

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT: COUN. C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

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

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

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

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:- F Price (poorly), K Liddell (poorly), L Cook (work commitments) and V Watson (studies).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted be accepted.

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

56. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL
SUPERVISOR

The above Progress Report had been circulated to all Members for their consideration, under the following headings:-

a) Woodhouse Park Events (2013/2014)

Following on from the success of the 2012/2013 joint project which had been funded by the East Durham Area Action Partnership (A.A.P.) and whose aim was to produce a series of

organised activities for 5-25 years to celebrate the achievements of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, which had brought into Peterlee a funding amounting to £68,000 from area budgets as well as Neighbourhood Budgets (2011/2012).

The events based at Woodhouse Park were primarily organised by Culture and Sport Officers, from the One Point Hub facility ran by Durham County Council.

Peterlee Town Council operatives had worked in partnership with Durham County Council by providing additional staff (coaching x2), access to equipment (football Goals) and opening up and running the mini golf facility and additional officer help (event organisation).

After a meeting on 27th January 2014 at Peterlee Leisure Centre (One Point Hub) with Durham County (Culture & Sport) and Groundwork Trust, a request had been made to the Town Council to enter into partnership arrangements to carry on these events for future years with other events envisaged for 2014.

Members had a number of questions in relation to the previous event held at Woodhouse Park. The Horticultural Supervisor advised that the AAP would be able to provide a full breakdown and answers to their questions.

RECOMMENDED that Shealagh Pearce from the AAP be invited to attend the next Parks Meeting and the Town Clerk and Horticultural Supervisor brief her beforehand to ensure she is pre-informed of Member's enquiries.

b) Woodhouse Park Play Areas

Work had been completed on remedial repairs to the large Space Net situated in the eleven plus play area which had required repairs to the wooden safety surface holding area.

Repairs had consisted of replacement wooden planking which had been replaced with recycled plastic planks which were required to hold in the play grade bark chips, which were used as safety surfacing for the space net play equipment.

All works had been completed “in house” by the Parks Development Officer and his team and were completed on time

and within budget, which was set at £2,000 which would be used from the overall budget of £11,000.

The work would not be required to be repeated for several years and would bring the play equipment back into line with current Health and Safety/Insurance requirements.

c) Whirly Bird Play Equipment (Play Areas-General)

At a previous meeting Members requested that the Parks Department did not replace the whirly bird roundabout which had been damaged recently. This would effectively saved approximately £2,000 to the overall play areas budget. Although this piece of equipment had a good area of rubber crumb safety surface, the decision was to remove the equipment and put up signage to say the equipment would not be replaced. The Parks Supervisor asked for clarification if the same procedure was to be applied in the future to any further vandalised play equipment.

RECOMMENDED that :-

- (i) the “in house” repair works to Woodhouse Park play equipment, be noted.**
- (ii) the Horticultural Supervisor to notify Members if a play area was to be closed and contact ward Members for feedback on any extraordinary occurrences;**
- (iii) larger items of play equipment, as listed on the Council’s asset register, that were to be repaired or replaced were to be brought to the Member’s attention for their consideration;**
- (iv) any small items of play equipment requiring attention would be at the Horticultural Supervisor’s discretion.**

57. 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, PERSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

58. PLAY AREA SPARE PARTS - QUOTATIONS

A copy of the Horticultural Supervisor's report relating to the above item had been circulated to Members for their consideration.

Two quotes had been received, details of which were noted in the report, for replacement play equipment parts required in order to bring play equipment up to current and future Health and Safety standard and also for aesthetic reasons to make current play areas more accessible to residents of Peterlee and generally spruce up some of the areas concerned. The quotations had been based on supply and fit of the equipment to current EN1176 Standards.

RECOMMENDED that Quotation B in the sum of £7,812.00 be accepted for replacement parts for current play area repairs. An appropriate Officer from the Parks Department be on site during these maintenance works so as to learn the procedure for possible future “in house” works.

59. EDEN LANE COMMUNITY BUILDING – QUOTES FOR WORK

Copies of the quotations for the above proposed works had been circulated to Members for their consideration.

Members expressed their concerns that the information provided was insufficient with a number of discrepancies.

RECOMMENDED that this item be placed on the next Finance and General Purposes agenda with a full covering Report.