

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2016**

Present: Councillor K Shaw (Chair) and  
Councillors, 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, Miss S Morrison, I Paul, K Shaw,  
C Snowball, R Whitehead, K Younger.

Apologies: Councillor, B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,  
Mrs H Cahill, B Taylor,

*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 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2016**

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 Seaham High School War Memorial & Poppy Pebbles**

Mr Dave McKenna, The Remember Them Fund and Mr Derek Bland from the Royal British Legion were in attendance at the meeting to discuss the above two proposals. Mr McKenna thanked all Councillors for being invited to attend the meeting and for the Councils continued support in organising community events.

##### **a) Poppy Pebbles**

Mr McKenna stated that he wishes to place a large poppy mosaic made from pebbles to be located at the feet of the Tommy sculpture. The aim is to have community participation and to highlight the poppy appeal as was done last year with the Line of Reconciliation. It is also intended to make the connection with the Tommy sculpture and the cenotaph. Mr McKenna suggested that the poppy is in place by 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 which is a week prior to Remembrance Sunday.

Mr McKenna stated that he has looked at health and safety and a sign will be placed on the grass area warning of a possible trip hazard but he feels there is no more of a risk of people tripping over the poppy than they have a risk of tripping over Tommy's feet. There will still be a clear pathway so the public can get to the Tommy sculpture.

Mr McKenna stated that the structure will be made of membrane which is used in gardens and the shape will be cut out previous to it being laid on Terrace Green. The centre will be black pebbles which will protrude higher in an oval shape and the rest will be made up of small, medium and large red pebbles which will be laid on the outer rim which will act as a wind break.

Mr McKenna handed out some painted red pebbles for Councillors to look at which he had tested in his own garden for two weeks to ensure the red paint did not come off. Mr McKenna stated he had involved the Cadets with this and they were currently painting the pebbles. The poppy on Terrace Green will be approximately 10 ft x 10 ft and will have a great visual impact and will highlight the Poppy Appeal. Mr McKenna stated that if public perception is not what he perceived he will remove the poppy but feels that the poppy will attract attention and visitors.

Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions:

- (i) A Member asked whether the pebbles would be cemented in or placed in sand as he showed concern that the pebbles would be lifted and taken away?

*Mr McKenna stated they would be placed on the membrane. He also noted that the same thing could have happened to the poppy crosses last year but we have to judge the community on its faith and how it responds to the Poppy Appeal which is always good. It isn't a permanent fixture and it can be removed as quick as it is laid.*

- (ii) A Member questioned whether it would be possible to have a temporary security camera?

*The Deputy Town Clerk said he would speak to local traders to see if they could assist.*

- (iii) A Member questioned whether it would be appropriate to also have the poppy in the Town Park also?

*Mr McKenna stated that there could be scope to have the poppy placed half a week at each site as the poppy is easily lifted.*

A Member thanked Mr McKenna for attending the meeting and to assist Councillors to visualise how the poppy will look. He noted that

it will be a dramatic display on the Terrace Green as was the Line of Reconciliation last year which was really popular and well done. It will be a positive thing for a week not just Remembrance Sunday and will also help to be a focus on Tommy.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the Poppy Pebbles on Terrace Green.

**b) War Memorial**

Mr McKenna stated that he had been liaising with the Headmaster of Seaham High School with regards to erecting a Memorial in the new school grounds. The Memorial will be dedicated to the men of Seaham Colliery not only for the colliery disasters but for all of the miners who went to war and the Headmaster has located an area for the Memorial to be situated.

Mr McKenna stated that the Remembrance Fund have money available as it is a Community account. The money has been raised from Armed Forces Day, bag piping in Church Street as well as other organised events. The money has to go back into the community as it isn't a charity it's the general public's money. By erecting a Memorial in the school the school will then be able to carry out their own Remembrance Services instead of the pupils standing in the classroom for a minutes silence. It has been suggested to hold a service on the 10<sup>th</sup> November with the Mayor to unveil the Memorial and Councillor E Bell to attend on behalf of the County Council and the Vicar to attend to bless the Memorial. On the 11<sup>th</sup> November the school will conduct their first service for Armistice. The school are going to purchase a flagpole. There are over 1,200 pupils who attend the school so this Memorial can educate thousands of young people over the coming years of Seaham's history and heritage.

