

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2017**

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

Apologies: Councillors S Cudlip, D Cummings,

*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 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 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 Seaham Town Park Cricket & Rugby Club Long Term Lease**

The Cricket and Rugby Club at Seaham Town Park are looking for a 25 year lease of the pavilion in order to draw in external funding to extend the building. It was noted that other clubs had done the same to draw in funding to update the facilities so that ladies groups can also participate.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council approve the granting of a 25 year lease.

#### **3.2 Northumbria in Bloom**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council had won Gold for both the Town Park and Best Coastal Resort.

A request has been made to the Deputy Town Clerk to reintroduce the Best

Kept Garden competition. It was noted that the Town Council does not have the resources to run this competition but proposes that members of the public who wish to participate in this organise their own committee with support given from the Town Council with regards to judging and use of the Town Hall.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk responds to the member of the public concerned to propose that they organise their own committee and the Town Council will offer support when required.

### **3.3 Continuation of Campaign for more and improved sports facilities in Seaham**

The Deputy Town Clerk has contacted Nigel Douthwaite, Durham County Council for his assistance with the sports pavilion projects at various sites in Seaham and to date is still awaiting a response. The Deputy Town Clerk has also arranged a meeting with Mr David Harding who is representing various football clubs throughout the town to discuss facility requirements at New Drive.

A Member stated that in 2013 the New Drive playing fields were part of the Durham County Plan earmarked for possible housing. Seaham Town Council wanted the land kept as playing fields. It has taken three years of negotiations for the land to be signed over to Seaham Town Council and the land will now be ring-fenced for playing fields only. A Member stated that the Town Council have got different places which they are trying to improve. Seaham Park has been completed and there is now Dawdon Park and the New Drive to look at. The Town Council have been working on plans to update Dawdon and New Drive is newly purchased and the Town Council have worked hard to get this land and the Town Council will look at making the New Drive sustainable to sports users in the future. Some of the land belongs to Durham County Council and the Town Council will need to work with them.

A Member stated that she had contacted the Deputy Town Clerk with regards to finding out what facilities the Town Council have and where the Town Council want/need to improve. Teams can get external funding that is not available to the Town Council. It would be a benefit if both parties get together to discuss matters.

It was noted that the Town Council have already involved the sports users for Dawdon Park and this was previously done for Seaham Town Park. Dawdon is now in a position to move forward. Discussions have also taken place with the Football Association and the English Cricket Board. Another Member queried why residents of the area had not been informed of this. The Member stated that residents have been informed. The Deputy Town Clerk stated it isn't just about football, cricket and bowls it is also about other sporting uses such as cycling, archery and rollerblading as examples and maybe the work done to date needs to be promoted more. Another Member stated that they also need to make the public aware of how much it costs to

run these facilities and that they need to be willing to pay to use the facilities. It was also suggested that hockey and netball should also be looked at and how to introduce these sports into the town parks.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will report back to Members from the meetings held with the town's sports users.

### **3.4 Events for 2017**

The Deputy Town Clerk included the dates for the remaining events which are due to take place in 2017.

RECOMMENDED that the Council note the information.

### **3.5 Risk Management Issues**

RECOMMENDED Members note the information being provided.

### **3.6 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.

### **3.7 Fireworks Quote**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had requested four quotes for the forthcoming fireworks night. He had received two quotes and recommended that the quote the Town Council accept should be Electrify.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the quote from Electrify.

### **3.8 Potential New Tourist Attraction**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of a potential partnership for a proposed new tourist attraction in Seaham with the possibility of it becoming a heritage centre. The Deputy Town Clerk was seeking approval to discuss this matter further with the people involved.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk explores this possible venture further and to report back to Members.

### **3.9 Heritage Schools Project**

An email communication from St Cuthbert's Primary School was shared with Members. The school are carrying out a project and requested the Town Council's assistance for someone to attend the school in a role as a person from the past. Members suggested that this should be passed to Destination Seaham and to contact Linda and Bill Baker to see if they could assist.

RECOMMENDED that Destination Seaham and Linda and Bill Baker are contacted to see if they can assist.

4. **PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

RECOMMENDED the Council note that the Deputy Town Clerk will where possible encourage the press and media to promote the positive projects discussed at this meeting.