

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2018**

Present: Councillor Mrs L Kennedy (Chair) and Councillors, Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs S Pratt, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs K Brace, S P Colburn, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, K Shaw, R Whitehead.

*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 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 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 Christmas Light Switch On – 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that following discussions with Church Street Traders they were happy for the parade to start at the top of Church Street at 5.00pm. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the Town Council will work in partnership with Ms Harland from Creative Youth Opportunities as there is £9k of lottery funding available. Members discussed having a small working party of 6 Members who would work with Ms Harland and the Deputy Town Clerk to give guidance on how they wished the funding to be spent. Ms Harland suggested that she could work with the local schools and youth groups. It was agreed that a meeting would need to take place as soon as possible with the working party to discuss these matters.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had contacted Byron Place Shopping Centre with regards to the purchase of a Christmas tree which is usually placed in between the shopping centre and Costa Coffee. He noted that Byron Place has a new manager in place and the manager had stated they did not want to purchase a Christmas tree this year.

RECOMMENDED that a small working party of Members meet with Ms Harland to discuss the spending of the £9k lottery funding.

### **3.2 Seaham Fireworks Display 7pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that Asda and Byron Place Shopping Centre are not allowing public use of their toilets this year so the Town Council are having to provide portaloos at a cost of £400-£500. A Member questioned whether the Town Council had negotiated with Asda and Byron Place to say that the Town Council would pay them for the use of the toilets which would be cheaper than hiring in toilets. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that it is new management and they have refused.

A Member also raised the issue with the funfair which has been on the seafront all of this week and the trouble that is being caused in the town by young people. It was noted that a lot of residents believe the Town Council have brought the fair to Seaham but it is on private land which does not belong to Seaham Town Council and Members were unaware the funfair was taking place until it arrived. It was noted that Nobles who provide the funfair bring nothing to the town's economy or for charities and this also includes the car boot sale on Sundays and the Member stated that he would be writing a strongly worded letter to Durham County Council to complain about this. A Member questioned whether DCC should have informed the Town Council about the funfair if permissions were required to use the land. It was noted that DCC would not need to be contacted as it is private land.

The Town Clerk stated that following the discussions regarding the anti-social behaviour from the funfair and also Asda refusing to open their toilets she would be willing to go and talk to the Byron Place management. The Town Clerk suggested that there could be a joint agreement between the Town Council and Byron Place and a group could be formed to look at issues.

A Member raised concerns regarding the funfair at the Fireworks Display and requested that the rides are closed down whilst the Fireworks are in progress so they can be enjoyed by families, this was an agreement that was made a number of years previously. It was noted that a lot of families gravitate to the area where the funfair is currently situated. A Member also raised the issue that having a funfair at the Fireworks Display can also make what is meant to be a free family event quite expensive if people have a few children as the rides are not particularly cheap. A Member also raised the issue of rogue traders who are unlicensed and are selling flashy lights which children are attracted to. If a child was to be hurt by one of these toys then it would be the Town Council who would be held responsible.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the area at the top of the docks where the Fairground rides are currently sited will be cleared before the Fireworks night.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk arranges a meeting with Byron Place management and other retailers to discuss protocols so that Members are kept informed of what is happening in the town.

### **3.3 Seaham Town Park Sports Pavilion Lease**

It was noted that the two leases for the Rugby Club and Cricket Club would be merged together and would still be in line with the current income received from both clubs. The lease was drafted by the Council's Solicitor and there is a break in the lease date of 2022 and every 5 years after that. It was noted that the clubs needed a longer lease to enable them to apply for grant funding.

RECOMMENDED that the new lease merging the cricket club and rugby club be approved.

### **3.4 Defibrillators**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that County Councillors Miss Sue Morrison and Mrs Geraldine Bleasdale had funded a defibrillator for Seaham Town Park. County Councillors Mrs Leanne Kennedy and Kevin Shaw had funded a defibrillator at the Marina.

The Deputy Town Clerk had met with the North East Ambulance Service who had suggested that defibrillators could also be placed at the Police Station, Fire Station and Tonia's Café.

It was noted that the defibrillators are mounted on external buildings so that they are available for use 24 hours a day.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the suppliers of the defibrillators offer training in how to use the machines.

RECOMMENDED that the County Councillors be thanked for their funding and Members to note the information.

### **3.5 Tommy and the War Horse**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the film on the Town Council's Facebook site had received over 105k views.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

### **3.6 Remembrance Sunday**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had met with the Royal British Legion

and informed them that it was still their event with some assistance from the Town Council with the PA system, band and road closures. The Royal

British Legion are still stating that it is the responsibility of the Local Authority with assistance from the RBL. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that once the parade is over in November he will meet with the RBL to discuss this further for the future parades.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will hold further meetings with the RBL after November's parade to discuss the future organising of the Remembrance Day Parades.

### **3.7 Request to Use New Drive by Seaham Squadron**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the Squadron already have use of the Seaham Harbour Cricket Club ground and a local school but have indicated that these playing fields are not big enough for the sports they are wishing to undertake such as archery. It was noted that the New Drive is not fenced or walled and this would be a health and safety risk for other users of the playing fields and the Deputy Town Clerk suggested that the application should be deferred until such a time as there is fencing in place.

A Member stated that he didn't feel the application could be deferred as there are clear health and safety concerns which have been expressed by the Deputy Town Clerk and the application should be refused until such a time that the grounds have been made more secure for this type of sport. The Town Council would then welcome a new application from the Squadron.

RECOMMENDED that the application from the Seaham Squadron is declined at this present time.

### **3.8 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 which included the Field of Remembrance Poppies and the invitation for the Field of Remembrance Ceremony on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.