

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY

COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,  
PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014

PRESENT: COUN C J METCALFE (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- C Baty, L Wood & M J Thompson

Messrs:- L Cook, J Alvey, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins &  
R Kyle

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

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors C Robbins, (ill), F Price, (ill), K Liddell, (family matters), Miss V Watson, A Watson, S Miles, (supporting the Mayor's Charity Event.)

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 67 - Peterlee in Bloom

At the Council Meeting it was asked that the application forms for the competition be circulated prior to them being available for the public to apply. It was RESOLVED the:-

- (i) Best Street Award be included in next years competition, (so that there would be no budget implications for this year);

- (ii) copies of the draft application forms be circulated prior to issue to the general public;
- (iii) contact be made with the Leisure Gardeners as soon as possible to get make the necessary arrangements for this years Competition.

The Leader of the Council expressed his disappointment that contact had not been made with the Leisure Gardeners and reported he had discussed the competition with the gardeners and they had made a suggestion that they would like to or had been thinking about a new category that could be included, the most improved garden, and they hoped to be able to sponsor this new category, if agreed. The Horticultural Supervisor explained that it would be difficult to accommodate a new category at this late stage and reported on the various issues that would need to be clarified before it could be included. He suggested perhaps this could be investigated for next year's competition. He advised it was his intention to meet with the gardeners and he would report back to a future meeting on this matter.

The arrangements for the Competition had also been considered at the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 where it was agreed that the room hire charge for the presentation event would be waived and changes to the classes and categories as per the report, were accepted.

A copy of the application form to be used had been circulated for Member's approval and this was discussed at length. It was the first time such a form had been used and plot holders could participate if they wished to.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted, and the suggestion given by the Leisure Gardeners for a new category, be discussed with them with a view to including this next year, and a further report be made.**

## 75. GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

Members were circulated with details of the Garden Waste collections for 2014/15. This scheme would be opened up to an additional 35,000 households and a charge of £20 would be levied for 16 collections per

annum. The existing garden waste collection scheme had started again on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, with no charge. Members were concerned that this change may result in fly tipping and the public using their domestic rubbish bins for garden waste.

**RECOMMENED the information given, be noted.**

76. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

Consideration was given to the report of the Horticultural Supervisor, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM  
COUNCILLOR C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST AS  
THE REPRESENTATIVE ELECTED BY THE GARDENERS FOR  
THE THORNTREE GILL SITE, ON THE LEISURE GARDENERS  
ASSOCIATION.

(a) Peterlee Leisure Gardens Association

Issues following a recent walk around site visit were detailed in the report. In considering the issues highlighted by the Officer it was asked what the Town Council were obliged to provide and what had been provided at the site, over the years. It was also asked what budget had been allocated in the current year for this site. Members needed clarification of what was in the ownership of the Town Council and what was not. At the Thorntree Gill site it was understood the rain shelter/structure had been provided by the Town Council and the metal storage container had been sited by the Gardeners and belonged to them. At the Lowhills site the shop belonged to the Association and the shelter belonged to the Town Council. It was felt that a meeting needed to be held with the Officer(s) and the Garden Representatives to gather some history on the buildings and together discuss and formulate more long term ideas and options for the facilities at both sites, including funding opportunities etc. In the short term immediate action was required in relation to the making safe or temporary closure and subsequent demolition of the unsafe structure at the Thorntree Gill site. There was mention of the metal storage container

at that site and the possibility of it being replaced and various options were discussed.

**RECOMMENDED immediate temporary closure, making safe and subsequent demolition of the shelter at the Thorntree Gill site be arranged by the Horticultural Supervisor. FURTHER RECOMMENDED essential dialogue continue with the Gardeners Associations at both sites and a further report be prepared and submitted as outlined.**

(b) Eden Lane Cemetery

**RECOMMENDED the works as detailed in the report on installing concrete rafts and the removal of the 4 wooden raised beds and replacing them with self watering planters, be approved.**

(c) Lowhills Bowling Green

**RECOMMENDED the action taken in affecting an urgent repair to the sides of Lowhills Road Bowling Green, be endorsed. FURTHER RECOMMENDED a further report be awaited on the long term provision of bowling greens for the Town.**

(d) Advertising on the Roundabouts

There was discussion on the need to re locate the planters in place on the main roundabouts following advertising signs being installed, without any prior consultation, by Durham County Council.

**RECOMMENDED a letter of objection be sent to Durham County Council that these signs had been installed on roundabouts maintained by the Town Council on their behalf, without consultation, and which resulted in additional maintenance and access issues for the Town Council to contend with.**

77. USE OF PETERLEE NEWTOWN PITCH FOR CUP FINALS – E MAIL FROM MR BOB ANDERSON

Members were circulated with a copy of an e mail received from Mr Anderson following the decision made at the last meeting to charge a fee for the use of Peterlee Newtown Football Field for the Peterlee &

District Sunday League's cup final games. Mr Anderson was asking if this could be re considered and could the ground be offered free of charge. The Horticultural Supervisor advised he had received an offer from Global Sport that they would sponsor the pitch fees for these matches.

**RECOMMENDED the offer from Global Sport be accepted and they pay the pitch fees to the Town Council for the cup finals played at the Newtown Pitch. FURTHER RECOMMENDED the issue of parking on the fields be addressed with the football Teams. The rule be enforced that their permission to use the pitches would be withdrawn if they persisted to allow their teams and spectators to park indiscriminately rather than using the car parks provided.**

78. FEES & CHARGES 2014/15

Members were circulated with the proposed sports letting fees and charges for 2014/15. Members asked how the proposed fees compared to nearby facilities and the Officer reported they were on par with nearby Parishes.

**RECOMMENDED the fees, as detailed in the report, be accepted and implemented for this season.**

79. 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, 1960 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

80. REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND – GARAGE AT ESSINGTON WAY

Members gave consideration once again to this request and agreed they would be willing to meet Mr Roberts on site to consider his proposal face to face.

**RECOMMENDED that arrangements be made for Officers to meet on site with Mr Roberts and the following Councillors be invited to attend:- Councillors W M Jeffrey, J Alvey, L Cook, R Kyle, D Sillito, C J Metcalfe and C Baty and a full report be submitted following this visit.**

81. PETERLEE LADIES TEAM

The Horticultural Supervisor advised he had received a message advising that the Peterlee Ladies Team had folded. They had thanked the Town Council for their help and support over their time in Peterlee. Members and Officers were extremely disappointed to receive this news. It was felt an appropriate letter should be sent to the Ladies Team expressing the Councils disappointment and wishing them well in the future.

**RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.**