

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th AUGUST, 2018

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs J A Bell, Mrs K Brace, D Cummings, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw.

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 19th JUNE, 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 the responses from the public consultation on where donations should be given to where attached with their papers. There were various suggestions from the Royal British Legion, RAFA and SAFA. The Acting Town Clerk suggested that a panel could be created which would meet once per year to decide where the money should be donated.

A Member stated that as a result of some comments that he had seen and read and that Tommy was bought by public money via crowd funding donations he wondered whether the Town Council had any right to be now saying whether it should or should not be donated to anyone in particular. The people who led the crowd funding campaign had another opinion and

suggested that there shouldn't be any kind of donation. The Town Council should go to them Mission 1101 and take into their views and if they really don't want this to happen then their views should be taken into account along with the other comments and then make a balanced decision.

A Member stated that he was totally against having the floor safe as it brings inherent problems with it. There is a sign tied to Tommy with tape for collections of money which Tommy was never put there in the first place for. It degrades the whole being of the sculpture being there. The sign should be taken down. The Town Council has the governance over Tommy and the Town Council are supposed to be taking care of the sculpture. Putting a floor safe in will just invite trouble and will only cause divisions for everyone concerned.

A Member stated that she agreed it was a waste of the town's money to purchase a floor safe. She also receives many complaints about people placing things on Tommy such as crosses etc and requested that a box is placed in front of Tommy so people can leave their crosses and flowers there which will prevent Tommy from becoming tarnished.

A Member stated that the floor safe was suggested because members of the public keep leaving money and the floor safe would keep the donations from being stolen. Public comments made suggested that the money should be donated to the Royal British Legion. If people want to leave a donation then the Town Council should be ensuring that donations are made safe.

A Member stated that he felt that money should not be collected at all because it will cause divisions as there are a lot of worthwhile causes. The reason money was placed there in the first instance was because someone placed a poppy there which was shaped like a cup and the public have just taken it as a place to leave donations. The Town Council should remove the cup and leave a sign saying for people not to leave money there. Tommy was never designed to raise money for any cause it was placed there to highlight the sacrifices made during the First World War.

A Member suggested that the Town Council should arrange for a member of staff to go down every day and remove any items from Tommy. The box to place crosses in has been asked for at previous meetings can this now be purchased as it has been requested to have this for months now. The Acting Town Clerk stated that he has been waiting to find out what sort of floor safe and signage was required as it needs to be done properly. Staff also need to know where exactly the box needs to be placed. A Member suggested that a few Councillors meet on the Terrace Green and to make the decision of where the box should be placed.

A Member questioned what had changed since the Council's recess as prior to the recess Members were all for having a floor safe and prices were being sought and now all of a sudden it has been double backed on. A Member stated that they had never been in favour of a floor safe and it had never been voted on. A further Member stated that previous conversations had suggested having a floor safe but since then other views have been expressed. The Town Council needs to make a balanced decision on the

new views and reiterated that he also was not in favour of having a floor safe.

A Member also suggested that a sign be placed on the Terrace Green requesting that children do not climb on Tommy. The Acting Town Clerk stated that there is a sign already there stating this which was previously placed next to Tommy but the signs were moved and placed on the bins near Tommy so that the signs to not spoil photographs of Tommy.

It was also suggested to add to the signs to say do not leave money next to Tommy.

Members then agreed to take a vote to determine whether a floor safe should be purchased.

To purchase a floor safe	0
No floor safe	12
Abstained from voting	3

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That no floor safe should be purchased.
- (ii) A meeting to take place on the Terrace Green to decide where a box should be placed for members of the public to place crosses and flowers etc.

3.2 Memorial Seats Terrace Green

RECOMMENDED that Members note the seats were installed during the summer and many people have commented on how good they look.

3.3 Defibrillators

A Member suggested that the defibrillator which is being purchased by the Masonic Hall could be placed outside on the sea front so it could be utilised by members of the public. It was suggested that the Acting Town Clerk contacts the Masonic Hall to make this suggestion.

The Acting Town Clerk stated that the cost for a defibrillator with 24 hour access costs in the region of £3500. A defibrillator which is for indoor use only can cost around £300 and these can be placed in sports pavilions etc.

