

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 2nd APRIL, 2019

Present: L Kennedy (Chair) and R Arthur E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Mrs B E Allen, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw.

Officers: Mrs D Rickaby (Town Clerk), P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk) A Rountree (Minute Taker)

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.

The Chair requested that everyone present at the meeting stand to give a minutes silence for the sad passing of former Councillor Bruce Burn Senior.

PE18/19 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. Such interests must be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

PE19/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 5th MARCH, 2019

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.

PE20/19 PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

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

1. **IDEAS FOR EVENTS FROM THE NEWLY PROPOSED YOUTH COUNCIL**

Following the discussion and information shared at the previous meeting it was agreed that the Town Council would agree to work with the Youth Council on their ideas for events and approve the costs detailed in the Deputy Town Clerks report.

RECOMMENDED that the Youth Councils ideas for events be approved along with the associated costs.

2. **DOG BANS ON BEACHES & PSPO**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had held discussions with Durham County Council on this matter and they had stated that they would review this in a few years' time.

A Member stated that he was disappointed with Durham County Council's response as the Town Council were trying to provide a safe place for children to play over the summer months. There were only certain parts of the beach which the Town Council wanted to ban dogs from between May-September and not all areas would be restricted.

A Member stated that he is a representative for the Heritage Coast and they have reported that the waters are excellent. A Member suggested that the reports from Durham County Council on the waters should be monitored over the summer season.

The Deputy Town Clerk also informed Members that he would continue to investigate PSPOs to prevent gangs of youths gathering and drinking in the parks.

RECOMMENDED that reports on the coastal waters should be monitored over the summer season and this should be chased up in September/October 2019.

3. **WAVE SCULPTURE**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the artist is currently creating a miniature version of his proposal which will be brought to this meeting on completion.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

4. **BENCHES FOR HARBOUR WALK**

It was noted that there are a lack of benches in this area and the Deputy Town Clerk requested permission to spend the remaining benches budget to place two benches in this area.

9815

RECOMMENDED that Members approve two benches in this locality subject to consent from Durham County Council.

5. NEW DRIVE FENCING PROPOSAL

A resident from East Shore Village stated that she had met with the Town Clerk recently due to the proposed fencing off of the playing fields at New Drive. The member of the public stated that she had created a digital survey on Facebook which had received 593 votes.

Members of the public were asked to vote on two options:-

- a) to fence off the entire field
- b) to fence off the football pitches only and leave a dedicated dog walking area.

17% voted to fence off the entire field and 83% voted to fence off the football pitches only and leave a dedicated dog walking area.

It was noted that dog fouling is a particular problem on the playing field and the member of the public stated that she wished to work with the Town Council to solve this problem.

A Member stated that the Town Council decided to purchase New Drive so that houses couldn't be built on it and it would remain as playing fields which the Town Council want to preserve for future generations. It was noted that New Drive should be a third park for Seaham and the Town Council wish to build changing facilities on the land. A Member stated that the playing fields are for active games such as football, rugby and cricket etc and felt it wasn't appropriate for dog walking. Another Member felt that there was enough space to accommodate both sports and dog walkers.

It was noted that fencing off the pitches would be a more expensive option and would need to be discussed further at another meeting and it was also felt that the prison style fencing would not be required. The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk recommended the twin wire fencing would be a preferable option.

Members then voted on whether there should be a dog walking area included on New Drive.

For 15
Against 0

It was agreed that costing should be brought back to a future Parks & Events Committee meeting.

9816

RECOMMENDED that a dog walking area should be included on the New Drive playing fields and that prices for fencing the pitches off should be brought back to a future meeting.

