

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2019

Present: Mrs L Kennedy (Chair) and R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudllip, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, D McKenna, T Shepherd, B Taylor, R Whitehead, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Mrs B E Allen, Mrs J A Bell, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw.

Officers: Mrs D Rickaby (Town Clerk), P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk) A Rountree (Minute Taker)

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.

The Chair requested that everyone present at the meeting stand to give a minutes silence for the sad passing of former Councillor Bruce Burn Senior.

PE06/19 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. Such interests must be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

PE/07/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8th JANUARY, 2019

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.

PE08/19 PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

The Committee considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report which provided an update on the following items:

1. NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM AND LAND ISSUES

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he wished to have clarity on whether the Town Council would still provide horticultural works to specific locations within the Town which do not belong to Seaham Town Council. Members discussed this item at length and agreed that these locations were features that attract visitors into the Town and the Deputy Town Clerk had been given permission over the years to garden these areas for the Northumbria in Bloom competition. Members agreed that these works should continue, however felt that the roundabout at Dalton-le-Dale was outside of the Seaham boundary and Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council should be contacted regarding a possible Service Level Agreement for Seaham Town Council staff to maintain the roundabout.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council to discuss a service level agreement for the maintenance of the roundabout at Dalton-le-Dale.

2. SEAHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

Councillor S Cudlip declared an interest and took no further part in the discussions thereon:

A Walk of Witness is held every Good Friday starting at St. Cuthbert's and visiting each of the seven churches involved where a short reading, prayer and a hymn are held. A six foot wooden cross is carried. This year they would like to end the walk on the Terrace Green where they would gather around the cross and sing one hymn and possibly a prayer. The most number of people involved would probably be no more than 60 and they do have Public Liability Insurance. It is impossible to have definite numbers as some leave the walk at a particular church and others join in. It was queried if permission was required from Seaham Town Council to do this and if so please could this be granted. They do not have police in attendance at any stage, traffic is generally very respectful as they want to cross roads and they would not need any input at all from the Council.

Songs of Praise which has been held on the Terrace Green for the last 3 years without any thought of permissions. They are thinking of doing it again this year but it has been suggested that they bring in large speakers and microphones etc. which the church will provide and put them near Tommy or the War Memorial. There would be guitars involved, singers and a magician for kids to watch who connects his act to God. Their insurance would cover the event but again it was queried if permission was required. The group itself would only be about 25/30 people, the idea being that passers-by stop to listen/take part.

RECOMMENDED that approval is made for a Good Friday and Songs of Praise event to take place on the Terrace Green.

3. PROPOSALS TO CELEBRATE SEAHAMS BICENTENNIAL 2028

The Deputy Town Clerk received a proposal from a member of the public to celebrate Seaham's Bicentenary in 2028. A Member stated that this is an important event and needs to be organised properly. It was suggested that this should be brought back to this Committee as soon as possible and Members should liaise with the Deputy Town Clerk and Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) a special event should take place for the bicentennial in 2028 and this should be brought back to this Committee as soon as possible.
- (ii) a working party is organised for this event which would include the member of the public who raised the proposal

4. TRAIN STATION UNDERPASS LIGHTS

Network Rail have confirmed that they are not responsible for the underpass lights and it is their belief that the responsibility lies with Durham County Council.

The Deputy Town Clerk has contacted Durham County Council and is currently awaiting a response from them.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

5. Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

RECOMMENDED that in view of the confidential nature of the following items the Committee passed the formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960.

6. NEW DRIVE FENCING PROPOSAL

The Deputy Town Clerk provided two quotations for the fencing around the sports pitches at New Drive.

Members questioned about the usage of the additional land outside of the fencing next to the rugby pitch. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that this land was not as well maintained but he proposed that he could come back to this meeting with a redesign of the fencing and ideas on what the additional land could be used for.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) the Deputy Town Clerk provides a redesign of the fencing.
- (ii) the Deputy Town Clerk to provide ideas on usage for the additional land.

7. SEAHAM CARNIVAL & PIRATES FESTIVAL BIG SCREEN QUOTES

The Deputy Town Clerk provided Members with three quotations for the big screen for the carnival and pirates and princesses events.

A Member suggested that Officers should for future events look into the possibility of negotiating a three year contract with the suppliers of the big screen to receive reduced prices.

RECOMMENDED that Officers look into the possibility of negotiating a three year contract for future events.

8. NOBLES FUNFAIRS – 9TH – 12TH MAY, 2019

A letter was received from Noble Funfairs regarding a fair they plan to hold at the top of the docks which asked if the Town Council had any objections to. Members all agreed that they objected to the funfair taking place due to the trouble caused at last year's event.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk responds to Nobles Funfairs expressing Members objections.

PE09/19 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

RECOMMENDED Members note the information being provided.

PE10/19 REMOVAL OF STREET LIGHTS – GEORGE ELMY LIFEBOAT WAY

The Town Clerk informed Members that she had again spoken to Durham County Council regarding the payment and they confirmed that there would not be an option to pay the capital costs over a period of 10 years. The Town Clerk stated that there were two options available for RA278 A182 Dawdon these being:

- Option 1 – 10 year contract with upfront payment = £42,917
- Option 2 – 10 year contract with annual payments = £43,976.78 (this includes approx £34k up front then annual payments of approx £1k per year).

A Member proposed to go ahead with option 2 which was seconded. There was a further proposal not to go ahead which was also seconded.

The Chair then requested that there should be a named vote for all Members who were in favour of option 2 for the street lighting to be paid by Seaham Town Council.

For – Councillors E Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, Mrs L Kennedy, R Whitehead. (6)

Against – Councillors R Arthur, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, Ms R Gratton, G N Hepworth, B Taylor, Miss L Willis. (7)

Abstained – Councillors D McKenna, T Shepherd. (2)

RECOMMENDED that following a vote it was agreed that Seaham Town Council would not pay for the street lighting to remain at George Elmy Lifeboat Way and the Town Clerk to inform Durham County Council of this decision.

PE11/19 ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Clerk and himself had been out visiting allotment sites. The agreements were currently being reviewed and the Town Clerk stated that it should be added to the agreements that if the Associations do not deal with issues raised then the Town Council will review the management agreement and in consultation with the Chair of Allotments Sub Committee. A meeting will be convened once the reviews have taken place.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE12/19 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.