

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

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

Observers: Ms W Berry, B Taylor

Apologies: Mrs H Cahill

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 2ND SEPTEMBER, 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 Cycle to Work Scheme

Pursuant to Members previous discussions the Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the practicalities and associated costs of implementing the scheme would be given further consideration as part of the 2015/16 budget round. A Member asked where the initiative had originated and it was confirmed that the matter was under consideration as a result of a request from staff who were interested in cycling to work. Concerns were raised by a Member as to whether the scheme was affordable.

RECOMMENDED the Council to discuss the issue during the 2015/16 budget round.

3.2 Christmas Lights 2014

Members were informed that Christmas lights event taking place on the 5th of December is to start at 6pm to ensure darkness has fallen as this has proved a problem in previous years. The event has been enhanced to have a larger

impact and the possibility of electricity feeds on the Terrace Green has been investigated but is not possible for the event this year. It is hoped to be able to arrange this for future years after the Terrace Green has been handed over to the Town Council to administer.

RECOMMENDED The Council note the information now reported.

3.3 Cricket Club Pavillion Tender

Members were informed that the tender submissions were due back on the 10th October and there have already been responses received from two companies stating that they will not be making submissions.

RECOMMENDED The Council note the information now reported.

3.4 Deneside Voluntary Group

Members were informed about the event day in Deneside park, organised by the group, which had taken place on Sunday 28th September. On behalf of the Council the Chair thanked the group for their hard work in organising the event.

Ms Berry, a member of the Deneside Voluntary Group, was in attendance and at the invitation of the Chair provided the an update with regard to the event. Ms Berry stated that there had been an overwhelming response from community and the event had been attended by a significant number of people of all ages from toddlers to the elderly. The support of PCSO Hutton, Seaham Traders and the two members of the Town Council staff who helped on the day was acknowledged. Many local organisations had supported the event by donating safety equipment, refreshments and the barbeque. Local press was in attendance and coverage in the local paper was expected in the following day's edition.

RECOMMENDED The Council note the information now reported.

3.5 The Big Brass Battle

Members were informed about the brass festival event proposed to take place on the 7th June 2014. Planning of the event is at an early stage and further details will be provided at future meetings. In discussion Members highlighted the success of previous similar events and applauded the proposed event. Clarification was also provided that this is not a part of the Durham County Council brass festival which had been particularly successful two years previously however in the opinion of Members it hadn't advertised enough.

RECOMMENDED The Council note the information now reported and await further details at a future meeting

3.6 Resolution to exclude the Press and Public

RECOMMENDED in view of the confidential nature of all the items to be discussed at this meeting, 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.

3.7 Seaham Fireworks Display 2014

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the tender process had been completed in accordance with procedure and that submissions had been received from two suppliers of the five approached and Britannia fireworks of Middleton by Wirksworth, Matlock, Derbyshire were the preferred supplier on the basis of cost. In discussion a Member raised concerns with regard to the level of financial information which had been distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Deputy Town Clerk elaborated that the file containing all of the tender submissions was available for Members to view at the meeting as stated in the agenda and the file was then passed around to all Members for consideration.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council grant the authority for the contract to be awarded to Britannia Fireworks of Middleton by Wirksworth, Matlock, Derbyshire for the provision of the 2014 Seaham Fireworks display for the agreed contract sum of £5,000.
- (ii) Members give further consideration with regard to the amount and format of financial information distributed to Members at a future meeting.

3.8 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.

4. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED the Council note that the event recently held in Deneside Park would have been an excellent press opportunity however it was already suitably covered therefore no press opportunities existed from this meeting.