

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood & S Simpson

Messrs: D Milsom, L Cook, C J Metcalfe, W M Jeffrey, J Alvey, D
Sillito & A Watson

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

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors K Liddell, C Robbins and S Miles as they were ill, Councillor G Cowie was busy with Deputy Mayor duties.

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reasons submitted for the absences received from these Councillors and their apologies for absence be recorded.

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

67. REPORT OF THE ANNUAL PARKS INSPECTION

Members were circulated with a copy of the report following the Parks Inspection carried out in October 2014. **RECOMMENDED:-**

i) the CCTV be installed at the main entrance area as costed and reported previously, this being the first phase of a programme,

with the second phase being to extend cover to the MUGA area and if possible allocation be made in the 2015/16 budget.

ii) a pump track be installed at Woodhouse Park.

iii) the tarmac path next to the crazy golf area be repaired in house if possible.

iv) the SLA with Durham County Council for the Dene Parks areas be revisited and clarified and agreed.

v) the old fencing barrier that had been discarded, be removed from the Dene.

vi) the main bridge at Dene Parks be repainted.

vii) the various areas identified at Eden Lane Football Club Ground including the steps, wall and concrete be attended to in a schedule/programme of works; the stand not being operational still needed to be addressed fully.

viii) approval be given to promotional signs for Shotton Hall and The Pavilion being put in place around the ground.

viii) Signage be erected at the Eden Lane play area to advise there were toilets available.

ix) consideration be given to the relocation of the picnic table at the Eden Lane play area under trees to the climbing frame.

x) the Parks Development Officer to prepare a costing for works in the Dene Parks and submit this to Committee for consideration.

xi) the condemned hut at Thorntree Gill site needed replacing

xii) the road surface at the Lowhills site needed repair/to be resurfaced.

68. PETERLEE IN BLOOM JULY 2015

Consideration was given to the report of the Show Co Ordinator following feedback from this year's event. In considering the suggestions Members felt that entrants did so for the prestige and not necessarily for the prize money and suggested that the prize money could be reduced to help with the budget, and even some of the categories for example 4th & 5th could be dropped. It had also been suggested than an award for the best street be added to this year's competition.

Comment was also made regarding the judging of half plots on the leisure gardens sites and it was asked if the Representatives of the sites could be consulted further for this to be incorporated into this year's event.

RECOMMENDED these suggestions be given to the Show Co Ordinator to plan into this year's event.

69. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SKATEPARK WORKING GROUP OF 30TH OCTOBER 2014

Members were circulated with a copy of the report from the recent meeting. The next meeting was to be held on 18th December 2014.

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

70. LEGAL CONSULTATION – SECTION 116 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980, PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF HIGHWAYS (VARIOUS PIECES OF LAND)

Members were circulated with the formal consultation under Section 116 legislation on these orders. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that any concerns that had been expressed previously had not been fully resolved following an meeting with the Officer from Durham County Council and Councillor A Watson, W M Jeffrey and C Baty.

RECOMMENDED that no objections or comments be made on the Order details submitted.

71. NEW NALC MEDIA POLICY

Members were circulated with details of the Media Policy produced by NALC to help guide parish & town councils in the light of the new national rules regarding filming and recording of local council meetings. It was hoped that this new example would help show local councils how to respond effectively and positively to these new rules. The Deputy Town Clerk suggested, the protocol be added to each agenda as a standard item at the start of proceedings whereby the Chairman would advise both members of the committee and members of the public that part of the meeting may be recorded by both audio and video, and it may be that photographs are taken.

RECOMMENDED the new NALC Media Policy be adopted and Standing Orders be adjusted accordingly to work alongside this policy.

72. 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.

73. ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PETERLEE NEWTOWN FOOTBALL GROUND

Members gave further consideration to the report prepared by the Horticultural Supervisor and he explained in more detail the works that were required and gave verbal details of the alternative prices he had obtained for this work to be carried out.

RECOMMENDED Apollo Electrical Contractors (North East Ltd) be engaged to carry out a total refurbishment of the existing floodlights at Peterlee Newtown Football Ground. This work was to the floodlight units to include all electrical components, but would exclude the metal columns, at the cost indicated in the report to be funded from the capitalised maintenance budget. FURTHER RECOMMENDED that plenary powers be granted for the Officer to place this order for the work to be carried out immediately.

74. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

Members gave consideration to the report of the Horticultural Supervisor advising on progress with discussions with the two leisure gardens sites and the implications of the split and issues that needed to be fully resolved for the sites to operate professionally and harmoniously.

RECOMMENDED:-

- 1. where appropriate, that remaining monies in the current budget allocation for the sites be used to address any existing Health & Safety concerns on a needs basis to be determined by the Horticultural Supervisor.**
- 2. Peterlee Town Council to encourage Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens Association and Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens**

Association to work in a spirit of co-operation to address ongoing issues in relation to the dissolvent of the P.L.G.A.

- 3. That both sites re-visit their respective rules and Constitutions and ensure that they operate in a uniform manner**
- 4. That further professional independent advice be sought as to whether any formal processes were needed to “wind down” or re-establish either Leisure Garden Association and also to evaluate the re-allocation of any profits, apportioning of any potential liabilities and the internal auditor be requested to assist with this matter.**
- 5. That a mechanism is put in place in order to establish a protocol for arbitration for any existing or future disputes that any of the Leisure Gardens Committees may have with one another or with Peterlee Town Council.**
- 6. That both Leisure Gardens become independent members of the National Association of Allotments and Leisure Gardens Ltd.**
- 7. A joint meeting be arranged, if possible, prior to the Christmas break, to progress the dissolution of both sites to address the outstanding issues to resolve.**

75. LOWHILLS ROAD ALLOTMENT SITE

The Town Council’s representative, Councillor Jeffrey reported that they had an opportunity to work in partnership with East Durham College and their students on the community plot. Members were very supportive of such partnership work and asked to be kept updated on this work and that the Horticultural Supervisor be kept apprised with this project.

RECOMMENDED approval be given to the partnership project with Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens and East Durham College.