

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 12th MARCH 2012

PRESENT: COUN. J ALVEY (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, J Black
& L Wood

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

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

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- J Hardy (Mayoral duties), G Cowie (poorly), E W Hall (poorly), J I Measor (poorly), D Milsom (family bereavement) and Mrs M Milsom (family bereavement).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted, be accepted.

63. BEREAVEMENT

The Leader sadly advised Members that Councillor Don Milsom's daughter had suddenly passed away aged 41 years.

RECOMMENDED that the Clerk send a letter of condolence with the Council's deepest sympathy.

64. DEATH OF FORMER MAYOR – FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL

The Leader advised Members that Councillor Woods, a former Mayor of Ferryhill Town Council, had passed away.

RECOMMENDED that the Clerk send a letter of condolence to Councillor Woods' wife.

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

66. REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD TO CONSIDER THE USE OF SPORTS PITCHES

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

Suggestions had been put forward by the Sports Development Officer and the Horticultural Supervisor for consideration and approval, i) to xi) as detailed in the Report.

A lengthy discussion ensued over existing operational and user issues at the Eden Lane facility.

Councillors D Langan, C Austin and H Bennett MBE wished it recorded in the minutes that they strongly disagreed with any existing practices within the facility that were being undertaken without the Council's knowledge, approval, or consent, taking place outside of the proper booking procedures and terms of use.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) **in the immediate short term, the middle football pitch at Helford Road be made into a rugby pitch, leaving one football pitch at the site. Other football matches to be accommodated at one of the alternative sites, this giving two pitches for rugby at Helford Road.**
- ii) **The Sports Development Officer make enquiries as to the funding possibilities for the re-location of the play area at Helford Road/Oakerside Drive, and prepare a further Report.**

- iii) **Requests made for a reduction in costs of using the MUGA by the Peterlee Pumas, be refused.**
- iv) **Any Team mis-using the MUGA (i.e. playing with studs in their boots) not be allowed on the pitch and all monies for repairs to be paid by them. The Pavilion Staff be responsible to check the Teams football boots for studs before and after a match.**
- v) **The responsibility for inspecting the MUGA before and after use be the responsibility of the Pavilion staff, all checks to be logged, and signed off by a member of Staff and recorded on forms kept and monitored at The Pavilion.**
- vi) **The Sports Development Officer be given authority to grant long term concessionary use to use the MUGA, on the understanding that should a fee paying customer make a request to use the facility, they be requested to move/change their game(s), with a two week notice period being given. Booking forms and written agreements would need to be updated to reflect these requirements.**
- vii) **Off Peak sessions be extended to Saturday and Sundays.**

FURTHER RECOMMENDED that items viii) to xi) in the report relating to security issues, hire agreements, management of the facility and possible user groups/working parties be considered further following discussions between Users and the Town Clerk.

67. THE REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

COUNCILLOR C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

- a) Peterlee Leisure Gardens Association (PLGA) Letter -
 - i) Stolen Taps

The Horticultural Supervisor advised Members that the brass taps had been stolen and required replacing, prices had been sought, as given in the Supervisor's Report.

Members agreed that the Supervisor meet with the Association to discuss the various options feasible at the cheapest cost, to include preventive measures for thefts/vandalism, and water conservation methods to be formulated.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor meet with the Association to discuss the various options available to resolve this situation.

ii) Welcome Pack

A request had been received to reproduce 150 no. copies of the rules and regulations produced by the PLGA to be issued to current and new members.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given to supply 150 no. Rules and Regulation booklets to the PLGA.

iii) Gritting of Roads

Gritting of Peterlee Town Council assets had been completed by members of the Parks staff this included the Leisure Gardens sites.

The Supervisor asked for Members consideration to consider the health & safety implications of allowing all year round vehicular access to leisure garden sites.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to the next Health and Safety Sub-Committee.

iv) Meetings

The Horticultural Supervisor advised that the Peterlee Leisure Gardeners Association had requested a monthly meeting with the Town Clerk, in addition to the meetings currently in place.

Members felt that the current number of meetings for the Peterlee Leisure Gardens Association and the arrangements available currently were sufficient to deal with business.

In addition, they were welcome to attend the Public Open Session prior to a full Council meeting held monthly.

RECOMMENDED that no additional meetings be convened between the Peterlee Leisure Gardeners Association and the Town Council.

b) Cemetery Of The Year 2012

The Horticultural Supervisor requested endorsement for his intention of the Cemetery Department applying for entrance into The Green Flag Award Scheme, as we met the criteria required.

RECOMMENDED that the Council fully support the Cemetery Department's application for The Green Flag Award Scheme, and the outcome be reported back to Members.

c) Cemetery Burials and Ashes

An update of the burials and ashes since the last meeting were as follows:-

Burials 3
Ashes 3

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

d) Summer Bedding Schemes

The Horticultural Supervisor advised Members of a potential problem with the intended A19 bed which had in the past been used to publicise the Peterlee Show and the Rotary Club and Round Table. Due to the anticipated high uptake in carpet bedding plants by local authorities he believed that problems may be encountered if the Council incorporated a Jubilee or Olympic theme for this bed.

Secondly the costs per plant for carpet bedding had risen by almost 50% which was a significant increase, which had not been budgeted in this current budget. The Parks Department could overcome demand issues by using red, white and blue colour themes.

He also advised Members that he would be procuring hanging baskets from the Peterlee Shinwell Centre rather than Darlington Borough Council this year. This would be supporting this local organisation who

work with less able bodied clients to produce community projects, working in Woodhouse Park, and would be cost effective to the Council.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

e) Sports Fees

Members were asked to give early consideration as to any possible increases in sports fees and also cemetery fee increases for the coming 2012/2013 seasons.

The Supervisor advised that he would prepare a report detailing how the Council's prices compared with other facilities of a similar standard.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor's Report, be awaited.

68. PETERLEE IN BLOOM 2012 – JUDGING DAY 9TH JULY 2012, PRESENTATION NIGHT 18TH JULY 2012

Members gave consideration to this event and agreed that this event be held again this year.

RECOMMENDED that the format and venue for this event be considered further.

69. LACK OF YOUTH PROVISION IN THE DENEHOUSE AREA OF PETERLEE – LETTER FROM A LOCAL RESIDENT

Correspondence had been received from a local resident of the Dene House area, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, for their information.

RECOMMENDED that the correspondence be received, and the Council continue with a strategic approach to play provision, as agreed at the last meeting.

70. 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 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

71. FORMER CRICKET CLUB – PROGRESS

The Town Clerk advised Members that the insurance claim had paid out in full and final settlement. Three quotes were in the process of being sought for the demolition of the building.

RECOMMENDED that the three quotations for the demolition, be awaited.