

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 17TH MAY, 2016

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

Apologies: Councillor B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,
R Arthur, B Burn Jnr, Mrs H J Cahill,
S Cudlip.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

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

(Councillor K Shaw in the Chair)

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.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

RECOMMENDED Councillor S Cudlip be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

3. 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.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26TH APRIL, 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.

5. PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

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

3.1 Seaham in Bloom

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Northumbria in Bloom judges will be returning on Monday 4th July. They will be greeted at Seaham

Hall Hotel and then be guided around the town. It was agreed that the spring bulbs had been excellent when they last visited and that was due to the hard work of the Parks department. The Deputy Town Clerk also informed Members that the interesting and unusual geology in the marina area was currently overlooked and it was hoped that Durham County Council could be encouraged to promote this and install interpretation panels. Members were also informed that partnership working was in progress with Durham County Council and both the Civic Pride and Clean & Green Teams were involved. It was felt that former planting sites throughout the town should be identified with a view to bringing them back to their former glory.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to contact Durham County Council to encourage the installation of suitable interpretation panels for the unique geology in the marina area.
- (iii) The Deputy Town Clerk to investigate the Town Council records and contact Durham County Council to ascertain who has responsibility for the various former planting sites. Once the information is obtained a report to be brought back to this Committee to decide on the next course of action.

3.2 Seahams Sculptural Trail

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Sculptural Train Working Party met for the first time on Thursday 12th May, 2016 and subject to availability the next meeting was planned for Tuesday 21st June, 2016 at 11.00am. Durham County Council Regeneration team are to be approached to see if there is any funding available for potential artwork in Church Street. The Deputy Town Clerk is also working on producing a plan of all of the Towns artwork with a tour route for the public to enjoy.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.3 Somme Event 1st July 2016

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and approve the format.

3.4 Seaham Sea Cadets – Flag Raising/Lowering Battle of Jutland 31st May, 2016

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and approve the Sea Cadets to use the Council flag pole on Terrace Green.

3.5 Army Surge 19th – 23rd August, 2016

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and approve the MOD to

use the Terrace Green subject to appropriate risk assessments and insurance for the event and a proviso that any damage is to be repaired.

3.6 Other 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:

- (i) The Council note the information provided for the various planned events.
- (ii) The Civic Dignitaries attending the Carnival are to be provided with refreshments and light catering at the Terrace Green rather than staging a formal reception at the Town Hall.

3.7 Town Hall Garden

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of planned improvements at this location and requested approval for the Parks department to undertake the works for which there was an allocated budget.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and approve the works as detailed within the allocated budget.

3.8 Dawdon Dog Fouling

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of a planned town wide dog fouling initiative to take place week commencing Monday 20th June, 2016. In discussion Members highlighted the efficacy of suitable signage and how well such signs have worked in other areas. It was agreed that this issue should be included with the proposed improvements to Dawdon Park to achieve a long term solution and that the beach should also be a key target area as part of the initiative.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and await further details.

3.9 Green Flag Judging Seaham Town Park

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that this was to take place on Tuesday 31st May, 2016 at 2.00pm. All Members were welcome to attend to support the application. The Judges will be escorted around the park where they will meet various users and then there will be a buffet lunch.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.10 Seaham Town Park Improvements 2017

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of planned improvements to

replace the wooden fence and part of the hedge at the side of the bowling green with the same cast iron decorative fencing currently around the park. at this location and requested approval for the Parks department to undertake the works for which there was an allocated budget. In discussion it was clarified that the two additional items of play equipment suggested would be for Members to choose during the budget round in late 2016. Members also acknowledged that CCTV covers the play area and that no major problems with regard to vandalism or other forms of antisocial behaviour had occurred as a result.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and approve the fencing works as detailed within the allocated budget.

3.11 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.

3.12 Seaham Town Park Multi Use Pavillion

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Fees and Charges Working Party met on Thursday 12th May, 2016 to negotiate with the Rugby club on the fees and conditions for their use of the facility. The Deputy Town Clerk is waiting for the club to respond to proposals.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and await further details.

3.13 Cemetery Issue

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

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and await further details.

3.14 Dawdon Park Bungalow

The Committee considered correspondence received from the tenant of the bungalow and the Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that the previously negotiated settlement agreement stipulates the actions available to the Council with regard to increases to the rent.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information.

3.15 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 and that this would require the Town Council to allocate £5,000 as it had previously and be

subject to other previous funding partners supporting the scheme.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Council note the information.
- (ii) The Council provisionally approve the allocation of £5,000 subject to other previous funding partners supporting the scheme.

3.16 St Mary's – Request to cut Grounds

Prior to the consideration of this item, Councillor B Burn declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Church had requested a price to cut their grounds and provided details of the previous amount charged per cut.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and approve the Parks department to provide the service at the cost indicated.

3.17 Dawdon Park Project

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the project and details from the Architect with regard to the potential costs for various options. In discussion it was considered that perhaps breaking the project down into three smaller projects which would benefit each of the clubs may be the way forward.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The options be reviewed by the Dawdon Park Working Party and a report brought back to this Committee for consideration.
- (ii) The Council note the information and await further details.

3.18 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.