

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2014

PRESENT: COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: K Liddell, S Simpson, L Wood & V Watson

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

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

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair reported that Councillor Joan Maslin's husband had passed away suddenly. It was asked that a condolence card be sent to Joan and her family on behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and staff

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reasons submitted for absence received from Councillor M Milsom, on the grounds that they she was ill, and her apologies for absence be recorded.

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

Matters Arising

(i) Play Areas – Replacement Parts

To note it was agreed at the Council Meeting that the parts and works listed in the report previously circulated, amounting to a total of £6,185.00, had been approved.

(ii) Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens

To note it was agreed at the Council Meeting that approval be given to the establishment of two separate Associations for each site at Lowhills Road and Thorntree Gill

(iii) Woodhouse Park

At the Council Meeting it was agreed the project funding of £380 be paid to Groundwork immediately, and this would be reimbursed to the Town Council when the grant from DCC was released.

Groundwork, North East & Cumbria, had asked for further clarification on this funding. Following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED the Town Council agree to make a grant of £380.00 to cover the cost of the graffiti artist working with the WHIP Group, and approval be given for this to be actioned immediately.**

COUNCILLOR W M JEFFREY & C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN ITEM 5 OF THE REPORT.

59. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

The progress report was considered under the following headings:-

1. Maintenance overview (All areas)

Winter planting has been completed throughout Eden Lane, Shotton Hall, Woodhouse Park and outlying areas including the main approach roundabouts in Peterlee and the adjacent flowerbeds.

2. “In House servicing” of horticultural equipment

Two trained members of staff will begin work on the annual servicing of smaller horticultural equipment such as pedestrian mowers, leaf blowers, strimmers and chainsaws etc which will total some 30+ items.

3. Tree Surveys

Shotton Hall Works as indicated by surveys from Arbor Ltd would be completed so far as practical “in house” by members of the Parks Department, with only the larger trees and any climbing to be carried out by Arbor Ltd. It was proposed that a priority status be given to the area with all available chainsaw operatives being used to concentrate on the one area within Shotton Hall, pond area. A copy of the tree survey had been circulated to each Member, along with the schedule of trees that should be read alongside it.

RECOMMENDED approval be given to carry out the work as indicated in the report.

4. Play Areas

Member's attention was drawn to the current anomaly regarding the opening and closing of play areas within Peterlee. Currently both Woodhouse Park and also Hampshire Place play areas were locked by the evening attendants with the other areas being left open overnight. Past practices had ensured a consistent approach has been adopted to the play areas as a whole.

RECOMMENDED that all play areas are locked at designated times or dusk.

5. Leisure Gardens Issues

Member's attention was drawn to the successful removal of the "unsafe" storage container situated at Thorntree Gill and its replacement details of which were given in the report.

Rain Shelter, Thorntree Gill

It was reported no further works had been completed on the disused "rain shelter" which was in need of further renovation after confusion as to whether this was also supposed to be demolished or not; the previous original Parks recommendation which was immediate temporary closure, making safe and subsequent demolition of the shelter.

If the structure is to be demolished it will require specialist involvement such as an asbestos survey and may possibly come under current Construction Design & Management Regulations (CDM) It is also not been made clear as to who would pay for these works or whether it may be cost effective to actually re-furbish the structure.

RECOMMENDED a meeting be arranged with the two Associations to discuss outstanding issues.

Plot assistance

Peterlee Town Council operatives had assisted plot members at Lowhills Road Leisure gardens with rotovating of a large plot which was beyond the capabilities of the current plot holder, thanks were extended to the Parks Department by the recipient.

6. Woodhouse Park CCTV

RECOMMENDED a visit to the control room of Phoenix Security be arranged with the members of the Security Sub Group.

7. Pending Insurance Claims

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

60. RP11 OPERATIONAL INSPECTOR - PLAYGROUND INSPECTION TRAINING COURSE, SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

It was reported the Horticultural Supervisor and one of the other operatives had successfully completed this course. Members offered their congratulations on this success.

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

61. INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET HEADING 1ST APRIL – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Members were circulated with a copy of the six months budgetary control monitor for the first six months of the year. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that this would be used when considering the forthcoming budget and she asked Members to consider what their priorities may be for the forthcoming year. The Horticultural Supervisor advised that as he had reported previously, the rubber crumb play surfacing at all of the Town Council's play areas was due for replacement which would cost on the region of £48,000.

RECOMMENDED this be considered further at the Finance & General Purposes Committee to be held in December.

62. 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.

COUNCILLOR W M JEFFREY, J ALVEY & C J METCALFE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

63. MINUTES OF THE PLGA AGM 16TH OCTOBER 2014

Members were circulated with a copy of the minutes following the Annual General Meeting of the Peterlee Leisure Gardeners Association.

It was asked if the split of the two sites had taken place; it was suggested that this would happen before 1st January 2015, when the rents etc were due. Members would be kept advised of progress.

RECOMMENDED the minutes be received and progress be awaited from the meetings when held with the two Associations.

64. EASINGTON TYRE & AUTO CENTRE, ESSINGTON WAY –
BUSINESS PLAN FOR LAND EXTENSION

Members were circulated with a copy of the business plan received from Easington Tyre Centre. A reply from their neighbour the Ambulance Station was awaited. The Horticultural Supervisor detailed his observations in relation to any potential disposal of this land and it was asked what, if any, restrictions had been placed on the previous sale of a parcel of land.

RECOMMENDED the reply be awaited from the Ambulance Station and previous sale documentation be checked and details reported back to Members.