

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 13th JANUARY 2014

PRESENT: COUN. C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom, L Wood, C Baty,
M Thompson, S Simpson & K Liddell

Messrs: D Milsom, R Kyle, W M Jeffrey,
C Watkins, A Watson, S Miles, D Sillito,
G Cowie & J Alvey

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

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- C Robbins (operation) and F Price (ill).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted be accepted.

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

49. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

The Progress Report was considered as follows:-

Maintenance Issues (General) -

a) Annual Bedding Plant Order

All Bedding schemes had been completed for 2014 season. Approximately 1,500 plants would be grown on in plug form by the Shinwell Centre. The Supervisor reiterated that he intended to review bedding schemes at Eden Lane Cemetery and Woodhouse Park, with the possible removal/re-location of some of the schemes this would be pertinent to 2014-2015 seasons, with schemes being planned in the previous season.

He advised Members that as well as continuing to support the Peterlee Show, Darlington nurseries had also offered Peterlee Town Council the opportunity for surplus compost/fertiliser to be given to community groups with the Parks Department intending to uplift approximately two tons to distribute to Stonham (raised Beds at Lowhills Leisure Gardens) and also Shinwell (Woodhouse Park) bedding. The cost to the Town Council would be for the transportation which the Supervisor estimated a cost of approximately £30-40, this he felt was part of the maintaining the good working partnership.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

b) Eden Lane Pony Fields -

Legislation - (Occupiers Liability Act 1957,) (Animals Act 1971)

Members were advised that the Parks Department were still continuing to have recurring problems relating to illegal grazing of horses on Town Council land, the problems encountered were aggressive horses, tethering and the subsequent removal of horses to other areas for periods of time then re-tethering on other areas of Town Council land. The subsequent time spent on physical checks, administration time and senior officer time was increasing. The Supervisor had contacted Durham County Council (Horse Section/Environmental) and the possible costs for their services could be as much as £1,000 per animal. Parks staff were continuing to monitor areas and deal with public complaints as well as putting out legal notices on land affected but the perpetrators were simply ignoring all informal challenges. At present there were approximately four animals tethered on the pony fields site.

The Supervisor suggested that the Town Council buy into the above service for a period of time, possibly 6-12 month, on a pilot basis with a subsequent monitoring/evaluation after the period of time lapses, so as to determine whether a longer term for the future would be a viable option.

A lengthy discussion ensued for alternative solutions to solve this on-going issue, which included fencing, other uses, access etc.

RECOMMENDED that this item be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Larger Local Council's Forum. The feedback be brought to the next Parks meeting for further consideration.

50. TO AGREE A DATE FOR A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET CONSIDERATION

The Town Clerk had prepared a report, a copy of which had been circulated to Members at the meeting for their information. The Report was to assist

budget setting for 2014/15 and giving the background for a Medium Term Financial Plan for 2014/15 to 2018/19. The Town Clerk advised that she would be preparing a further Report and she would circulate this to Members in two separate parts prior to the Special Council Meeting.

A Member asked if the Town Clerk could include a breakdown of the costings for the Band A properties in Peterlee.

RECOMMENDED that a Special Council Meeting be held on Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 6.30pm to consider the budget.

51. 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 1960 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

52. FEES & CHARGES – SPORTS LETTINGS 2014/15 SEASON

The Supervisor had prepared a Report in relation to the above subject, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, for their consideration.

COUNCILLOR J ALVEY IN HIS CAPACITY AS COUNTY COUNCILLOR, ASKED FOR IT TO BE RECORDED THAT HE VOTED AGAINST THESE PRICE INCREASES.

RECOMMENDED:-

a) Increases for 2014/15 Sporting Season

- **Football be increased from £190.00 per season to £200.00 (Standard Sunday League pitch);**
- **Newtown Pitch increased from £600.00 per season to £1,200.00 (Wearside/Northern Alliance League standard facility)**
- **Rugby increased from £190.00 per season to £250.00**
- **Cricket increased from £901.00 per season to £1,000.00**
- **Outdoor Bowls be increased from £500.00 per season to £550.00**

b) Additional Revenue Stream

The hire cost for the hire of the portable floodlights was agreed at £10.00 per hour, with a six months review.

c) **Additional Training Areas – Helford Road & Eden Lane**

The Horticultural Supervisor engage in a consultation exercise with the Sports Users on the proposal to apply a scale of fees for training areas at Helford Road and Eden Lane with concessions being made available to user groups, if required. The feedback be reported at a future meeting.

d) **Sports User Groups – Discount Scheme**

The suggestion put forward by the Horticultural Supervisor for such a discount Scheme be agreed “in principle”, with other variations to be investigated by the Supervisor and the Sports Development Officer, consulting users and other providers, and feedback be reported to a future meeting.

53. **REQUEST FROM AGED MINERS HOMES (OLAMAN WALK, PETERLEE)**

On behalf of the Aged Miners Homes, Councillor S Miles asked for the Council’s permission for them to be issued with a key to the service gates to allow access future maintenance works.

RECOMMENDED that a key be given to the representative of the Aged Miners Homes, for the purpose of access for maintenance works.