The Acting Town Clerk stated that two County Councillors are in the process of funding a defibrillator for the Town Park to be situated on an external wall of the Town Hall. The cost of maintaining the defibrillator on an annual basis is approximately £200 which would be met from the Town Councils budget.

A Member suggested that the positioning of the defibrillators should be placed on the Town Council's website.

A Member stated that the Town Council should investigate getting the correct

people in to inform the Town Council of where defibrillators should be placed throughout the whole Town.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) The Town Council will pay the annual costs of maintaining the defibrillator in Seaham Town Park.
- (ii) A professional should be contacted to best inform the Town Council of where defibrillators should be placed around the Town.

3.4 Seaham Carnival 2018

The Acting Town Clerk stated that due to the huge success of the Carnival this year he suggested that the Council could look at ways of expanding the Carnival due to the numbers attending. He suggested maybe including Bessy's Hole which could be used as a tranquil area.

A Member stated there were a lot of groups from organisations who were singing and it wasn't all good. Most people they had spoken to had said that it was a good weekend but she was also asked if alcohol could be banned from the Carnival. A Member stated that it would be difficult to ban alcohol as there are pubs opposite the Carnival site who can sell alcohol off the premises as well. A further Member stated that she had spoken to the Police and they had reported that this was the best year they have had at the Carnival and there was only two people from Peterlee who were causing trouble around the fairground and the rides were switched off due to this. A Member stated that the security had been very good.

A Member stated that some families with children were seen to be carrying boxes of alcohol to the Terrace Green and children were running around and not being properly supervised.

The Acting Town Clerk stated that the Police have contacted him and asked him to move the dates for next year's Carnival so it doesn't coincide with Durham Miners Gala. He suggested that that Carnival takes place on the 19th, 20th and 21st July 2019.

A Member raised the issue with the barriers around the charity stalls which was stopping people from being able to enter. A Member suggested that there should be a one way in and a one way out. The Acting Town Clerk stated that Durham County Council had enforced Seaham Town Council to take money for people who wished to enter the charity stalls. He is pushing for DCC to change this for next year's Carnival. A Member questioned where the money had gone. The Acting Town Clerk stated that he had to get assistance with this as Council staff could not cover this. It was advertised on social media and the only Seaham based charity who responded was In Your Face Theatre Group. They got half of the money and the Mayor's Charity received the other half.

A Member raised the Bessy's Hole suggestion and noted that it had been

raised a few years previously about utilising this space. There was reservations about using the land as it belongs to Durham County Council and the area does not lend itself for large numbers of people and the access was not good either.

The Acting Town Clerk had also enquired about crowd funding to hold further events in Seaham. A Member stated that he had reservations about this as he wasn't sure about the implications for the Town Council. He also suggested that there has to be a limit of capacity for Council staff to be able to organise further events. He suggested that he would like to see a written report about how further events could be delivered before discussing this any further.

A Member also stated that he did not believe that Bessy's Hole would be DDA compliant and also raised concern why Durham County Council were enforcing charges when it is the Town Council's Gala and land. A Member suggested that the Carnival could be moved back to New Drive as there is plenty of space there. A Member responded to say the Town Council had made a decision years previously to move the Carnival because of the better location. A Member questioned who at DCC said that charges should be made to members of the public. The Acting Town Clerk stated that these rules have been in place for decades but this year DCC brought it to the Town Council's attention and insisted that the charges be made.

A Member stated that the Carnival was so good this year and if it leads to more people in future years it could also lead to problems with crowds. The Town Council should consider how to expand and whether the Carnival should be moved away from the Terrace Green. Tommy is at the Terrace Green and soon the Poppies will also be there so maybe the Town Council should consider moving the Carnival elsewhere. The Acting Town Clerk stated that the Town Council could also utilise the space on the cliff tops. Members made a few suggestions of large areas such as the Leisure Centre field. A Member noted the Carnival was great this year due to the good weather but if it rains the attendances would be low.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the change in dates for next year's Carnival to 19th, 20th and 21st July, 2019.

