

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH MARCH, 2016

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

Apologies: Councillor B Allen, Mrs B E Allen, K Shaw.

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 1ST MARCH, 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 St Georges Day 23rd April 2016 – Ashes Event

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the proposed event and reminded Members that the Royal British Legion had originally written a letter requesting to work in partnership with the Town Council on this event. Subsequently the Royal British Legion had been requested to send a formal letter of confirmation that they were to be the lead organisers for the event and this had not been received to date.

In discussion, Members agreed that as the letter of confirmation had not been received and, given the date for the proposed event was only three weeks away, that due to the potential risks of an inappropriately planned and executed event, it should be cancelled with no participation by the Town Council.

Members were also advised that there were now new officials on the Seaham branch of the Royal British Legion although no formal notification had been received by the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk informs the Royal British Legion immediately that the event is cancelled for the reasons stated and obtain details of the new officials on the Seaham branch.

3.2 Seahams Sculptural Trail

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update with regard to the proposed sculptural trail and suggested that a small working party be set up to investigate the activity.

In discussion, Members agreed that a permanent sculptural trail through the town provided by the Town Council would be a fabulous additional attraction for visitors.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) A working party consisting of Councillors Mrs J A Bell, B Burn Jnr, Mrs S Forster, Miss S Morrison, I Paul and the Deputy Town Clerk is set up by the Deputy Town Clerk to investigate the activity and report back to this Committee with findings and recommendations on how to progress the project.

3.3 Terrace Green Rides Concession

Pursuant to previous discussion it was confirmed that Members did not want any attractions on the Terrace Green and it was suggested that the applicant should look at the alternative sites of the land at the Dock top and/or next to the snooker club. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that in his opinion, it was worth thinking about other appropriate and cost effective attractions that the Town Council could provide on the Terrace Green, as an alternative to fairground rides, which would enhance the visitor experience and gain beneficial media coverage.

In discussion, Members agreed that a suitable programme of events was essential for the Terrace Green and that any ideas should be directed to the Deputy Town Clerk for consideration and reporting back to Members.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) The applicant be informed immediately of the decision of the Council.

- (iii) The Deputy Town Clerk to look at a programme of suitable cost effective events for the Terrace Green and to give consideration to any ideas provided by Members in order that suggestions can be reported back to this Committee.

3.4 Seaham Town Park Multi Use Pavillion

Pursuant to previous discussion it was confirmed that Members agreed for the request from the Rugby Club to be initially considered by the Fees and Charges Working Party with a view to determining the level of fee for the proposed use of the facility by the club.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to arrange for a meeting of the Fees and Charges Working Party to consider the request and determine the level of fee for the proposed use of the facility by the club.

3.5 Northumbria in Bloom

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the Northumbria in Bloom submission and informed Members that judging would take place on Wednesday 20th April at 10am and Monday 4th July at 1pm. How the judging panel would be escorted was still being planned by the Deputy Town Clerk would be communicated to Councillors once confirmed. Briefly the panel would be greeted at Seaham Hall and then travel towards the Terrace Green before visiting Denside Park and Seaham Town Park. In discussion Members agreed that the panel should be greeted by as many Councillors as possible and then accompanied by a suitable number as they visit the key judging sites throughout the town. It was also agreed that with regard to hospitality arrangements refreshments and a meal of suitable quality should be provided.

The Deputy Town Clerk also requested for approval to run a photographic competition for the best spring scene. Councillors were also informed that members of the public had indicated they wished to make donations towards the planting schemes and permission was sought to enable such donations to be securely accepted.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to organise the photographic competition.
- (iii) A suitable cash receipting system, designed by the Finance Officer, be put in place to accept any donations towards the planting schemes

for the Northumbria in Bloom submission.

- (iv) The Deputy Town Clerk to determine the programme for the visit by the judging panel and this be reported to Members once completed.
- (v) The Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to provide refreshments and a meal of suitable quality for those involved during the visits of the judging panel.

3.6 Seaham Town Park Green Flag Award

The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that the application has been accepted and the assessment will take place on Tuesday 24th May at 2pm.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to provide refreshments and a meal of suitable quality for those involved during the visit of the assessment panel.

3.7 Stage Roofing

RECOMMENDED the Council waives standing orders due to specialist nature of the equipment and approves the purchase of the stage roofing within the budget allocation of £8,000 from SPL of Stockton on Tees.

3.8 Dawdon Football Pavillion

Members were reminded of enquiry raised at the recent Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd March, 2016 concerning previously funded improvements, by an individual, to the Dawdon football pavilion and the implications of the rebate scheme now being scrapped. The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members on the details and in discussion it was agreed that the rebate scheme had been scrapped due to it having been abused and now being considered obsolete. It was also reaffirmed that, under the new terms any club wanting to fund and complete improvements to any Council buildings must first obtain permission from the Town Council to do so. If granted that club may also apply for a contribution from the Town Council in support of the works.

It was also stated that certain clubs were not leaving the changing facilities in a clean and tidy state ready for use by others.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.

- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to speak with the individual concerned to ascertain any proposals for future improvements to the Dawdon football pavilion.
- (iii) The Deputy Town Clerk to investigate the general upkeep of the facilities post matches and liaise with all clubs to ensure they are leaving the changing facilities in a clean and tidy state ready for use by others.

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. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDED the Council note that no press opportunities existed from this meeting.