

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,

ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013

PRESENT: COUN J ALVEY (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor,

Messrs: R Kyle, L Cook, T A Jones, R Curtis,  
C Watkins, D Langan, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe,  
C Robbins, R Huitson, D Milsom & E W Hall

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

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Millsom, J Hardy & R W Jones, (ill).

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

(i) Minute Number 50(b) Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens

To note at the Council Meeting it was agreed that an invoice not be sent for this work.

(ii) Minute Number 52 - Request To Site A Clothing Bank In The Car Park Of Acre Rigg Social Club

To note at the Council Meeting it was agreed that it was agreed this be considered further at the next Parks & Cemetery Meeting with reference to planning permission being required and also the possible location within the car park. Planning advice was still awaited.

(iii) Minute Number 54 – Request to Purchase Land – Garage Essington Way

To note at the Council Meeting it was agreed that consideration of this request be deferred.

57. GLOBAL SPORT – WORK AT EDEN LANE

The Chairman welcomed Keith & Phil Brown from Global Sport Agency Ltd to the meeting.

The Representatives thanked the Town Council for the opportunity of coming along to speak to Members and update them on what was happening at Eden Lane Sports & Community Building. It was explained that this project had been agreed as a pilot scheme until June 2013 and Global Sports were working closely with the Sports Development Officer to regenerate the Eden Lane Facility via sport. They had also been working closely with the Horticultural Supervisor in terms of the sports pitches with lettings and maintenance etc. It was reported that Global Sport was a not for profit organisation and hoped to be able to develop the facilities at Eden Lane. They would do so only with the full agreement with the Town Council and in a fair and transparent manner. Written Service Level Agreements would be followed to ensure this was done.

Members were given the opportunity to question the Representatives on areas which included grant funding, short and long term plans and League requirements.

The Chairman thanked Keith & Phil Brown for their attendance at the meeting.

58. PETERLEE IN BLOOM

Consideration was given to the report of the Event Organiser and following discussion it **was RECOMMENDED that Peterlee Bloom still be held but in a different format. The suggestion that the Town be split into the five Wards and Local Members become more involved in promoting the event in their Ward being**

**investigated further. FURTHER RECOMMENDED Mr Gibson's offer to be a Judge for the Leisure Garden Section, be accepted.**

59. EDEN LANE PONY FIELDS – DRAINAGE ISSUES

Consideration was given to a letter from a Local Resident of Horden Mrs Wailes.

The Horticultural Supervisor gave an update on the works on site being carried out by Northumbrian Water. During discussion a Local Member advised that he had lived in Primrose Avenue over 50 years ago and his property had suffered from severe dampness problems even then; he did not agree with the suggestion made that this was the Town Council's fault.

The Horticultural Supervisor suggested that recovery of the additional costs of the work being carried out should be pursued through the Town Council's Solicitor. A Local Member asked for any previous correspondence from the resident in this regard.

**RECOMMENDED that this matter be taken up once again with Durham County Council to seek a full and final resolution.**

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATON OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM  
COUNCILLOR C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST,  
BEING THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

60. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Members gave consideration to the request received to meet with the Town Council.

**RECOMMENDED that the Officials of the Peterlee Leisure Gardeners Association be invited to attend the next Parks & Cemetery Meeting.**

61. 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.

62. FEES & CHARGES – SPORTS LETTINGS 2013/14

The Horticultural Supervisor's report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was considered. An overview was given in relation to sports pitch usage and the historical setting of fees.

Members offered their comments on the recommendations made in the report and several said they were uncomfortable with any rise above the current rate of inflation.

At the meeting the reference was made to the prioritisation of the sport of rugby. The Town Council fully supported the advancement of all sports and the requirements of the various Leagues. Peterlee Pumas being promoted into the NCL was a fantastic achievement however this did bring with it increased maintenance costs. It was hoped that the potential for grant funding of up to £8,000 could be explored further.

**RECOMMENDED the Horticultural Supervisor take into account Member's suggestions and present a further report to the next meeting for consideration.**

63. CEMETERY CHARGES 2013/14

Consideration was given to the report prepared for the fees and charges for the Cemetery Service.

**RECOMMENDED the price increase be accepted and introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.**