

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 28TH MARCH, 2017

Present: Councillor K Shaw (Chair) and
Councillors, B Allen, Mrs B E Allen,
E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, B Burn, B Burn Jnr,
S Cudlip, Miss S Morrison, C Snowball,
B Taylor, R Whitehead, K Younger.

Apologies: Councillor R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale,
Mrs H J Cahill, Mrs S Forster, I Paul,
R Meir.

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 28TH FEBRUARY, 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 that this item be deferred until the meeting due to be held on the 16th May, 2017, when further information can be provided to the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to the May meeting.

3.2 Public Space Protection Order

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had held a staff meeting to look into the idea of Seaham Town Council staff being trained to do enforcement and fixed penalty notices on any public ground within the Seaham area. The Unison union representative was in attendance at the meeting and the GMB representative will also need to be included. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that there was a positive response from Council

staff. A Member noted that this was an excellent idea but there could be legal and financial implications to the Council so further information would need to be brought back to the Council.

RECOMMENDED the Deputy Town Clerk seeks further information and to bring this back to Council when it is available.

3.3 Proposed Free Photographic Competition – Seaham Town Hall

The Deputy Town Clerk stated it is proposed to hold a free public photographic competition. Members of the public would be invited to display their works with no liability to the Council.

RECOMMENDED that approval is given to the Deputy Town Clerk to hold the photographic competition.

3.4 Northumbria in Bloom

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the spring judging is taking place on the 28th April and will begin at 10.30am at Seaham Hall and will end at 1.00pm at Seaham Town Hall. All Members are invited to attend at various points throughout the tour. The Deputy Town Clerk will be inviting local schools to take part and also any local community groups are also welcome to take part whether it be with paintings or litter picking.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

3.5 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.

3.6 New Drive Transfer

It was noted by the Deputy Town Clerk that the New Drive transfer is likely to be agreed by Durham County Council within the next few weeks.

The Parks Supervisor has made a visit to Hartlepool to look at the modular buildings and stated that they looked to be in good condition which the contractors confirmed. Between the Rugby Club and the contractors they will deal with the taking down and removal to Seaham and the Ruby Club have asked the Town Council to look into the costs of supplying the utilities on New Drive when the transfer has taken place. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the facilities would be available for all sports users to use and not just solely for the Rugby Club.

A Member raised the issue of the transfer of the New Drive land and the revenue implications and requested that a written report was completed advising of the potential implications for service charges and the revenue implications for staff and the equipment that the Town Council may need to

purchase in order to maintain the facility in the future. Members also need to know whether the land is being gifted or is a lease, the terms and period of lease and all of this information needs to be included in the written report. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the Town Council are negotiating with Durham County Council for the land to be gifted and he will also look into the revenue implications at the earliest opportunity.

RECOMMENDED:

- i) that the Deputy Town Clerk will look into the costs of providing utilities to the modular buildings once a transfer of land has been agreed.
- ii) that the Deputy Town Clerk produces a written report outlining the potential implications for service charges, revenue implications for staff and equipment and will include any further information as and when it becomes available.

3.7 Kids Messy Day

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a request from East Durham Little Learners to hold a kids Messy Day in Seaham Town Park on 29th July, 2017 for an hour and possibly for further dates which are yet to be confirmed. There will be no resource implication to the Council.

A Member raised the issue of safeguarding and the photographing of young people and whether the Council would make available signage advising people of the taking of photographs. It will also need to be reiterated to the group that they will be responsible for safeguarding. The Deputy Town Clerk will advise the group of this but it was noted that the supervisors are all DBS checked and hold paediatric first aid certificates.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will speak to East Durham Little Learners with regards to safeguarding issues and report back to the next meeting of the Parks & Events Committee.

3.8 Garages at Rutland Street

Members were informed that the Deputy Town Clerk has held discussions with a member of the public who has purchased 3 garages on the Rutland Street site. The purchaser was unaware that the Town Council owned the garages and that ground rent was payable on these. The purchasers Solicitor agreed with the Town Council so he has agreed to pay ground rent to the Council.

RECOMMENDED that the Council note the information.

3.9 Army Day

A request has been made to hold Army Recruitment days on Terrace Green between the 2nd – 5th May, 2017. There is no resource implication to the Town Council and permission is requested to hold this event.

RECOMMENDED that approval be made to hold the Army Recruitment days on the Terrace Green.

3.10 Lighting of the Cenotaph

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the meeting that the works to light up the cenotaph should be completed in the next few days.

RECOMMENDED that the Council note the information.

3.11 Facebook

A Member questioned the Town Clerk on some information that had come to light on Facebook with regards to the Town Council paying an Arborist £50,000 per year. The Town Clerk confirmed that this was in fact false information and that the Town Council do not employ an Arborist on this salary.

RECOMMENDED that the Council note the information.

3.12 Press Opportunities

RECOMMENDED that the lighting of the cenotaph be used as a press opportunity.