

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2013

PRESENT: COUN. J ALVEY (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom, J Black & L Wood

Messrs: D Milsom, R Huitson, C J Metcalfe,
C Robbins, H Bennett MBE, R Curtis,
D Langan, G Cowie, C Watkins, L Cook,
& R Kyle

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

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- J Hardy (poorly), W M Jeffrey (DCC Election business), E W Hall (hospital), R Jones (poorly) and T Jones (poorly).

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

50. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

Through out the period of February the intention of the Parks Department is to carry out the following programme of works throughout Peterlee:-

TARMAC REPAIRS (Various Sites)

Due to the severe weather conditions the following areas had been identified as requiring immediate attention so as to prevent foreseeable accidents and inevitably potential personal injury insurance Claims against Peterlee Town Council:-

(i) Shotton Hall

Approaches to and from both car park areas, together with re- painting road markings (weather permitting) and identification of an additional one Disabled car parking bay, in line with recent Disability Discrimination Act (D.D.A.) survey of December 2012, together with scoping works for the provision of additional Royal National Institute for the Blind (R.N.I.B.) informational signage also required by the recent survey.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Dene Parks – (North and South)

Daily Inspections had been delegated to the Parks Development Officer to report and effect immediate remedial repairs with the assistance from trained former Highways Worker. Additional emphasis would be placed on steps and inclines within designated areas.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Peterlee to Horden Footpath and Steps

Tarmac repair work to step sides and removal of moss/algae build up over winter was to be carried out. The Supervisor suggested works to create a physical barrier at the base of the steps, using surplus soils from burials etc. This area had been identified as a hot spot for off road motorcyclists and he was certain this would be a move welcomed by nearby residents.

The Supervisor gave a verbal update in relation to the pony fields site, advising Members that Northumbrian Water had committed a team to this site and they would be re-laying pipework, installing inspection covers and providing a maintenance regime.

RECOMMENDED that surplus soils be used to form a barrier to prevent usage of areas by off road motorcycles and works as described above.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED progress with the outstanding drainage issues at this site be noted and further progress, be awaited.

COUNCILLOR C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION THAT ENSUED.

(b) THONTREE GILL LEISURE GARDENS

The Supervisor advised Members of an incident at the Thorntree Gill site regarding an O'Brien's skip wagon which had become bogged down in plot number one of this site.

Upon the Supervisor's investigation, which occurred on Friday 1st February 2013, it was noted that several tons of fresh animal manure had been led in by vehicles causing not only overspill on the roadway but also additionally preventing visual identification of the roadside kerbs, (pin kerbs). The skip wagon was unable to gain traction and slid into plot number one. To date the Supervisor advised that the manure had been removed by the Town Council Parks Department. This was in contravention to current rules and regulations of both the Leisure Gardens Association and also the Town Council and was also potentially very dangerous.

Members agreed that the Leisure Gardeners be invoiced for the cost of the Town Council's Parks Department time carrying out these duties.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) an invoice be sent to the Leisure Gardeners Association for the cost of the Parks Department's time,**
- ii) as suggested regular meetings with the Chairperson be convened between the Town Council and the Leisure Gardeners Association.**

(c) LEISURE GARDENS SITES (Lowhills & Thorntree Gill)

Work would recommence on the emergency repair of areas of roadways at Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens. Additionally, works would commence on the removal of oversize dolomite aggregates to be replaced with the appropriate size and recommended MOT type 1 roadstone and re compacted by vibrating roller so as to ensure an appropriate and safe surface.

Subject to favourable weather conditions the Parks Department would also clear out two vacant plots which would have become overgrown so that they could potentially be available to rent out to members of the public.

It was confirmed the Association managed the sites on behalf of the Town Council, and they rent the plots out to individuals.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

51. VARIOUS ARBORICULTURAL WORKS – LETTER FROM ST. CUTHBERT’S CHURCH

A copy of a letter from St. Cuthbert’s Church with a request, had been circulated to Members for their consideration.

A Member asked the Supervisor if taking on these additional works would affect the Town Council’s current workload. The Supervisor confirmed that he felt the Parks Department were more than able to carry out these works, with the arboricultural works being sub-contracted.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor prepare a further detailed report for further consideration at the next Parks Meeting.

52. REQUEST TO SITE A CLOTHING BANK IN THE CAR PARK OF ACRE RIGG SOCIAL CLUB

A copy of a request to site a recycling clothing bank for The British Heart Foundation (Peterlee Store), had been circulated to Members, for their consideration.

The Steward at Acre Rigg Social Club had expressed no objections and whole heartedly supported this request. If planning permission was required then this would be the responsibility of the The British Heart Foundation (BHF).

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for BHF to site a clothing bank at the Acre Rigg Car Park on a six months trial period and the use be monitored, this being subject to planning permission, if required. The location to be agreed in consultation with the Horticultural Supervisor.

53. 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.

54. REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND – GARAGE AT ESSINGTON WAY

The Deputy Town Clerk advised of a request from a local business to purchase a strip of land at Essington Way.

RECOMMENDED that this request be further considered at the Full Council Meeting.

