

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 19TH JUNE, 2018

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

Apologies: Councillors R Arthur,
Mrs G Bleasdale, D Cummings,
Mrs V Cummings, Ms R M Gratton,
Mrs S Pratt.

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 22ND MAY, 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 Tommy Floor Safe

The Acting Town Clerk informed Members that at the last meeting of Full Council Members held a discussion about where public donations should go. The Acting Town Clerk suggested that the Town Council sets up a charity that would distribute the donations as follows: Donations to help veterans, cadets, related education/art projects and the upkeep of war memorials in the Town.

A Member agreed that it was a good idea that the cadets as well as others could apply for donations.

A Member of RBL stated that he had discussed this with members of Seaham War Memorials, The British Legion and the Poppy Project which he is a member of and the overwhelming response from them all was the public

perception that the money donated to Tommy is for the Poppy Appeal and nothing else and to donate to other organisations is cheating the public. The Acting Town Clerk stated that there would be a sign next to the floor safe stating where the money was being donated to so the public would be aware of this.

The member of the RBL questioned who was going to be in control of sharing the money out. The Acting Town Clerk stated it could be a panel of people from related organisations so the RBL, Councillors and other military organisations could be involved so the money is shared out equally across all of the organisations. The member of the RBL stated that he didn't think it would make a vast amount of difference to organisations as you are not talking about a lot of money over the year.

A Member stated that once people see a safe they are likely to make a small donation and if there is a note there saying the donations will help veterans, cadets etc within Seaham then people are in no doubt as to where the money is going. There may be a good amount raised over a year and the likes of the cadets, war memorials etc will benefit from peoples generosity. The Poppy Appeal goes out for a month during November and this isn't the Poppy Appeal.

A member of the public stated that the Poppy Appeal goes on over the whole year. A lot of people think that 1101 is the Poppy Appeal as that is where the money is needed for the veterans and their families and not for the cadets.

A Member stated that because the money is coming from visitors to Seaham and Seaham residents will the money stay in Seaham or with the Poppy Appeal does it go to London or somewhere else. A member of the RBL stated that the Poppy Appeal is a national scheme and does not go to any particular area. The Poppy Appeal today is more relevant today than any other time in its history due to tragic circumstances in Afghanistan and Iraq and the RBL cannot guarantee that the money will stay in Seaham as it is a national scheme.

A Member stated that wherever the money goes all forces charities are good. The money has been left because someone left a poppy in the shape of a cup and visitors decided to start putting money in the cup and no-one knew what to do with the money so it was rightly handed over to the RBL. If the cup was taken away there would be no money for anybody because there would be nowhere to put the money. There are a lot of good charities and if money is left there, there is an opportunity for all of the charities to benefit, however on this occasion the money should be kept closer to home and let the people of Seaham veterans get the benefit out of people's generosity.

A Member stated that the people of Seaham bought Tommy and any contributions made should be kept in Seaham. People gave their lives in the First World War for the people of Seaham and they have children and grandchildren in the cadets and it doesn't matter how much money there is a little bit is better than nothing and everybody should benefit from this.

The Chair suggested that this should be put out to public consultation from the Town Council website and let the people of Seaham decide where they think the money should go.

A Member suggested that a letter should go out to all of the organisations and that the Council receives the responses in writing so this is ready for when this item is reconsidered.

A Member stated that she agreed the money should stay in Seaham amongst SSAFA, RBL and RAFA and have a panel to administer the money but was unsure as to why the money should go towards art projects when the money is needed for veterans.

A Member stated that she has received complaints about crosses being placed on Tommy and suggested that a box be placed next to Tommy where the crosses can be placed.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) a formal consultation with members of the public is held on the Town Councils website so the members of the public can decide where the money goes.
- (ii) a letter is sent to all organisations and that the Council receives a response from all organisations.
- (iii) a box is placed at the foot of Tommy so crosses can be placed there instead of on Tommy.

3.2 War Memorial at Seaham Town Park

At the last Full Council meeting it was agreed to look into the restoring of the three statues on the War Memorial at Seaham Town Park. The Acting Town Clerk has made enquiries and the estimated cost will be in the region of £25k. It was suggested that this should be looked into further over the next 2-3 years and should be discussed in the next budget rounds as the works will need to be carried out in the near future.

