

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH MAY, 2014

Present: Councillors B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, B Burn Snr, B Burn Jnr, Mrs S Forster, R Meir, Miss S Morrison, I Paul, K Shaw, G A Shepherd, C Snowball, R Whitehead, K Younger

Apologies: Councillors R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs H Cahill, S Cudlip

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. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RECOMMENDED Councillor Miss S Morrison be appointed Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

(Councillor Miss S Morrison in the Chair)

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RECOMMENDED Councillor K Shaw be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 29TH APRIL, 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.

5. PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

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

5.1 Two New Parks Staff

As part of a 20 month programme funded by County Councillors through the AAP with a £2,000 contribution from the Town Council, two local Seaham residents had been selected through the interview process to be employed as Environmental Wardens. Their main roles would be to ensure that the sea front area was maintained litter free and where appropriate work in partnership with other services with regard to the distribution of penalties for

offenders. In discussion it was queried whether the duties to be allocated had been drawn up as yet, and the Deputy Town Clerk advised that until the full job evaluation process was completed, they would remain on the lowest grade within the Parks Department. The requirement for CRB checks was raised as a possible issue to consider.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council approve the employment of two additional staff whose job titles would be Environmental Warden to commence on 2nd June, 2014.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk research partnership working opportunities in an effort to have offenders issued with penalties.
- (iii) The Deputy Town Clerk provide clarification of the Environmental Wardens' duties, grade and pay level to the next meeting of the Establishment Sub-Committee.
- (iv) The possible requirement for CRB checks for the new staff be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.

5.2 Multi Use Pavilion – Seaham Town Park

The Committee was advised that the Seaham Town Park Cricket Club had now indicated their willingness to work with the Red Star Football Club and Seaham Rugby Club so that each Club could have use of the multi-use pavilion. Members were advised that formal consultation and confirmation would be requested from all parties involved and, subject to these being provided, further details would be brought to the June meeting of this Committee. The Deputy Town Clerk also suggested that representatives of the Cricket Club be asked to attend the June meeting.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported and approve the invitation to representatives of the Seaham Town Park Cricket Club to attend the June meeting of this Committee.

5.3 BMX Skatepark

The Committee was advised that since the opening of the very successful BMX skatepark in 2010 there had been an online campaign to have this facility enlarged. A meeting had taken place between the Deputy Town Clerk and the campaign group who had been advised of the Town Council's limitations with regard to finances and who had since agreed to look into the possibilities of obtaining external funding for such an extension. The group had also indicated their willingness to work with the Town Council in a more positive and proactive way. Members were advised of a proposal submitted by the Sport & Physical Activity Development Officer, Culture and Sport, at Durham County Council to organise an event which the group could be

invited to be involved in and details of this event were provided. The provision of a competition organised by the Town Council was suggested with a trophy being awarded to the successful participant.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council grant approval for the event detailed to take place on Thursday, 7th August
- (ii) The Council approve the partnership working with the BMX skatepark campaign group.
- (iii) The Deputy Town Clerk investigate the possibility of running a skateboard/bmx themed competition for users of the facility as outlined.

5.4 Development Land – Princess Road

The Committee was advised that planning approval had now been submitted for the development land and some interest had been shown. The Deputy Town Clerk elaborated on the envisaged offer price and approval was sought for Officers to progress the sale once this figure had been reached.

RECOMMENDED In line with the Local Government Act 1972 the land in question has been extensively advertised on the open market and it is now approved by the Council the sale of the land for the agreed figure and grant delegated authority for Officers to sell the land.

5.5 World War 1 Soldier Sculpture

The Committee was advised of the Artist's request to site the World War 1 Soldier sculpture on the Terrace Green on 29th May and the relevant permission was being sought from Durham County Council. A shortfall of £500 in relation to transport costs was expected to be met by a sponsor following a media article which would go out in the near future. In the interim period, however, Members were asked to agree to the Town Council covering this cost from the parks budget.

RECOMMENDED the Town Council agree to underwrite the £500 transport costs from the Parks Budget until sponsorship was obtained.

5.6 New Stage, Sound and Lighting Tender Process

The Committee was advised that £42,917 plus VAT was the amount required to cover the provision of the above equipment. £42,000 of the funding was being provided by Durham County Councillors through the AAP. Authority was sought for the additional sum of £917 to be met from within the Parks Budget.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported and grant authority for the additional sum of £917 to be paid from within the Parks budget.

5.7 Tree Planting

Permission has been sought from the Town Council for the Scouts to plant trees at Seaham Cemetery. In discussion it was considered to be a good media opportunity for the Mayor to be present when the planting was taking place.

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the planting of trees within Seaham Cemetery by the Scouts group and suggest that the Mayor be in attendance at the commencement of the exercise for a photograph to be taken for publicity purposes.

5.8 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.

6. DAWDON BOWLS PAVILION

The Committee was advised that a building survey had been conducted, the result of which identified it was not fit for purpose and had been condemned. As a consequence of this the ladies and gentlemen would have to share the pavilion in the interim. The Deputy Town Clerk would provide costs for a possible replacement facility at a later date. A portacabin could, in the meantime, be put in place over the busy time.

RECOMMENDED this item is deferred for consideration to the next meeting.

7. GREEN DRIVE FACILITY

A Member requested a similar survey be undertaken at Green Drive where there was currently a leak in the roof. The Deputy Town Clerk advised of the measures that had been put in place to resolve the situation.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

8. CONSULTATION ON FIXED PLAY BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

The Committee was advised that a document had been sent to the Town Council as it has the most number of play areas within the County apart from Durham itself. It was pointed out, however that the Town Council did not receive any of the general budget from Durham County Council for play areas. The Town Clerk elaborated on this emotive issue which had been discussed at the last meeting of the Larger Councils Forum.

RECOMMENDED an appropriate letter be sent to Durham County Council.

9. WORLD WAR 1 CELEBRATION

The Committee was reminded of the Armed Forces Day to be held on 28th June, as previously reported. It commences at 12 noon and ends at approximately 7 pm working in partnership with the Royal British Legion and the Remember Them Fund.

RECOMMENDED this event be well publicised in the local media and a letter be sent to all Councillors providing full details.