

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SCRUTINY & PROGRESS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL,
PETERLEE ON FRIDAY 20TH JULY 2018 AT 9.00am

PRESENT: COUN A WATSON (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K J Duffy & K Hawley

Messrs:- C Watkins & R Moore

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.

No declarations of interest were made by those present.

19. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors V Watson, L Fenwick, A C Long, T Duffy, S Meikle & K Liddell. **RESOLVED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received from the Councillors listed, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

20. To receive declarations of interest

Members are reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Please seek advice from the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk prior to the meeting if in doubt.

21. The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 6th July 2018

Members were asked to note and approve the attached minutes. Progress with the cricket fence was requested and it was confirmed the planning permission had been resolved, the fence ordered and a start date was awaited. A final site visit was to be held with the contractor to agree the final fence line. The Clerk clarified the situation regarding youth provision. Progress with the patio area at The Pavilion was requested. It was advised confirmation had been received that planning permission was not required and final plans were awaited from the Architect. The Clerk also gave an update on the refusal by DCC for an asset transfer of the North Blunts site. **RESOLVED the minutes be approved as a true and correct record.**

22. Hill Rigg House

- Users

- Income
- Sports use/showers

Consideration was given to the income and expenditure for the building. In discussions it was suggested that the electric and water meters be isolated so that separate billing could be done. It was also suggested the current usage and charges should be reviewed. Potential grant funding to improve the changing rooms was also suggested. Reference was also made to wages being coded to the site/building and the Clerk assured that he intended making changes to the financial management system. It was asked if the utility bills were estimated or actual, the cost of window cleaning was questioned along with the telephone line/alarm line rental.

It was agreed a full progress report be made to the meeting in October 2018 covering the issues discussed.

23. Play Area Strategy/Programme/Plan

At the meeting of the Play Area Strategy Working Party held on 12 March 2018, it was agreed to advance the play area strategy, the redevelopment of the Oakerside Drive Play Area in an improved location next to the Pavilion be made a priority with improvements at Woodhouse Park following. A Future investment programme be agreed for the remaining play areas.

A Local Member explained that the Heath Close play area needed attention and she had been receiving lots of feedback from local residents about it. The Parks Manager reported he had been advised this play area was not used very much; a local Ward Member suggested this may be the case as it was so run down and he gave an example he had seen of play equipment in Holland.

Councillor K J Duffy left the meeting at 10.55am.

Members discussed how the current budget might be allocated with Heath Close and Helford Road being identified as priorities.

Agreed that the Clerk and Parks Manager meet with local ward Members and establish the parameters for each project, Heath Close and Helford Road, and this form the basis of a report if possible to the Council Meeting in August 2018 or to a meeting in September.

24. Bedding Plants

The Town Clerk explained the process that had been used for the supply of bedding plants, including details of a price benchmarking exercise carried out in October 2017. Members asked if the Town Council could consider growing its own plants, the Parks

Manager advised that economies of scale of purchasing from bulk suppliers significantly outweighed the benefits of self grow. He did however suggest there were avenues where partnership working could be pursued for example with Direct Steps in Woodhouse Park for a local planting scheme. **RESOLVED the information given be accepted.**

25. To agree items for the next meeting, date & time

The next meeting was scheduled for **Friday 7th September at 10.00am, Shotton Hall** and it was suggested the meeting be given an update on media and advertising and marketing in general for the Town Council and for Shotton Hall ie the plan to increase usage and promotion of Shotton Hall.