

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 2017**

Present: Councillor K Shaw (Chair) and  
Councillors Mrs B E Allen, E Bell,  
Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K  
Brace, S P Colburn, S Cudlip,  
Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster,  
Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth,  
Mrs L Kennedy, K Shaw, T Shepherd,  
B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Councillor R Arthur, D Cummings,  
Mrs S Pratt

### **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 T Shepherd 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 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 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.

### **5. PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES**

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

### **5.1 Northumbria in Bloom**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Northumbria in Bloom judges will be returning on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. They will be greeted at Seaham Hall Hotel where a 15 minute tour of their gardens will be conducted as they have been entered into a special award for best public house/hotel.

The tour will continue to the sculptures at East Shore Village, then onto Terrace Green where they will view Tommy, the flag pole, Victorian lights and planting schemes. The Clock Garden, the Pit Wheel, Art Block, the Marina and the community allotment at Dawdon, Deneside Park and Dalton le Dale will also be visited. The judges will then return to the Town Hall.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that following on from last year's Silver Gilt award he is hopeful for the Town to achieve a Gold award this year.

RECOMMENDED that the Council note the information.

### **5.2 Events Application Form**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that events run by members of the public are increasing in numbers and it is proposed to ask for an application form to be completed. The application form will then be scrutinised by Members to approve the event. The Deputy Town Clerk seeks approval to adopt the new events application form.

A Member questioned about the clean up after events and it was noted that it is the responsibility of the event organisers to clean up although Seaham Town Council and Durham County Council staff do carry out extra clean ups.

Discussion also took place around asking event organisers for feedback after the events which could be included on the Town Councils Facebook page. This would be voluntary not mandatory feedback.

RECOMMENDED that the Council adopt the new events application form.

### **5.3 Events for 2017**

A list of dates for all events taking place in Seaham in 2017 were provided by the Deputy Town Clerk for Members information.

RECOMMENDED that the Council note the information.

### **5.4 Dog Bags for Dawdon Community Centre**

Pursuant to the short campaign held with Dawdon Community Centre to distribute dog bags to local residents Members approval was requested to continue with the campaign. It was noted by Dawdon Ward Councillors that

it had been a successful campaign and was an excellent idea which should be continued as it had made an improvement to the dog fouling issue in the area.

RECOMMENDED the Council note the information and approve the continuation of providing dog bags to Dawdon Community Centre.

**5.5 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.

**5.6 New Drive Playing Fields**

Pursuant to previous discussions Members were requested to approve the purchase of the New Drive Playing Fields following the receipt of the valuation report from the Town Council's agent. A Member stated that this issue had been debated for some time and following negotiations with Durham County Council the price of the land was a very good deal. It was noted that this piece of land was going to be sold to build housing on it which Seaham County Councillors had objected to. Once the land has been purchased by Seaham Town Council it will be fenced off and retained as recreational land for all sports users to enjoy for future years.

RECOMMENDED that the purchase of New Drive Playing Fields be approved.

**5.7 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.

**6. PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

RECOMMENDED that the press should be informed of the Northumbria in Bloom competition and also about the Dog Bags Campaign at Dawdon Community Centre.