

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE ON MONDAY 10th JULY 2023 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: R MOORE (CHAIR)
S Simpson, S P Franklin, F J Black, K Hawley, R Scott, B Fishwick, A E Laing,
D Howarth & M Sanderson

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors S McDonnell, M McCue, K Liddell, D Quinn, A Stockport, D Hawley, M A Cartwright, T Duffy, K Duffy, E Watson & R Burnip.
RESOLVED the Council note the submitted apologies.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The contents of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th February 2023, a copy of which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed as a true and correct record.

4. Severe Vandalism – Oakerside Play Area

Unfortunately the Neighbourhood Services Manager was unable to attend the meeting. The Deputy Town Clerk gave some background to this item. Recently there had been £107,000 investment in Helford Road/Oakerside Drive Play area and it was constantly being closed to the public due to vandalism. An example was given where it re opened after the May Bank Holiday weekend after repairs and replacements had been made to equipment. It was open for only three days before it was vandalised had to be closed again. The incidents had been reported to the Police and extra visits/patrols had been made. It was locked more than it is open and the Team were struggling to obtain replacement parts and he asked for Member's suggestions on dealing with this situation.

There had been vandalism at Eden Lane play area, and this was recorded by the CCTV and the suspects were identified and intelligence given to the Police but unfortunately there was no further action taken. In Woodhouse Park vandals kicked the CCTV camera off the building.

Following discussion it was suggested a campaign should be launched raising awareness of the costs of this vandalism, at all of the play areas. Encouraging the public to report damage or acts of vandalism as they happen, either to PTC, the Police and or local ward councillors. The campaign to be run in the Town Magazine, across the various social media platforms and the East Durham free weekly newspaper. It was also suggested perhaps a sign, more permanent than a notice that might be removed, detailing the costs and incidents of constant vandalism and where to make reports. **RESOLVED this course of action be agreed and the Police be invited to attend a future meeting.**