

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 25TH APRIL, 2017

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

Apologies: Councillor R Arthur, Mrs H J Cahill, Mrs S Forster, I Paul, K Shaw, B Taylor.

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 MARCH, 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 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 has completed a portfolio of scenic pictures and projects from across the town and paper copies will be provided to the judges on the day.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information now reported.

3.2 Events

The Deputy Town Clerk has completed an application form for events for Members approval. The application form will need to be completed by any organisation wishing to hold an event in Seaham. The application form has been pulled together from various larger local authorities application forms which were on-line to peruse. Members noted that they would like to hold

further discussions with regards to the application form at a future meeting.

Members also discussed events which are taking place throughout the town and requested that the Deputy Town Clerk supplies Members with a calendar of dates for events taking place this year.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That the events application form is discussed at a future meeting.
- (ii) That the Deputy Town Clerk supplies Members with a calendar of dates for events taking place in Seaham this year.

3.3 Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

RECOMMENDED in view of the confidential nature of the items 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.

3.4 Purchase of Machinery

The Parks Supervisor requested that a new Kubota Tractor and Amazone Ride on Mower are purchased and the current vehicles are traded in as part exchange. The Deputy Town Clerk provided three quotations the cheapest quote being from Lloyds. Members were requested to approve the quotation to purchase the machinery through Lloyds.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the purchase of the machinery from Lloyds as the cheapest quotation.

3.5 Potential Sale of Land Adjacent to Park House Next to Parkside Allotments

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had been investigating further the land adjacent to Park House. The Council's Solicitor is currently carrying out further investigations to determine who actually owns the land as there are conflicting claims to it. It appears to be formally registered to Seaham Town Council but the Londonderry Estate believe it to be their land. The Deputy Town Clerk proposed that the Council do not sell the land in any case at this time.

RECOMMENDED that the Council do not wish to sell the land at this current time.

3.6 Improvements to Seaham Market

The Deputy Town Clerk proposes to work with Durham County Council and Byron Place Shopping Centre to improve the quality of the Seaham Market. Church Street traders have intimated that they would prefer the market to take place on an alternative day of the week such as Wednesday rather than a Friday.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the Deputy Town Clerk to hold further talks with Durham County Council and Byron Place Shopping Centre to discuss the improvement to Seaham Market.

3.7 New Low Vibration Machinery

The Deputy Town Clerk proposed to allocate savings made from last year's budget to create a new budget for this year for the Parks Supervisor to replace old equipment with new lower vibrating tools and machinery. Members agreed it was essential that alternative equipment should be purchased.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the reallocation of savings to a new budget this year for the Parks Supervisor to purchase new low vibrating tools.

3.8 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.