

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 31ST JANUARY, 2017

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

Apologies: Councillor, R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale,
B Burn (Jnr), Mrs H Cahill, K Younger.

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 3RD JANUARY, 2017

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 Artwork for Church Street

The Deputy Town Clerk requested Members to approve the proposed meeting date of Wednesday 22nd February, 2017 at 2.00pm for Councillors to meet with Church Street Traders and any members of the public who may wish to attend to discuss the proposed new artwork for Church Street. A Member noted that there is already artwork in Church Street and any further artworks may cause an obstruction for the Friday Market Traders. It was agreed to hold these discussions at the meeting on the 22nd February as the proposed artwork is to try and attract visitors to Church Street.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the meeting due to be held on Wednesday 22nd February, 2017.

3.2 HMS Seaham

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Dave McKenna from the Remember Them Fund wishes to create a memorial to HMS Seaham on

a plaque in the Clock Garden. The Town Council would do the groundwork and permission would need to be sought from Durham County Council as the Clock Garden is on their land. A Member noted that the Sea Cadets were also looking to do some form of memorial and suggested that the Sea Cadets and Mr McKenna hold further discussions together with regard to this matter to avoid any duplication.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk requests Mr McKenna to hold talks with the Sea Cadets to discuss this matter further.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS FOR DAWDON AND PARKSIDE

It is proposed to start the consultation, research and seeking further funding for the environmental projects at Dawdon and Parkside. The suggestion is to have new planting or artistic projects. The Deputy Town Clerk requested that Councillors are chosen to form a working party to take this forward and requests approval for a meeting to take place on Wednesday 22nd February, 2017 at 4.00pm.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the meeting date of the 22nd February, 2017 and Councillors from the Dawdon Ward are chosen to form the working party.

3.4 PROPOSED MEGAN BELL FUNDRAISING EVENT – TERRACE GREEN-10TH JUNE, 2017

Prior to the consideration of this item, Councillors E Bell, Mrs J A Bell and I Paul declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

3.5 REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL TREE AND EVENT – 12TH MARCH, 2017

A local resident has requested to place a memorial tree at Dawdon Park and to also hold a community event on the Terrace Green.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the memorial tree and event.

3.6 DAWDON PARK WORKING PARTY

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the last minutes from the Dawdon Park Working Group which was held on 17th January, 2017.

3.7 FREE SHAKESPEARE EVENT

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the Shakespeare workshop session which is a free public event which will be held in the Town Hall either in May or September.

3.8 CENTENARY OF PASSCHENDAELE – 30TH JULY, 2017 11.00AM

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the Remember Them Fund to hold a last post remembrance service at the Cenotaph on Terrace Green to mark the anniversary of Passchendaele.

3.9 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.

3.10 POSSIBLE SALE OF PLOTS OF LAND

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

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 note that no press opportunities existed from this meeting.