

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS &  
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL

ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames: K Liddell, S McDonnell, J I Measor,  
M J Thompson, V Watson, S Simpson, L M Wood  
& K Hawley

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

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

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillor H Bennett,  
MBE, (wife ill).

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

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

COUNCILLORS W M JEFFREY, J ALVEY AND C J METCALFE  
DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE MATTER.

19. THORNTREE GILL LEISURE GARDENS

Mr Duffy had requested to attend the meeting and he attended along with Mr Ramshaw.

The Chairman welcomed both gentleman to the meeting and Mr Duffy then went on to give a very detailed catalogue of issues, many of which he has raised previously at the various Town Council meetings he had attended. Mr Duffy made reference to the recent grant made via the Durham County Council Members' Initiative Fund; he then went on to detail various meetings giving dates as reference points where he felt that issues should have been reported back and forth from the Council to and from the PLGA, details of works being carried out, grants being applied for, disclosure of interests, previous insurance claims.

Councillor Hawley wished for it to be recorded that she felt Town Councillors should know better than to carry out any works themselves without advising the Town Council first.

Reference was made to the many meetings that had been held with representatives of the PLGA and also with both garden sites which had not resulted in making any head way with issues, and now nearly twelve months on, the issues were still no nearer to being resolved.

It was noted that the Council had been made fully aware of and confirmed the Terms of Reference for the internal audit work currently being carried out and the report was awaited.

The Chair thanked Mr Duffy and Mr Ramshaw for their attendance.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

- (i) the audit report be awaited;**
- (ii) any work carried out on site must not be undertaken without full written permission being granted by the Town Council as landlord prior to works being carried out.**

20. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

The report of the Horticultural Supervisor, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member, was considered.

**1.Parks Department general overview**

Members were requested to note that the absence of on site administration support due to health & safety issues and options needed to be considered to support the Department. It was stressed a suitable office environment was a priority which needed to be addressed and there was discussion on the various ways in which this could be tackled along with the provision of administrative support for the Department.

**RECOMMENDED the information given be noted and further updates be given to Members on progress with this matter.**

### **2. Staff Training**

Details were given in the report of the various training requirements of the Department which the Manager wished to address and also had implemented.

**RECOMMENDED the approval be given for the towing training to be carried out as detailed in the report.**

### **3. Leisure Garden Issues**

Members attention was drawn to the need to amend the current budget format for the garden sites, in terms of works required at the two sites and their potential to attract grant funding and other income.

**RECOMMENDED the information given be noted and it be agreed this area of operation be considered in detail at the first budget working party meeting when arranged.**

### **4. Play Area Issues**

It was reported a meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September with Groundwork North East to discuss initial findings relating to the 2015 Peterlee Play Audit. The final report would be presented to Members in October 2015. Subject to the report being presented and discussed it was anticipated that all play equipment repairs to be carried out would be to address health & safety concerns only, rather than carrying replacements for aesthetic reasons.

**RECOMMENDED the information given be noted, and the further report detailing recommendations from the Peterlee Play Audit, be awaited.**

21. **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.

22. HORDEN RUGBY CLUB

Members gave further consideration to this matter and referred to a report prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member.

Members asked for a summary of what potential cost savings to the Town Council would be made with this arrangement, whilst being aware there would still be a responsibility for exterior maintenance costs. Reference was made to immediate savings when taking into account items that had been included in the accessibility audit and also to the costs involved with the spectator stand. It was stressed this arrangement presented an excellent opportunity for the continuation and indeed improvement of community facilities at Eden Lane, with a high quality of aspirational sport being delivered there.

(Councillor J Alvey and M J Thompson left the meeting at 9.05pm)

**RECOMMENDED the Town Council agree in principle for a 25 year rolling lease to be entered into with Horden Rugby Club.**

The following items were deferred as the meeting had over reached the time limit as set in standing orders of 9.00pm.

- (i) Use of Classroom Building – Woodhouse Park
- (ii) No Dogs Allowed Policy – Web Enquiry, Woodhouse Park
- (iii) Shotton Hall Grounds – Pasmore Artwork
- (iv) Parks Inspection Report
- (v) Protection of Town Council Owned Open Spaces
- (vi) Requests to Purchase Land – Eden Lane

**RECOMMENDED these items be considered at the next meeting.**