as a training pitch, which was owned by Durham County Council, although there had been no satisfactory outcome from previous approaches to use the land.

The Horticultural Supervisor suggested that the children's play area could possibly be moved to create an overflow pitch. A local Member expressed his concerns as to this suggestion, he felt that if it was moved then it would need to be replaced, as there was a clear demand for this facility.

In relation to Helford Road MUGA the Sports Development Officer asked for consideration of a price review.

RECOMEMNDED that:-

- i) **a feasibility study be undertaken and costs be drawn up as to the play area being re-sited,**
- ii) **the Council lobby County Councillors with regard to the possibility of the County Council land providing an alternative site for either play or sport provision, and once again raise the issue of the Town Council purchasing the land,**
- iii) **further information be provided on possible solutions available on the Cricket Pitch side of the Pavilion,**
- iv) **the information available within Durham County Council's playground provision consultation exercise, be reviewed by the Town Council,**
- v) **a review of prices charged at sports facilities be undertaken as part of the Council's Annual Review of Charges**

48. REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

A copy of the Horticultural Supervisor's Report had been circulated to Members.

- i) Land at the Pony Fields, Eden Lane, Peterlee
Members expressed their concerns at the on-going issues relating to the tethering of horses and motorbikes.

The Supervisor advised that the Parks Staff were constantly contacting the Police with these complaints.

RECOMMENED that:-

- a) **that all complaints made to the Police as logged by the Parks Supervisor then submitted to the Council meeting monthly for discussion with the Police representatives**

- b) **a Press Release be included in the next ‘About Town’ newsletter, detailing actions taken by the Town Council,**
 - c) **a meeting with the Police and Horden Parish Council be arranged to ensure a multi-agency approach to this on-going problem.**
- ii) Cemetery
The figures for the Cemetery were as follows:-

Burials for December	– 2
Ashes for December	– 2

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

- iii) Outstanding Issues from Easements for Seascope School at Eden Hill, Peterlee
Members discussed this item in depth and agreed it was imperative the Council meet with all parties involved as the problems were not the responsibility of the Town Council. There had been no problems on this land prior to the building of the school.

RECOMMENDED that a meeting be convened as a matter of urgency, high level Officer representation be requested from the Durham County Council, preferably to include the Chief Executive.