

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS &  
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015

PRESENT: COUN G COWIE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J I Measor, K Liddell, S Simpson,  
V Watson & M A Cartwright

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

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

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted by Councillors C Robbins, L Wood, C Baty, (all ill) and L Cook, (lost spectacles).

**RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reasons submitted for absence received, on the grounds given above, and the apologies for absence be recorded.**

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

78. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

A copy of the above Report had been circulated to each Member, for their consideration

a) Shotton Hall tree planting scheme and ornamental bridge refurbishment scheme

Work was approximately 50% complete on the tree planting area which would be used to plant some standard native species trees within the rear of Shotton Hall (towards Durham Way). It was anticipated that planting of the standard trees would be able to commence from March onwards and the intention would be to create a formal walkway within the grounds of Shotton Hall and a map of the Mayoral trees would be produced. Members asked for progress with tree works on areas next to the grounds of Shotton Hall and details were given at the meeting.

Additional to the walkway being created, this season would hopefully bring about the creation of a larger annual bedding scheme on the existing Durham Way flower bed scheme.

It was envisaged that the creation of a larger bedding scheme would give an opportunity to highlight the Town Council's Parks Department and Shotton Hall Facilities and enable a more subtle marketing of Shotton Hall Banqueting facilities to the general public, whilst maintaining a high profile opportunity on a major "in road" into Peterlee.

**RECOMMENDED approval be given to the works as outlined.**

b) Peterlee Newtown Football ground drainage and technical area refurbishment scheme

For the past eighteen months the Newtown Football Ground had been experiencing difficulties relating to the drainage of the technical areas at the front of the concrete dug out area, it was believed that the increased water onto the pitch area could be attributable to the continuing degradation of the concrete stand area.

The anticipated drainage refurbishment scheme would only be suffice to produce a temporary respite to the overall problem caused by the wetter winters and run off of the car park and concrete areas of the surrounding car park areas etc. The drainage works would be completed "in house" and materials would be financed from monies remaining in the 2014/15 budgets. It was stressed this was a temporary seasonal repair only.

**RECOMMENDED approval be given to these works being carried out at the ground.**

c) Potential Opportunities for 2015

Peterlee Newtown Football Ground Expression of Interest

South Shields Football Club had been liaising with the Horticultural Supervisor and the Sports Development Officer with a view to the continued use of Peterlee Newtown Football Club facilities as a venue for their current youth teams (6plus teams) and the possible formation of an adult reserve team to be based at the Peterlee Newtown Ground on a permanent basis.

The benefits to the Town Council could see the return of football to Wearside League standard, which would attract Charter Mark Status and could subsequently increase the possibility of investment by the Durham County Football Association, which could result in grant funding upwards of £100,000 depending on the type of grant applied for.

Members were keen to see the ground being used but asked that they be kept updated on the Teams that were using the facilities.

**RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted and the Supervisor keep Members updated with progress.**

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM  
COUNCILLORS W M JEFFREY, C J METCALFE & J ALVEY DECLARED  
AN INTEREST.

d) Leisure Gardens Site

It was reported initial meetings had been held with both parties and a joint meeting had been held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and details of progress being made was reported to this meeting. It was anticipated a financial audit would be carried out along with a re drafting of the legal agreements relating to the site(s) which would be required prior to the formal split taking place.

**RECOMMENDED regular updates be given to Members.**

e) Request for Support – Wheatley Hill Football Fields

The Supervisor advised Members that he had been approached by Wheatley Hill Parish Council requesting assistance in making a repair to their football fields following an attack by vandals.

The Supervisor reported that this would involve one member of the Parks Staff with one particular piece of machinery equating to approximately half a days work, the cost of which would be charged to the Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

**RECOMMENDED that this request be agreed.**

80. WOODHOUSE PARK/HOWLETTCH PRIMARY SCHOOL PARK & STRIDE PROJECT

A copy of the Parks Development Officer's Report in relation to the above project, had been circulated to Members.

Since the launch day of the project on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014, the numbers of people using the Park and Stride Project had been one to two families per day Monday to Friday. It was hoped as the weather improved the number of families taking part would increase. During the winter period the Town Council staff would ensure that the Park was open as usual with any snow clearance or gritting carried out prior to people walking to school.

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

81. THE CATCH 22 PROJECT AT WOODHOUSE PARK

A copy of the Parks Development Officer's Report had been circulated to Members. The Horticultural Supervisor advised that there had been mixed feedback, however the project was still in the early stages. A regular/monthly progress report would be given to Members on progress with Catch 22.

**RECOMMENDED that a regular progress report be made to Members.**

82. 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.

83. EDEN LANE COMMUNITY BUILDING – RENTAL BY HOME GROUP

The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members of a request from the above organisation who were hiring office space at Eden Lane.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

- i) the Home Group be granted two months, (December 2013 and January 2015), at a reduced rent of 50% as a gesture of good faith;**
- ii) the Horticultural Supervisor make arrangements for Global Sports to share the facilities, on a temporary basis, with Home Group;**
- iii) the offer from East Durham & Houghall College be taken up for a baxi boiler to be fitted under supervision of their apprentice scheme, with a percentage of their Supervisor's salary being re-charged to the Town Council and further details regarding improvements to the building and the heating system and the costs to the Town Council with this partnership arrangement, be submitted by the Horticultural Supervisor.**