

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 9TH JULY 2012

PRESENT: COUN. J ALVEY (CHAIR)

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

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

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

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- G Cowie (holiday).

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

MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 4 – Neighbourhood Wardens

Steve Ragg from CDALC confirmed Oliver Sheratt would attend the next Meeting of the Larger Local Council's, to be held on 17th August 2012.

9. THE REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was considered under the following headings:-

a) Summer Bedding Schemes

All Summer bedding had been completed by Parks staff in time for preparations for the Olympic Torch route with no problems other than the weather making planting extremely difficult for Parks staff, despite this the Department managed to plant some 40,000 bedding plants in just over one week. The Supervisor added that his staff had gone the extra mile, in order to complete this planting.

RECOMMENDED that a letter of thanks be sent to all the Parks Staff.

b) Pitch Maintenance

Due to the amount of wet weather experienced throughout the June period, planned maintenance of football/rugby pitches had to be somewhat reduced. Pitch repair has had to be rescheduled for later in the year due to the soil being “unworkable” This would not compromise health and safety of the pitches and would be picked up on throughout the remainder of the season. Over seeding had also had to be completed again due to “water logging” of certain areas.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

c) Skate Park damage

Further damage to the Skate park facility meant that Woodhouse Park had to be kept temporarily closed due to health and safety concerns. The Supervisor advised he had met with Darryn Hook of Peterlee Youth Centre with a view to establishing a joint project to establish a group “ownership” scheme with members of the present user group. Police enquiries as to the damage were still ongoing, the Supervisor advised he was also in the process of establishing mobile CCTV systems from security companies on a hire basis as an interim measure. He had also contacted Bendcrete Skate parks Ltd the original Skate park manufacturers to source and supply materials to make good the vandalism to the skate park. He was in the process of establishing suitably qualified Sub Contractors who were experienced in carrying out repairs to BS EN 14974 and BS EN 1176 respectively for future reference.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

d) Tree Problems/Failures

Arbor Division Ltd had taken several samples of diseased trees notably, from Shotton Hall and surrounding areas and a more comprehensive survey of trees categorised as “at risk” which would ultimately be the beginnings of a risk register for Peterlee Town Council. This would enable the Parks Department to have a recognised tree management scheme which would greatly assist the risk management/Asset management process currently being compiled.

The Supervisor advised that the cost for these tests had cost £370.00. The results showed a bacterial disease, which was treatable.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

e) Parks/Play Areas

Two operatives had been given the task of completing repairs to play surfacing and other defects within play areas throughout Peterlee. The Supervisor had also requested expressions of interest from several reputable suppliers of play area equipment to facilitate a “funding strategy” aimed at a partnership approach to bring our play areas up to current standards. The intention would be that potential candidates would submit a formal presentation to Members in the near future outlining their ability to assist the Parks Department in consultation exercises and assist with funding best practices.

The Supervisor advised that a consultation would be taking place next week, with the Police and feedback from the local residents by way of a leaflet drop and questionnaire.

RECOMMENDED that the outcome of the Consultation be advised at the next meeting.

f) Eden Lane Cemetery

The Supervisor advised Members that the hanging baskets within the cemetery had been made up by clients from the Shinwell Centre in Peterlee. Plants had been locally sourced at discount with an emphasis on propagating to provide “stock plants” for future years, enabling long term sustainability for this worthwhile project.

Additional to this project Stonham, who were a registered national charity currently hiring office space in the Eden Lane Community

Project, had indicated their desire to assist the Town Council with short, easily achievable projects which would benefit the overall community and also their clients.

The proposal would be to remove the current shrub roses and replant with the surplus bedding plants from the summer scheme, as well as upgrading the raised lawn area. All aspects of the scheme were achievable, using a very small budget and current cemetery operatives with assistance by Stonham clients who would be supervised at all times. This would also tie in with community participation which was a contributing factor of the green flag scheme.

RECOMMENDED that the information given be noted.

g) Peterlee in Bloom

It was reported that 11 no. gardens had entered the competition this year, 4 no. large and 7 no. small gardens. Judging day had been held on Monday 9th July.

The Presentation evening had been booked for Thursday 19th July. With only 11 no. gardens entered and the leisure gardens winners it was anticipated that approximately 40 no. people would be attending the Presentation night instead of approximately 60 no.

Consideration was sought to holding the presentation as a lunch presentation instead of an evening presentation. All the garden entrants were retired and most of the leisure gardeners were retired who would normally attend. Holding this function during the day would also save on staff costs.

RECOMMENDED that the Presentation be held on Thursday 19th July as a lunch time event at Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites.

10. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE WERE 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.

11. LETTER OF APPEAL

A letter of Appeal had been received, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members.

RECOMMENDED that the three month ban from The Pavilion still stand whilst the Town Clerk make further investigations.

12. LETTER OF THANKS – PETERLEE CRICKET CLUB

The Town Clerk advised receipt of letter of thanks from the Peterlee Cricket Club, for the help and support given to them during the installation of the new electronic score box.

RECOMMENDED that the letter of thanks, be received.

13. KITCHEN USE – EDEN LANE & THE PAVILION

The Town Clerk suggested to Members that due to health and safety and insurance regulations the kitchen facilities at Eden Lane and the Pavilion, should not be hired out to user groups in the future. She was currently in negotiations with the Rugby and the Football Teams, after which she would report back to Members with the outcome of a feasible plan for the provision of catering at both facilities.

RECOMMENDED that a further report of the Town Clerk, be awaited.