

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST APRIL, 2014**

Present: Councillor B Burn Snr (Chair) and Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, B Burn Jnr, S Cudlip, R Meir, Miss S Morrison, N R Page, I Paul, C Snowball, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors Mrs H Cahill, Mrs S Forster, G A Shepherd, K Shaw,

### **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 4TH MARCH, 2014**

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 Red Star Football**

A Representative of the Red Star Football Club was in attendance however he stated that he had come to discuss Hall Street Allotment and not the fee increases at the Red Star. The Deputy Town Clerk read out an email sent by the representative stating that they were contacting the chair with the intention of coming to the next parks meeting to discuss the issue of the fee increases at the Red Star and that they were now given the opportunity to raise the issue but if they decline to do so then that was their decision.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

#### **3.2 Hall Street Allotments**

The Committee welcomed to the meeting the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Hall Street Allotments Association who were in attendance to convey their dissatisfaction about the Council's decision to extend the current lease by one year. The representatives of the Association commented that they had written in to request they be permitted to attend this meeting to raise their concerns, however, as they had not received a reply they had telephoned the Chair direct to ask his permission to attend.

The representatives intimated there was some inaccuracy with regard to the minutes taken at the meeting at which they were present in February as they had not just requested a one year or twenty one year extension. They explained that they needed to have at least five years remaining on a lease after funding was successfully gained. As there was now only four years remaining, they needed an extension of time to allow them to go through the whole application process which could take some nine months to a year and still have at least five years remaining on their lease.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council agree to discuss the Association's request at the end of the meeting and respond to them at the appropriate time.
- (ii) The Council review the audio recording of the February meeting to clarify the request made.

### **3.3 Electrical Source for Dawdon Football Pavilion**

The Committee was advised that the Northern Power Grid had been asked to review their previous quotation in relation to power provision and to assess whether utilisation of overhead cables would be a cheaper alternative. The use of solar panels was also still being investigated.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

### **3.4 Development Land, Princess Road**

The Committee was advised that the increased plot of land was being marketed by Kimmitt and Roberts. The fee for submission of the planning application for the dwellings on the land amounted to £1,737.50 and authority was sought for this expenditure to be utilised from the Capital Receipts Reserve.

RECOMMENDED authority be granted for the expenditure of £1,737.50 in respect of the planning application submission fee from the Capital Receipts Reserve.

### **3.5 World War I Soldier Sculpture**

The Committee considered the pictures of the proposed sculpture to be displayed in Seaham on 4th August, 2014 as part of the Town's World War I commemoration event on the 4th August 2014. At the last meeting Members had asked to see the conditions which the artist had agreed to adhere to in respect of this display and these were reported to the Committee. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that only one item still needed clarification which he would progress.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

**3.6 Filming of Public Events**

Prior to the consideration of this item, Councillor B Burn Jnr declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Subsequent to previous discussion on this issue at the last meeting, Members were advised that guidance had now been received and a policy would be drafted in the near future which would be brought to the next meeting for approval.

RECOMMENDED the Council noted the information and await the submission of a draft policy at the next meeting for further consideration.

**3.7 Tree Works and Carving along Incline, Dawdon and Other Sites and Opportunities**

The Committee considered pictures of tree carvings which had been undertaken by a local artist who had successfully displayed his craft at the 2013 Seaham Carnival. He had agreed to participate in the 2014 Carnival when he intended to create carvings of Byron and Anne Milbanke which would be displayed in Seaham for a specific period of time after the Carnival. Members were also advised that the artist had also indicated his willingness to train 4 members of Parks Department staff to create carvings for a fee of £250 for one day and authority was sought for such training to take place with the relevant expenditure.

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the £250 expenditure to allow 4 members of the Parks Department staff to undergo tree carving training.

**3.8 Environmental Improvement Survey, 2014**

The Committee considered the results of the recent environmental improvement survey, a copy of which had been previously circulated. In discussion a Member commented that the questions could have been better phrased as they appeared to be leading. The Deputy Town Clerk requested that the Committee consider the content of the survey prior to the next meeting when further discussion could take place on the best ways to progress the information gained.

RECOMMENDED the Town Clerk produce an action plan from the responses obtained for consideration at the next meeting of this Committee.

**3.9 New Stage, Sound and Lighting Tender Process**

The Committee was advised that two tenders from the five invited had been received in relation to the above requirements and the Deputy Town Clerk advised that the costs had been significantly higher than expected. He would therefore research additional funding sources.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported and await further details.

**3.10 Deneside Park – An Example of Recent excellent work by Parks Department**

The Committee viewed a selection of photographs which displayed areas of Deneside Park before and after renovation work had been undertaken by Parks Department staff.

RECOMMENDED the Parks Department staff be commended for the excellent work they had undertaken in Deneside Park.

**3.11 Terrace Green Potential Handover**

The Committee considered a draft copy of the Terrace Green Management Plan, a copy of which had been previously circulated. It was commented that one section of the report in particular, i.e. item F, option 3, should be rewritten as the proposal suggested would require formal consultation with the public, the statutory authorities and particularly the County Council as the Highways Authority.

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the Terrace Green Management Plan subject to item F option 3 being amended as suggested, and it be subsequently submitted to Durham County Council.

**3.12 Londonderry Statue**

The Committee was advised that subsequent to the last meeting Mr Bill Kimmitt had agreed to pay the legal fees in respect of the handover of ownership of the Londonderry Statue to the Town Council amounting to £250 plus vat.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

**3.13 Fireworks Event**

The Committee considered a quotation received in relation to category 4 fireworks training for 4 members of staff at a cost of £1,200.00. The Deputy Town Clerk elaborated on the content of the training which would enable at a future time the Council's own staff to stage fireworks displays. In discussion it was suggested that, although this was a sound idea, Members would like to see a comparison of costs and specific savings that could be made by utilising Town Council staff as opposed to hiring a specialist company to stage such events, taking into account insurance costs etc.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and await a report showing cost comparisons at a future meeting of this Committee.

**3.14 Risk Management Issues**

RECOMMENDED the Council accept the Deputy Town Clerk's report of risk assessment carried out in relation to the various issues reported.

**4. INCREASING BIO DIVERSITY IN SEAHAM**

The Committee was advised that work on this issue was being progressed.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

**5. SEAHAM GRASS ROOTS FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the above organisation which would be brought to Members at the next meeting of this Committee.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

**6 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RECOMMENDED in view of the confidential nature of the following item, the formal resolution be hereby passed to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1961.

**7. HALL STREET ALLOTMENTS**

Pursuant to the information presented at item 3.2, a discussed took place on the possible extension of a lease for the Hall Street Allotment Association.

RECOMMENDED the Hall Street Allotments Association be notified of the decision reached by the Council in relation to their request for an extension to their lease.