

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

Present: Councillor Mrs L Kennedy (Chair) and Councillors, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, D McKenna, T Shepherd, B Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, Mrs K Brace, S P Colburn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, Miss L Willis.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of this Committee and members of the public that in line with the amendment to 'the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960', which came into force in August, 2014, parts of this meeting may be recorded by photographic, video and audio means.

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests, prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 28th AUGUST, 2018

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

3. PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

The Committee considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report which provided an update on the following items:

3.1 Tommy Floor Safe

The Acting Town Clerk informed Members that at the Town Council meeting on the 25th September, 2013 Members discussed a new policy to bring new art into Seaham. This was a year before Tommy came to Seaham. The Acting Town Clerk had consulted with Mr Ray Lonsdale following approval by Members to have a sculpture brought to Seaham. A leaflet drop was carried out around the Town. Mr Lonsdale then informed the Town Council that he had sold the sculpture privately. Members requested if the Town could exhibit another piece of Mr Lonsdale's art prior to the commemoration of World War 1. The Town Council brought Tommy to Seaham and the public liked it. The Town Council donated £3k, public donations of £2,851 and £18k was received from County Councillors to secure the deposit for the purchase of Tommy. Mr Lonsdale then gave 4 weeks for the remainder of the balance

to be paid. Planning consent was given and purchased by the Town Council at a cost of £325 and there were also £360 in legal fees which the Town Council paid.

The Town Council also funded the £5,248 for the cost of the base for Tommy to be placed on as a permanent site. Mission 1101 then raised the further £67k to pay the final amount. The Town Council pays the yearly insurance premium of £1400. The Acting Town Clerk noted that if it had not been for the Town Council then Tommy would never have been to Seaham in the first place but stated that the public also played a large part in the purchase of Tommy.

This item was for clarification only requested by the Chair following previous discussions held around the proposed Tommy Floor safe.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

3.2 Beating the Retreat

The Acting Town Clerk stated that there had been a lot of positive feedback in relation to this event along with the Remember Them Fund. Mr Dave McKenna thanked Seaham Town Council and their staff and stated it had been a great event with over 40k views across social media. It was also noted that the event was well attended.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.3 Remembrance Sunday

The Acting Town Clerk stated he had looked at the Royal British Legion handbook and it does state that the Local Authority should be organising the event. Members were asked to approve the booking of the bagpipes, the lighting of the V for Victory Beacon and for white doves to be released. The Acting Town Clerk stated the Town Council will also organise the road closures for the event and there is £2k in the budget for this event. He stated that the Royal British Legion may wish to work in partnership with the Town Council to raise funds for next year's event and this would be done in a more timely manner.

A Member stated that he would like to see the £2k spent in a memorable way to commemorate the 100 years and suggested if Members had any good ideas then they should speak to the Acting Town Clerk. He also suggested that Mr Dave McKenna would possibly have some good ideas. Mr McKenna stated that he had thoughts on the matter as it is poignant to hold a Remembrance Service as 100 years ago there would have been a lot of sadness as well as happiness and the balance between the two needs to be right.

A Member stated in the previous minutes it states the newly formed Royal British Legion Branch and wanted clarification on this. A Member stated that the RBL had to close the previous branch along with their bank accounts and they then regrouped. It was noted that a Member of the RBL had explained this to Members at the last meeting of the Full Council.

RECOMMENDED that the bagpipes, lighting of the V for Victory Beacon and the release of Doves be approved.

3.4 Seaham Fireworks – 2nd November, 2018

The Acting Town Clerk stated that work was ongoing planning this event. There will be craft and food stalls on the Terrace Green along with extra sound systems and also down the marina.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.5 Christmas Lights Switch On – 30th November, 2018

The planning of this event is ongoing and it is proposed to work with Church Street Traders to continue improving the event. The Acting Town Clerk suggested that the parade could start at 5pm at the top of Church Street and then move down to Terrace Green. A Member stated that this would then also involve Church Street Traders who could also participate. A Member suggested that the Acting Town Clerk speaks to the Traders to see if this is what they would want.

RECOMMENDED that the Acting Town Clerk speaks to the Church Street Traders with regards to starting the parade at the top of Church Street.

3.6 Reprint of Previous Meeting Minutes

Due to a printing error page 9653 of the Full Council minute book was missing. Members were asked to approve the page.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve page 9653 from the Full Council minute book.

3.7 Seaham Carnival 2018 – Income and Expenditure

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

3.8 Risk Management Issues

RECOMMENDED Members note the information being provided.

4. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED the Council note that the Deputy Town Clerk will where possible encourage the press and media to promote the positive projects discussed at this meeting which included the Remembrance Day Service, Christmas Lights and Fireworks Display. It was also noted that the Beating the Retreat had received a lot of media attention.