

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE  

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COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,  
PETERLEE ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- S McDonnell, L Fenwick, K Hawley, K J  
Duffy & K Liddell

Messrs:- A Wilkinson, S Franklin, S Kirkup, S  
McGlen, G Carne, S Miles, C Watkins & A Watson

**The Chairman advised Members of the committee that part of the meeting may be recorded by both audio and video, and it may be that photographs were taken.**

**83. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors T Duffy, S McGlen, A C Long, R Kyle, V Watson & S Simpson. RESOLVED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received from the Councillors listed, and their apologies for absence be recorded.

**84. To receive declarations of interest**

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Councillor K Duffy declared an interest in item No 8 – Review of allotment provision and Councillor Miles and Carne on item 9 – parking on playing fields at Lowhills Road.

**85. The Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Members agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019, a copy of which had been previously circulated, as a true and correct record of the meeting and they were duly signed.

**86. Update on Parks Activities**

The Parks Manager gave a verbal report of the Parks Department activities in and around the Town. He reported on pruning and re planting works in Woodhouse Park that were now complete. Work in partnership with the Skills Mill in the Dene Parks, the tree survey that was now complete and permissions applied for to carry out the necessary works, the installation of the Christmas tree at Shotton Hall, progress with the parks and play area strategy and maintenance at the two leisure garden sites. Details were also given on works to repair pipes where there were water leaks, road repairs, clearing out the former TIC and grounds maintenance. The Parks Manager gave an update report of the Cemetery Officer Team Leader. The Parks Manager reported on staffing and then offered to answer any questions from Members. **RESOLVED the information given be noted and the Parks Manager be thanked for his comprehensive report.**

**87. Update on Sports Development Activities**

The Sport & Wellbeing Manager gave a verbal update on classes being held, events, Dementia activities, Taste Buddies, a sponsored run, and an Easter Egg hunt. A Local Member reported feedback from a friend of his on his positive experience using and visiting the Pavilion, and he commended the Team. It was asked if it could be looked into further the swapping of football and rugby pitches at the site. It was agreed the Sports & Well Being Manager speak to the Head Groundsman and get a costing for such a proposal and bring this back to Council to consider. It was asked if there had been any reports of anti social behaviour at the site following the erection of the fencing around the cricket ground, it was confirmed there had not been. **RESOLVED the information contained within the report, be noted.**

**88. Minutes of the Woodhouse Park Working Party of the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019** a copy of which had been circulated, were noted.

**89. Minutes of the Events Park Working Party of the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019** a copy of which had been circulated, were noted. It was suggested that ice cream could be sold using Town Council staff and equipment at all Town events held at Helford Road. It was confirmed the Ladies Day had gone ahead, and the suggestion of a canopy over the outside bar area from the Pavilion for the Show would be looked into.

**90. Review of Allotment Provision**

This item had been referred for consideration by the Resources Committee held on 4 February 2019 with the recommendation that the Community & Environment Committee review the current allotment provision in the Town. The Town Clerk gave a verbal report

to Members and advised the current provision of allotments/leisure gardens in the town, currently 49 plots at Lowhills Road and 17 plots at Thorntree Gill. During discussion Members suggested the idea of potentially setting up some new smaller community garden plots in Peterlee and maybe Edenhill area would be ideal for a pilot project. **RESOLVED the Town Clerk contact East Durham Trust and Groundwork, (Edenhill) to seek their interest in such a pilot and if there was interest in this, Councillor Cartwright be invited to attend a meeting when arranged.**

91. Parking on the playing fields at Lowhills Road

The report of the Sports & Wellbeing Manager highlighting the ongoing issue of cars not parking in the designated car parks at Lowhills road and parking on the grass areas near to their allocated pitches was considered. Following considerable discussion and debate it was **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) **consultation be carried out prior to installing a fence at Lowhills Road to prevent vehicular access to the playing fields on the grounds of safety;**
- (ii) **appropriate No Parking signs be erected at the site as soon as practicable;**
- (iii) **the Teams be advised the No Parking Rules would be strictly applied effective from the next football season with permission for use by Teams being revoked as per their contract with the Town Council.**

92. Pony Fields Eden Lane

For PTC to investigate the feasibility of creating a woodland/recreational area on the land commonly known as the Pony Fields at Eden Lane

Notice of Motion received from Councillor A Watson

**RESOLVED as the meeting was out of time, this item be considered at the next meeting of the Resources Committee.**