3.5 Armed Forces Day Terrace 30th June 2018

A Member noted that the Armed Forces Day was moved from the Town Park to the sea front and noted that the back drop of views draws people to the events. £1600 was raised on the day which will be spent on next year's event and the Beat and Retreat.

The Sound and Retreat is taking place on the 14th September and the Member thanked all Members for their support.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.6 Pirates and Princesses Festival Terrace Green 26th August 2018

It was noted that unfortunately this event was spoilt due the poor weather. The Acting Town Clerk stated that he would look at this event with partners and suggested that they would maybe bring this event forward next year nearer to the Carnival dates or the Armed Forces Day as the stage can be reused after either of these events.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.7 Town Park and Deneside Park Summer Holiday Family Activities

The Acting Town Clerk stated that these events went very well although at times were affected by the weather. It was suggested that with a slight increase in budget that Dawdon Park could also be included in the programme for next year.

RECOMMENDED that this be raised at the Budget Sub-Committee meetings.

3.8 Proposed Poppy Project

A Member who is a member of the Field of Remembrance Committee stated that to date the project has raised £22,500 which included a donation of £3k from Seaham Town Council. The Project is still waiting to hear from Asda to see if they will be making a donation. The project have started ordering the poppies and will be placing WW1 poppies first which is around 700 names. The Royal Engineers are going to carry out a risk assessment and then place the poppies on the fencing around Terrace Green.

Durham County Council will be painting the fence around the middle of September prior to the poppies being placed. DCC will also remove the bins which are currently attached to the fence.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.9 Londonderry Institute Proposal for New Heritage Centre

A meeting is currently being planned to move this project forward. The Acting Town Clerk will furnish Members with any updates when they become available.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.10 Heritage Townscape Project

RECOMMENDED that Members note there has been no further updates on this item.

3.11 St Johns Church Grounds

RECOMMENDED that Members note there has been no further updates on this item.

3.12 Seaham in Bloom 2018

The Acting Town Clerk stated that the judging date went very well but he is not expecting to do as well this year due to small amounts of litter which had been left over from a recent event.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.13 Picnic Benches for Seaham Town Park

The Acting Town Clerk informed Members that two County Councillors would like to support the park by purchasing two picnic benches for the play area at a cost of approximately £800.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the installation of two picnic benches in the Town Park.

3.14 Seaham Town Park Success

The Acting Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Park had received another Green Flag Award.

A Member raised the question of having a disabled swing installed at the park which has been mentioned at a previous meeting. Members agreed this item should be discussed further at the next Budget Sub-Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDED that a disabled swing be added to the Budget Sub-Committee.

3.15 Londonderry Statue

The Acting Town Clerk stated that he has chased this item and the person who was dealing with this has now handed this over to someone else and he is hopeful that this will be resolved shortly and the Londonderry Statue can be renovated and placed in the ownership of Seaham Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.16 Town Park Bowls

The Acting Town Clerk informed Members that the last remaining wooden fence line needs replacing with the ornate metal fencing next year. It is proposed to add £6000 to assist with this during the next budget round.

RECOMMENDED that this item be added to the Budget Sub-Committee agenda.

3.17 Deneside Park Improvements

The Acting Town Clerk stated that he is looking to replace the wooden easy to climb through wooden fencing on the bottom boundary with Dalton le Dale with ornate metal harder to climb fencing in order to assist with Police tackling the anti-social behaviour in the park and to also install solar and battery powered CCTV and signage. A Member questioned the cost of the fencing. The Acting Town Clerk stated that he didn't have the costs as yet but it would only be for materials as Parks staff would be doing the works.

RECOMMENDED that the Acting Town Clerk estimates costs and this item to be taken to the Budget Sub-Committee.

3.18 Seaham Bike and Run Course

Members agreed this was a good idea but felt that more information about the event was required such as the intended date and that the heading should possibly be changed to Triathlon.

The Acting Town Clerk stated that the organiser of the event was also in talks with the Marina about the swimming element.

RECOMMENDED that the Acting Town Clerk speaks to the organisers to request further information.

3.19 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. The numbers who attended the Carnival could be shared with the press and also an item on the defibrillators could be shared once they have been installed.

It was also agreed that a new newsletter should be sent to every household in Seaham showing the events which have taken place and future events.