The Headmaster fully endorses the Memorial and has taken this up with Ofsted.

Mr McKenna stated that the Memorial is currently being made by Scott's Memorials. It is 3ft x 2 ft thick made of black granite with silver lettering and will have the Seaham Crest on the Memorial.

A Member suggested that the Council should ratify the Councils Crest on the Memorial it will not only be a benefit for the Town Council but also for all of the children who are here now and for many years to come.

Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions:-

- (i) A Member asked if there was anything to say who it was donated by?

*Mr McKenna stated that there will be a time capsule which will go inside on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. The time capsule will contain a letter from Mr McKenna which will detail the Council and other organisations involvement. There will also be poems etc about the mining disasters from the pupils of the school.*

A Member wished to congratulate Mr McKenna for doing this as the Member has relatives who died in the Seaham Colliery disaster. He noted it would be good if some of the information held at Spennymoor about the fatalities was brought back to Seaham.

Mr Bland stated as a member of the Legion that he was giving Mr McKenna his full support. He stated it is an excellent idea.

- (ii) A Member stated that it was definitely to be commended but would it not be possible to mention all of the miners names?

*Mr McKenna stated it was more about the historical site.*

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the use of the Seaham Crest on the Memorial and support the erection of the War Memorial at Seaham High School.

### **3.2 Proposal to Light Up Tommy**

The key dates are 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness. A proposal was made to light up Tommy purple on these two dates.

RECOMMENDED that this request not to be approved.

### **3.3 Christmas Lights Switch On 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016 at 6.30pm**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that the Christmas Lights Switch On will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he was due to meet with SUN FM to discuss how they can assist with the switch on. The Deputy Town Clerk will report back to this meeting once he has met with SUN FM and has further information.

RECOMMENDED the Deputy Town Clerk to report back once he has further information regarding SUN FM's involvement with the Christmas Lights Switch On.

**3.4 Seaham Fireworks Display 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at 7.00pm**

The Deputy Town Clerk seeks formal approval for the format of the Fireworks Display. The format will be the same as last year but with a vibrant symphonic sound track.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the format of the Fireworks Display.

**3.5 Potential 4G Football Pitches in Seaham**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Council that he had met with Ms Suzanne Richardson, Sports Development Officer from Durham County Council to discuss the possibility of Seaham having a 4G pitch. He informed the Council that the meeting had been very positive.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

**3.6 Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public**

RECOMMENDED in view of the confidential nature of the item to be discussed, 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 Dawdon Park Project**

The Deputy Town Clerk requests Members to approve the minutes of the Dawdon Park Working Party held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2016. A Member of the Dawdon Park Working Party informed the Committee that a meeting was held where various aspects of the Dawdon Project was discussed and the Council are formally asked to ratify the minutes. If any questions are raised the Dawdon Park Working Party Members will endeavour to respond.

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the minutes of the meeting.

**3.8 Potential Land Disposals**

The Council have received requests to purchase land at Seaham Street, Union Street and Dawdon Park. The Deputy Town Clerk requests permission to investigate the value of the land.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk seeks valuations for the three sites.

**3.9 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. REVISED BUDGET FOR 2016/17 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2017/18**

A Member noted that the contribution for the statue in Church Street was agreed as a maximum £3,000. On the budget schedule it has been stated as £6,000. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the £6,000 was in fact an error and would be rectified.

RECOMMENDED that the budget schedule for the statue be changed to £3,000.

**5. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

A Member stated that the Council had entered Northumbria in Bloom and received two silver medals. The press should be made well aware of this achievement. It was the Council's first time entering the competition and they received two silver gilt medals and staff should be commended on this achievement.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts the press with regards to the Northumbria in Bloom awards and the Council note that forthcoming events will be advertised in the press.