

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY
COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 14th DECEMBER 2009

PRESENT: COUN D LANGAN (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, L Wood, J I Measor,
M Milsom & J Black

Messrs: T A Jones, J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, J Hardy,
W M Jeffrey, R Curtis, G Cowie, R Huitson,
D Milsom, C Austin & E W Hall

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

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and approved on behalf of
Councillors C Robbins, (on holiday) and C J Metcalfe, (Mayoral Duties).

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

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 51 – Edenhill Community Centre

To note at the Council Meeting it was agreed that this proposal could not
be taken any further.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Minute Number 53 – The Pavilion, Helford Road – Official
Opening

The Town Clerk advised that the opening had been postponed until all of the roofing works had been completed. He reported that a progress report on the works had been received that day.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

(c) Minute Number 55 – Winter Maintenance – Exploratory Talks with Durham County Council

Members were circulated with a copy of information received at the initial meetings with Durham County Council on this matter. In essence Parishes were being asked if they could assist with Winter maintenance work such as gritting when operatives were unable to carry out gardening/parks work. The meeting was advised Seaham Town Council had entered into discussions regarding a limited pilot scheme. The Town Clerk suggested that the Council continue to be involved in these discussions but he felt the matter it needed further consideration.

RECOMMENDED that further developments be awaited.

At this point Members referred to the grit bins and a recent letter sent out by the Horticultural Supervisor on the placement of additional bins that had been funded through the North Peterlee Neighbourhood Pathfinder Scheme. It was confirmed that any grit bins had to be placed out in consultation with Local Members. Any Resident's requests received in the Office would be forwarded to Local Ward Members for consideration.

RECOMMENDED that Members contact the Horticultural Supervisor on the location of grit bins in their Ward as soon as possible.

59. HORTICULTURAL SUPERVISOR'S REPORT a copy of which had been circulated to Members, was considered under the following headings:-

MUGA usage

Burials

Parks development

Eden Lane Cemetery adverse publicity

The Horticultural Supervisor gave details of the procedures put in place in an attempt to combat problems in Eden Lane Cemetery. Members were concerned that local residents were experiencing disturbance from

young people and anti social behaviour in the cemetery. The Town Clerk commented that he was disappointed users of the Cemetery.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the Horticultural Supervisor to continue with the initiatives outlined in his report and permission be given to the establishment of a Friends of the Park and Friends of Eden Lane Cemetery Group with meetings being convened prior to the Christmas break. Plenary powers being granted to progress the arrangements for this.

60. EDEN LANE CEMETERY

(a) Recent Press Article

(b) Cemetery User Group

RECOMMENDED the action as detailed above in Minute Number 59, be taken.

61. CONDITION SURVEYS

Members had been issued with a copy of the condition surveys carried out by Durham County Council on all of the Town Council's buildings.

RECOMMENDED that further consideration be given to the contents of the condition surveys at a future meeting to set the Medium Term Financial Plan.

62. WAR MEMORIAL

A Local Member suggested the garden area in between the Youth Club and Betting Shop to the rear of the Sorting Office in the Town Centre which he felt could be an ideal location for an alternative War Memorial. The progress report from the Cemetery Officer had been circulated on the proposals for the obelisk at the Cemetery as a War Memorial. Any proposal had to be discussed and agreed with the Diocese . Following discussion it was **RECOMMENDED that a meeting be convened with interested parties ie Royal British Legion, Scouts, Guides, St Johns to get everyone's ideas on the proposals and the feasibility of the various sites.**

63. EAST DURHAM COLLEGE

Local Members were concerned that they understood an application had been made by the College for a licence for an outside area connected to the Restaurant.

RECOMMENDED that investigations be made into this matter.

64. PETERLEE CRICKET CLUB

It was reported that the Passfield Ward Members had all received a letter from the Secretary to Peterlee Cricket Club, Mr Roy Simpson, expressing his concerns at the proposal for a new rugby field at Helford Road.

Following considerable discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED that a meeting be arranged with representatives of Peterlee Cricket Club as soon as possible.**

65. MEMBERS & STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Town Clerk advised that only a few acceptances had been received for this event.

RECOMMENDED that the Party be cancelled.

66. SKATEPARK FUNDING APPLICATION

The Town Clerk was disappointed to advise that the application for funding for this scheme had been turned down.

RECOMMENDED that the information given, be noted.

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, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

68. OUTSIDE SEATING – THE PAVILION

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for bench seats to be ordered from Broxap as per the Architect’s recommendations at a cost of approximately £1,600.

69. DCC - PERMISSION TO INSTALL DUCTING – ACROSS LOWHILLS ROAD PLAYING FIELDS TO HILL RIGG HOUSE

Members were advised of a request received from Durham County Council to carry out ducting works to run a cable from Lowhills Road Day Nursery to the Sure Start Building at Hill Rigg House. The Clerk assured that this work would not affect the football pitches and would be re-instated in full, with Service Direct carrying out the work. The works were to take place sometime in February and would take around 2-5 days to complete. It was suggested that a bond be put in place to ensure that re-instatement works were fully and correctly completed.

RECOMMENDED that permission be given for DCC to carry out this work but a bond be requested of £2,000 and returned on full re-instatement of the land.