

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 26TH APRIL, 2016

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

Apologies: Councillor B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,
Mrs H J Cahill, 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 29TH 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 Hall Street Allotment Association

The Chair informed Members that due to confusion with diary dates the representatives of the association would not be attending the meeting and they had been invited to attend the next meeting on 17th May, 2016. The Chair then clarified previous discussion on the allotment association and informed Members that after the meeting on 2nd March a report was brought to this Committee by the Deputy Town Clerk which outlined discussions that had previously taken place with the association. Expanding on what had been previously reported to Committee on 29th March, which was factually correct, the allotment association would like to put up a building to be used by their members and they have not commenced any building work at present. They will provide details of any proposals to the Town Council when their plans have been developed. They have however erected trellis around the existing toilet to provide screening.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.2 Northumbria in Bloom Spring Judging

The Deputy Town Clerk showed a video presentation to the Committee which highlights the good work of the Parks Department with spring bulb planting and other displays. A version of the video had been shown to the visiting judges at Seaham Hall Hotel and it was intended to show it at the Mayor's Civic Ball if Members were agreeable.

The Deputy Town Clerk then provided an update with regard to the visit by the judges which had commenced at Seaham Hall Hotel, who had provided the venue free of charge including complimentary refreshments. The panel had then travelled by classic car to various key locations throughout the town and met members of the 'Unofficial Beach Clean Team'. As a result they had been extremely impressed with the town and they will return on 4th July at 1pm for a second visit and all Councillors will be invited to welcome them.

In discussion Members were very pleased with the video and it was suggested that footage of St Mary's Church be added, if possible, as it is of such historical significance and a key tourist attraction in the town.

The Deputy Town Clerk also updated Members with regard to proposals to make planting improvements around the railway station car park on the western side. Durham County Council are leading on this and working in conjunction with the new franchise holder. It was also highlighted that there are 11 planters on the railway station platforms with plaques which have been planted up and maintained by the Parks Department and volunteers. It was considered appropriate to approach the new railway franchise holder, Arriva Rail North based in York, to request a financial contribution towards the ongoing maintenance of the planters and planting scheme around the station.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk arrange for footage of St Mary's Church to be included in the video presentation.
- (iii) The Deputy Town Clerk arrange for the video be shown at the Mayor's Civic Ball.
- (iv) The Deputy Town Clerk approach the new railway franchise holder, Arriva Rail North, to request a financial contribution towards the ongoing maintenance of the planters and planting scheme around the station.

3.3 Seahams Sculptural Trail

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Sculptural Train Working Party was scheduled to meet at the Town Hall on 12th May, 2016 at 3.00 pm

and would report back to this Committee with suggestions for the project. Councillor Miss S Morrison informed the Committee that she was unable to attend.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.4 Seaham Town Park Multi Use Pavillion

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Fees and Charges Working Party was scheduled to meet at the Town Hall on 12th May, 2016 to look at the Rugby Club using the facility next season. Councillor Miss S Morrison informed the Committee that she was unable to attend.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.5 Dawdon Community Allotment

The Deputy Town Clerk highlighted to Members how the site had been transformed and suggested a contribution of £500 towards the costs of materials for the site in line with current policy for all associations. In discussion it was agreed that it would be beneficial for all Members to visit and view the site. The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that it was one of the scheduled stops for the next visit of the Northumbria in Bloom judges and suggested an open invitation be made for any Members to visit the site as part of that.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) A grant of £500 be made to the Dawdon Community Allotment Association towards the costs of materials for the site.
- (iii) That all Councillors have an open invitation to visit the community allotment as part of the Northumbria in Bloom judges visit on 4th July, 2016.

3.6 Forthcoming Events

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the dates of forthcoming events and that plans were progressing without an issues at present..

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.7 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.

3.8 Cemetery Issue

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the cemetery issue.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) This item is deferred for consideration to a future meeting.

3.9 Dawdon Park Bungalow

The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that after a review of the file a previously negotiated settlement agreement stipulates the actions available to the Council with regard to increases to the rent.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.10 New Apprentices

The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that the two current apprentices are due to finish at the end of June and it is the intention to work with Durham County Council to obtain two new apprentices. There is a restriction with regard to accessing the current funding route within the same twelve month period however alternative funding routes are being considered. In discussion Members highlighted the excellent work of the two current apprentices in making the beach and seafront area much cleaner and also their excellent work as part of the Parks grounds maintenance team.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.11 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 promote the entry prior to the July visit by the Northumbria in Bloom judges and results when they have been received in September.