6. BRIEF UPDATE ON SEAHAMS EVENTS

6.1 SEAHAM CARNIVAL 19TH, 20TH & 21ST JULY, 2019

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that there are a lot more local acts on Saturday night and early Sunday. There is going to be a non-alcohol area although the Police are not totally on board as this would be difficult to police, however Town Council staff and the security company are going to try and manage this.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

6.2. PIRATES AND PRINCESSES FESTIVAL 25TH AUGUST 2019 – TERRACE GREEN

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Youth Council are going to assist with the organising of this event.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

6.3. SEAHAM FOOD FESTIVAL 7TH, 8TH & 9TH JUNE 2019 – TERRACE GREEN

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the organisers of the Food Festival may be creating a park and ride service from Spectrum Park. It was also noted that there will be a celebrity chef in attendance.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

6.4. SEAHAM BRASS FESTIVAL 16TH JUNE 2019 1.00PM – 5.30PM – TERRACE GREEN & CHURCH STREET

The bands which are taking part to date are Trimdon, Pittington and Houghton. The bands will be playing in Church Street as well as on the Terrace Green.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

6.5. ARMED FORCES DAY 29TH JUNE 2019 11.00AM-7.00PM SEAHAM TOWN PARK

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he has met with Dave McKenna and work is underway for this event. A Member suggested that there could be a walk around at this event to collect donations for the war memorial.

9817

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

6.6. WINTER EVENTS

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he was working on the winter events programme which includes Beating the Retreat, Fireworks Display and the Christmas Lights. There has also been a thank you received for moving the benches back from the poppies on Terrace Green.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

7. ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk had recently visited the allotment sites and noted that there were good and bad aspects within the various sites. Some allotments have animals and some are purely for cultivation. The Town Clerk read out the suggested amendments to the agreements and Members asked if they could receive hard copies of the proposed agreements before they made a decision.

It was agreed that this item should be deferred to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee so that Members can look at the proposed agreement.

A Member stated that he also wanted to know the Councils liability regarding insurance if accidents/injuries occurred on allotment sites.

A member of an allotment association stated that at a previous meeting a Councillor proposed that the associations amendments should be put into the leases but this had not happened.

Another Member stated that it was agreed that allotment associations could manage their own sites but this would be within the parameters of what the Town Council had set. It is the Town Councils responsibility to set parameters as they are the landlords.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further discussion.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

RECOMMENDED Members note the information being provided.

9818

9. **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RECOMMENDED that in view of the confidential nature of the next item the formal resolution be passed to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960.

10. **NEW SPEAKERS**

RECOMMENDED that new speakers are purchased as per the recommendation of the Deputy Town Clerk.

11. **SEAHAM TOWN PARK CRICKET/RUGBY LEASE AND RED STAR FOOTBALL LEASE**

Members discussed the lease and a Member felt that it was not appropriate for fees to be reviewed every five years as the fees and charges are reviewed annually for all clubs.

Members agreed that the leases should be referred back to the Town Councils Solicitor for their views.

This item was deferred for the Town Clerk to carry out further investigations.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred for the Town Clerk to carry out further investigations.

PE22/19 **SEAHAM TOWN PARK CRICKET CLUB GRANT**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of a request from the cricket club for a grant for £900 to make improvements to the site where the old pavilion once stood. Members requested to have further information as to what improvements were intended and to then bring this to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further consideration.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts the cricket club for further information.

PE23/19 **SHAW TRUST TO SUPPLY PLANTS FOR PLANTERS TO SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of the quote the Town Council had received from Shaw Trust for the refilling of the summer baskets.

Members agreed to accept the quote and asked that the quality of the plants are monitored over the summer months.

9819

RECOMMENDED that the summer baskets are purchased from Shaw Trust.

PE24/19 PARKSIDE FOOTBALL FIELD – DOG FOULING

The Deputy Town Clerk shared an email correspondence received from a member of Parkside Football Club regarding the dog fouling at Parkside football field and in light of the proposed new fencing at New Drive felt that this should also be afforded to the playing field at Parkside.

Members requested that the Deputy Town Clerk invites the member of Parkside Football Club to the next Parks and Events Committee to discuss this matter further.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk invites the member of Parkside Football Club to the next Parks and Events Committee meeting.

PE25/19 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.

9820