

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL

ON MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames: K Liddell, K Hawley & S Simpson

Messrs: C Watkins, S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, L Cook,
R Kyle & A Watson

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

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillor G Cowie, (ill) and S McDonnell, (work commitments).

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

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

Matters Arising

(i) Item No. 35 Monthly Progress report of the Horticultural Supervisor

The Town Clerk confirmed that a walking tour of the Dene Parks had been completed and that various issues had been noted regarding drugs paraphernalia, litter, dumped shopping trolleys and general landscaping and quality of public realm. Cllr A Watson asked for thanks to be noted for the Parks Supervisor and team's subsequent work to tidy up and 'thin out' the North Dene. Cllr W Jeffrey enquired into the current status of

the reciprocal working agreement between the Town Council and County Council for public realm in Peterlee. The Town Clerk confirmed that he was looking at future options for the Council's role in the Dene Parks and wider public realm and was meeting with English Nature and Durham County Council Officers in coming weeks.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk report back to Members on options for the future upkeep of the Dene Parks and wider public realm areas at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED the discussions at the Council Meeting held on 17 October 2016 be noted and a further report be awaited.

(ii) Yoden Quarry Presentation and site visit, Monday 5th December 2016

Members were given advance notice of this presentation and visit and asked to note it in their diaries.

RECOMMENDED the date be noted and further details be awaited.

(iii) Play Areas – Update

The Town Clerk had met with Local Ward Members prior to the meeting to fully update them on progress with the play area at Hampshire Place and he ran through options and discussed how to take the project forward and engage with the public with consultation. He reported that a report would be submitted to Council on this contract for works with an intended start on site for works in January 2017.

He also intended presenting to Members options for a play area strategy for the full refurbishment of all of the Town Council's play areas, with a phased delivery over 4-5 years.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted and further details be awaited.

41. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR

Members considered the progress report giving details of Dene Parks North and South, winter bedding schemes, sports areas, Woodhouse Park, community recycling project, and livery of the Town Council vehicles, (Poppies for Remembrance Day).

A Local Member asked about seating at the cricket field and the Officer advised he would be making a further report on this proposal. Members asked about the areas where there were problems in the Dene Parks and details were given of highways issues where children were throwing various missiles at cars and buses. The Chairman reported on an initiative in Consett that she had involvement with and which she hoped to report back with good practice on dealing with such matters. In considering the Town Council's livery on its vehicles, Members wholeheartedly supported adding poppies for Remembrance Day and the Officer reported he had received lots of positive feedback from the general public and it was agreed this be done annually.

Members raised the issue of stray horses and there was a lengthy discussion on the removal of and support or the lack of, from various agencies with this process. The Town Clerk advised he was to carry out a site inspection of the Eden Lane area and would be preparing a report on the issue of stray horses for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDED the contents of the report be noted and further reports be awaited.

42. UPDATED TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL PROCEDURE

Members considered the report of the Cemetery Records Officer in the above regard, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members asked was the information circulated what was given to those using the service and it was confirmed it was. Another Member asked that the Cemetery Records Officer be thanked for his comprehensive report.

RECOMMENDED the contents of the report be noted and a further report be submitted on the updated Regulations as soon as the review was completed.

43. NOTES OF THE PETERLEE HELFORD FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT MEETING OF THE 2ND NOVEMBER 2016

Members were circulated with the notes of this meeting.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.

44. PROCUREMENT OF TRAILER TRAINING FOR PARKS STAFF

Members considered the joint report of the Town Clerk and Horticultural Supervisor, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member. The town Clerk advised this report had been prepared following a request made by the Team for this training.

RECOMMENDED approval be given to Company C, ABC Trailers of Hartlepool, for the provision of trailer towing, as outlined in the report.

45. IMPLEMENTATION OF A PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER, (PSPO) FOR DOG CONTROL

Members gave consideration to the report of the Town Clerk, a copy of which had been previously circulated.

There was lengthy debate on the issues of dog fouling and the proposal of DCC to implement a Public Space Protection Order for dog control and the additional enforcement powers to encourage responsible dog ownership. Members were concerned at the cost of implementing such an Order, if it was to be done properly and with adequate manpower to enforce it. Some Members felt the order did not go far enough and that dogs should be kept on leads at all times. Members supported the measures being implemented but had concerns at how and at what cost they could be successfully applied across the County.

RECOMMENDED an appropriate response be made to the consultation paper and should Members wish to they complete the on line survey independently.

46. REVIEW OF DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL WORKING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Members considered the report of the Horticultural Supervisor detailing the need to review the historical working partnership agreement with Durham County Council Clean and Green Team to bring it into line with current practical working arrangement. A Local Member asked for the costs of the plants for the winter and summer bedding schemes and this was given.

RECOMMENDED Officers be granted plenary powers to review the Working Partnership Agreement with DCC and explore a new Service Level Agreement for the 2017/18 financial year. The draft SLA would be reported back to Council.