RECOMMENDED that this matter should be discussed further in the next budget rounds.

3.3 Inspire Children Free Public Event – Seaham Town Park 29th August 2018

The Acting Town Clerk informed Members that the organisers of the event have confirmed that the event will be free admission but there will be a charge for face painting etc.

RECOMMENDED that the free public event be approved.

3.4 Seaham Carnival Terrace Green and Church Street 13th, 14th and 15th July, 2018

RECOMMENDED that the wooden spoon match on the Saturday or the final on the Sunday should be played on the big screen if England was to be involved in either matches.

3.5 Armed Forces Day – Terrace Green 30th June, 2018

A Member stated that posters etc advertising the event have been distributed. The day will start off with Remembrance followed by celebrations. The event will start at 12.00pm.

A Member raised the issue of the donkey rides and the Acting Town Clerk stated that there will be no donkey rides on Terrace Green.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.6 Pirates and Princesses Festival – Terrace Green 26th August, 2018

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.7 Summer Holiday Family Activities 10.00am – 2.00pm Seaham Town Park and Deneside Park

RECOMMENDED that Members note the activities will take place on 24th July and 7th August at Seaham Town Park and 26th July and 9th August at Deneside Park.

3.8 Proposed Poppy Project

Councillors Mrs Leanne Kennedy and Miss Linda Willis declared an interest and took no further part in the voting thereon.

The Acting Town Clerk stated that he had been requested to look into how much it would cost for the Town Council to insure the project and it was noted that this would be approximately £350 per year which would cover public liability and damage.

Mr Richardson stated that he has still not had any correspondence from Durham County Council with regards to permissions. There is currently £1700 raised so far with £12k promised so the money is virtually half raised.

A Member suggested that Mr Richardson completes a formal application for a grant from Seaham Town Council and this will potentially inform the Council of how much funding is already available and what further funding is required.

RECOMMENDED that the Acting Town Clerk furnishes Mr Richardson with a grant application form.

3.9 Londonderry Institute Proposal for New Heritage Centre

RECOMMENDED that Members note that Durham County Council are looking further into this proposal and will be shortly drawing up firmer proposals with the help of partners.

3.10 Heritage Townscape Project

The Acting Town Clerk stated that this project had been publicised on Facebook today and further developments will be brought back to this meeting.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.11 Seaham in Bloom 19th July, 2018 12.30pm – 3.00pm

Judging is taking place on the 19th July and Members are welcome to be involved and meet the judges on the day.

A Member raised an issue with regards to complaints received regarding the cemeteries. It was noted that the cemeteries are not part of the In Bloom competition and this should be raised in a different forum. In Bloom judges have never been taken to the cemeteries in previous years.

The Acting Town Clerk stated that the only cemeteries he has come across that are involved with In Bloom are redundant cemeteries and this could be something where St Johns Church could be involved in the future when the grassed area is turned into a Meadow.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.12 Risk Management Issues

RECOMMENDED Members note the information being provided.

4. TWINNING VISIT

The Acting Town Clerk informed Members of the upcoming visit of the runners from Gerlingen at the Carnival. It is suggested that a buffet takes place at the Crows Nest on Saturday and a buffet at Martinos on Sunday for hosts and guests.

RECOMMENDED that this item be approved.

5. GREENSCAPE

Greenscape have requested that they form an association of their own which would give them more security of the site.

RECOMMENDED that this item be moved to the next meeting of the Allotment Sub-Committee.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT TRAINING

Zurich Insurance have responded to the Acting Town Clerks request for Risk Assessment Training for Councillors and staff. The options for training dates are Tuesday 31st July, 2018, Wednesday 1st August, Thursday 2nd August or Wednesday 5th September.

RECOMMENDED that Wednesday 5th September, 2018 be the chosen date following Council recess.

7. FOOD FESTIVAL

Durham County Council would like to hold a Food Festival in Seaham next year. They wish to hold a taster session in August this year.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the Food Festival.

8. 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.