

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT: COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: C Baty, K Liddell, S Simpson,
M Milsom & V Watson

Messrs: D Milsom, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins,
W M Jeffrey, J Alvey, L Cook, R Curtis,
G Cowie, D Sillito, A Watson
& S Miles

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

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Wood (holiday).

RECOMMENDED that the apologies submitted be accepted.

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

18. VERBAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

The Deputy Town Clerk gave updates for Members on the following items:-

- a) Mayor's Tree Planting

RECOMMENDED that progress be made with this item as agreed at the June 2014 Meeting.

b) Woodhouse Park Fun Days

A Member made reference to the advertising of these events. Another Member advised that she had attended all three events with her grand-children and it had been good fun, and she asked for her comments to be passed onto the Organiser of these events.

RECOMMENDED:-

- i) **posters be displayed on the noticeboards and in addition the Residents Association's be advised of forthcoming Town Council events;**
- ii) **investigations be made once again into the possibility of brown on white signposting for Woodhouse Park being installed.**

c) Report of the Woodhouse Park Working Party of 28th August 2014

A copy of the above minutes had been circulated to Members. Councillor Cook asked to be included with invitations to future meetings.

Reference was made to Police support for the WHIP youngsters in the skate park. The Deputy Town Clerk also reported the costs obtained for the CCTV coverage extending to the skate park. Members felt the costs were high and asked for information on the costs of vandalism, materials, damage etc in the area in and around the skatepark.

RECOMMENDED the report be received and further meetings of the Skate park Group be organised. FURTHER RECOMMENDED the Parks Development Officer be asked to compile detail for Members on the costs relevant to the skate park.

d) Flooding – Lowhills Road Car Park/Olaman Walk

A verbal progress report was given by the Deputy Town Clerk for Member's information on issues following recent flash flooding. The Horticultural Supervisor had given a breakdown and his suggestions on how to tackle this problem.

RECOMMENDED that the Horticultural Supervisor prepare costings and advise Members accordingly.

- e) Access to Drainage ditch North of Lowhills Allotments
A Member advised that the Highways Agency had done a great job with immediate improvements being seen to the gardens affected by flooding and suggested that a thank you email be sent.

RECOMMENDED thanks and appreciation be expressed for this work being carried.

- f) Purchase of 9v9 Goals & MUGA nets
The Deputy Town Clerk asked for endorsement of action taken in the purchase of this above equipment at a total cost of £928.80.

RECOMMENDED endorsement of the action taken in purchasing this equipment at the costs indicated, be given.

19. SMOKE FREE PLAY PARKS – CONSULTATION

A copy of the above Consultation being carried out by Durham County Council had been circulated to Members for their consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council support the smoke free play areas proposal.

20. PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAYS AT:-

- a) Dunelm Walk
- b) Torver Close
- c) Brandlings Way
- d) Matterdale & Braithwaite Road
- e) Newark Close
- f) Tamar & Arun Close
- g) Westcott Road
- h) The Village, Old Shotton
- i) Helford Road
- j) Avon Road

Members were circulated with copies of the above orders where comments were invited. Members were concerned that whilst this had been identified as part of a clearing up exercise to allow the transfer of housing stock to take place, the possible affects on rights of way and rights to pass and re pass may be affected and they asked for further information before a response could be made.

RECOMMENDED that this matter be considered further at the Council Meeting.

21. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC

FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED 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.

22. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT VALUER – LAND AT ESSINGTON WAY

The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members of the Valuation Report received from the District Valuer regarding land at Essington Way, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- i) the views of the Horticultural Supervisor be obtained on this proposal;**
- ii) a copy of a business plan for the Garage, Easington Tyre Centre, be requested;**
- iii) it be recorded that if the Council were minded to dispose of the land in question restrictive covenants be put in place regarding building on the site and its use; and all legal fees and costs would be paid by the applicant.**

23. THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

Members were circulated with a copy of the report prepared by the Horticultural Supervisor.

RECOMMENDED that this item be referred to the Establishment Committee in October, and the Horticulture Supervisor attend this meeting.

24. TOWN CLERK

The Deputy Town Clerk outlined for members advice received from Durham County Council HR on the payment of occupational sick pay to the Town Clerk. They advised that Authorities could have discretion to extend the period of sick pay in rare exceptional circumstances.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk be re instated to full pay from 14th August 2014, and this be reviewed every three months; next review being considered at the October Establishment Meeting.

25. MEETING – FIREWORKS EVENT

Members were advised that arrangements had been made for a joint meeting to be held on Thursday 11th September 2014 at 2.00pm to consider the Fireworks Event for 2014. Apologies were given at the short notice for the meeting.

RECOMMENDED the arrangements for the meeting be noted and those available come along if possible.