

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS &  
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL

ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016

PRESENT: COUN K HAWLEY (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S Simpson, L M Wood, S McDonnell,  
K Hawley & V Watson

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

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

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors M A Cartwright, (other commitments), K Liddell, (ill), L Cook, (ill) and G Cowie, (ill).

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

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

63. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

The Horticultural Supervisor apologised for not submitting a written report and gave a verbal update on issues within his Department.

The Officer asked Members to consider the outdoor bowling clubs and cricket in terms of them being the only two sports where there were subsidies applied. There was also a need to consider the future maintenance of the Lowhills Road Bowling Green for the budget provisions. **RECOMMENDED these issues be considered in connection with the setting and review of the fees and charges.**

The Officer asked for a re focus of the play area strategy and for a Terms of Reference to be formulated for the Working Party established at the last meeting to consider this issue.

Progress was given with the pump track in Woodhouse Park where it was hoped that a grant funding bid could be submitted to support this work. Details were also given of the various projects in the Park which included the Catch 22 Project and it was reported that unfortunately this project had not achieved its anticipated goals.

**RECOMMENDED the Catch 22 project come to a close.**

64. RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY ON POLICE FUNDING

Members were circulated with a copy of information relating to this consultation being carried out by Durham Constabulary. This event gave residents the opportunity to give their views on the police budget for 2016/17 and it was reported there was a proposed increase of 1.98% to the amount of council tax which went to the police service.

**RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.**

65. SAFER COMMUNITIES EVENT

Members were circulated with details of a series of events being held in the County over a two week period 19<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 by the Durham Council Safer Communities Team and Members were invited to go along and take part.

**RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.**

COUNCILLORS A & V WATSON DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

66. PETERLEE YOUTH CENTRE – REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

Consideration was given to the request for support received from the Youth Centre to help them dispose of some garden waste. The Horticultural Supervisor confirmed that this task could be accommodated with little cost by the Department.

**RECOMMENDED that the Town Council assist the Youth Centre and dispose of this garden waste on their behalf.**

67. 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.

68. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

- (i) BBC North East & Cumbria
- (ii) Mr Hall

Members were circulated with copies of Freedom of Information requests submitted to the Town Council.

**RECOMMENDED replies be made to these requests.**

COUNCILLORS W M JEFFREY & J ALVEY DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

69. PETERLEE LEISURE GARDENS, LOWHILLS ROAD SITE –  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Members were circulated with an e mail received from the Secretary of the Lowhills Road Garden Site. There was considerable discussion on the item and it was **RECOMMENDED that a suitable reply be made on behalf of the Town Council.**

70. HORDEN RUGBY CLUB – PROGRESS REPORT

- (i) Inspired Facilities Application for Horden & Peterlee Rugby Football Club

Members were circulated with an e mail of appreciation from Horden RFC following the submission of a grant funding bid to Sport England. In considering the progress report Members made reference to the name of the Club and asked if a clause could be included in the lease to make reference to the name of the Club and also it was asked that the Council be circulated with a copy of the lease prior to it being formally signed and approved.

**RECOMMENDED the e mail of appreciation be noted, and Members be circulated with a copy of the lease prior to it being signed.**

(ii) Demolition of the spectator stand - cost

Details were given on the cost of this work and in discussions Members were of the firm opinion that the Club had said in previous discussions they would be dealing with the demolition of the stand. Officers explained this had been an offer made by Horden to assist with the work but not to fund it.

**RECOMMENDED this be clarified and taken up with Horden RFC and a further report be made back to Members.**

71. LETTER BEFORE CLAIM – COUNCILLOR M J THOMPSON

Members were asked to consider the two issues raised by Councillor Thompson. Firstly could she bring along a companion to the meeting when she attended. Following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED that should Councillor Thompson wish to bring a companion with her they could only accompany her during the open session of the meeting; if the item was to be considered after the Exclusion of the Press and Public, then they would not be permitted to.** Councillor Thompson had also asked for certain individuals to be excluded from the meeting. Members felt it was wrong for an elected Member to try and exclude another elected member from attending a meeting. It was asked was Mrs Thompson wishing to attend and address the Council as a member of the public or as a Councillor. As a Councillor, Councillor Thompson need not ask permission; she was entitled to attend any meeting of the Council.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Northern Echo had been in touch on the issue. No comment had been offered.

Contact had also been made with the Town Council's insurers with regard to cover for this action and details were given at the meeting.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED approval be given for the Panel nominated by the Town Council's insurers to begin work with this matter on the Town Council's behalf.**

72. STAFFING IN THE PARKS & CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

The Horticultural Supervisor gave further detail to Members to assist in deliberations relating to the retirement of the Team Leader in the Department. He had suggestions which he felt would improve support the Department in its efficient running, increase the skills in the Department along with reducing costs.

**RECOMMENDED the Horticultural Supervisor prepare costings for his suggestions for Members to be considered at a future Establishment Committee.**