

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 27TH MARCH, 2018

Present: Councillor K Shaw (Chair) and
Councillors R Arthur, Mrs G Bleasdale,
Mrs K Brace, S P Colburn, S Cudlip,
Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton,
G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy,
D McKenna, T Shepherd, Miss L Willis

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen,
Mrs J A Bell, E Bell, D Cummings,
Mrs V Cummings, 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 27TH FEBRUARY, 2018

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 New Disabled Play Equipment for Seaham Town Park

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the new piece of disabled play equipment which is a Spinmee Inclusive Roundabout had been installed in the park last week.

A Member queried if the Typhoon ropes had been replaced. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that they were currently on order but can take up to four weeks for delivery.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.2 New Sculptured Benches for around the Cenotaph – Terrace Green

Members were given options for the 4 new sculptured benches to be placed around the Cenotaph and the existing wooden benches to be replaced on

the cliff top behind Tommy.

Members perused the designs and decided that they would opt for 1 bench depicting World War One, 1 depicting World War Two and 2 depicting Seaham's heritage of coal mining.

RECOMMENDED that 4 benches to be ordered depicting both World Wars and Coal Mining.

3.3 Northumbria in Bloom – Going for Gold Again

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that judging will be taking place on the 24th April and 19th July, 2018. Members were informed that they would be welcome to attend lunch with the judges.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.4 Green Flag Judging – Seaham Town Park

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the judging had taken place on Monday 26th March, 2018 and he was hoping once again that the Park would be chosen as a winner.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.5 Brass Band Days

A date of the 4/5th August has been given for the traditional brass bands to play at the Terrace Green.

It is not yet known if the Durham Brass Bash will take place as yet. The Deputy Town Clerk is still trying to contact an Officer from Durham County Council on this matter.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information and the Deputy Town Clerk will report any updates.

3.6 Pirates and Princesses

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he has been in discussion with the local partners to run this event again this year. He is awaiting a confirmed date and will report this back to Committee once this has been agreed.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.7 Dawdon and Parkside Community Centre Landscape Improvements

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that there was an allocation of £5,000 to be provided to Dawdon and Parkside Community Centres to help improve their landscape. Members agreed that each community centre should be given £2,500 each for this purpose subject to the Deputy Town Clerk approving the

specification of the plants to be purchased.

RECOMMENDED that the two community centres be allocated £2,500 each to improve their landscapes subject to approval of the specification of the plants being approved by the Deputy Town Clerk.

3.8 St John's Church Grounds

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that it is proposed to work with partners to create a wildflower meadow at St John's Church. This is currently an open space and the headstones have been moved to the surrounding walls. It was noted that Church Street needs some form of attraction to bring visitors up from the sea front. It has been suggested in the early stages of development that costs could be met from external and crowd funding.

Members agreed to support this as long as the correct permissions were received from St John's Church.

RECOMMENDED that Members support the proposed meadow at St John's Church subject to St John's Church providing their agreement.

3.9 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.

3.10 Possible Heritage Centre

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that a meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 28th March to discuss the possible Heritage Centre. Julie Anson from Durham County Council has indicated that there is funding available and there are volunteers interested to assist with the project.

Members discussed the impact this could have on Seaham Town Council's resources if they are expected to be a lead partner in the Heritage Centre and that this would need further discussion by Members before anything could be agreed. A Member noted that Seaham Town Council have a policy that items such as this should not be determined until numbers are in place. It was noted that the Deputy Town Clerk should report this back at his meeting tomorrow with Durham County Council.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the Deputy Town Clerk to be involved in discussions and should report back to this Committee with any updates.

3.11 Update on Seaham Harbour Cricket Club

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had met with members of the Cricket Club today and they are still interested in accepting the Town

Council's help with the grounds maintenance.

A Member stated that there has been a lot of publicity about the club folding and it should be made known that the Council are still committed to taking over the lease of the ground and the clubhouse.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the club are interested in the Town Council maintaining the cricket field but does not think the club are interested in the Town Council taking over the clubhouse as they are going to try in the first year to make use of the clubhouse all year round.

RECOMMENDED that the Council offers to maintain the cricket ground this year in order to support the club and also make it known to the Cricket Club that the Town Council are still interested in taking over the lease and the clubhouse.

3.12 Seaham Carnival – Big Screen Quotes

Members were issued with 4 quotes from companies who hire big screens. The cheapest quote was £6,930 + VAT from ADI. It was noted that the Town Council have previously used this company to hire the big screen for Seaham Carnival and they have proved to be very reliable.

RECOMMENDED that ADI be approved for the hire of the big screen for the carnival.

3.13 Risk Management Issues

RECOMMENDED Members note the information being provided.

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.