

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th MAY, 2019

Present: B Taylor (Chair), Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur, Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, T Shepherd, R Whitehead.

Apologies: E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasedale, D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw, Miss L Willis

Officers: P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk)
Miss 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.

PE32/19 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.

Councillor Mrs L Kennedy declared an interest as a member of Dawdon Cricket Club.

PE33/19 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

There were two nominations for the Chair of Parks and Events Committee for the ensuing year, Councillors B Taylor and K Shaw.

A vote took place for the position of Chair.

Councillor B Taylor (9)
Councillor K Shaw (5)

RECOMMENDED that Councillor B Taylor be appointed as the Chair of the Parks and Events Committee for the ensuing year.

(Councillor B Taylor took the Chair)

PE34/19 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

There were two nominations for the Vice-Chair of Parks and Events Committee for the ensuing year, Councillors Mrs B Allen and Mrs L Kennedy.

A vote took place for the position of Vice-Chair.

Councillor Mrs B E Allen (9)
Councillors Mrs L Kennedy (5)

RECOMMENDED that Councillor Mrs B E Allen be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Parks and Events Committee for the ensuing year.

PE35/19 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 30TH APRIL, 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.

PE36/19 **PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES**

The Committee considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report which contained the following items:

1.0 **LONDONDERRY INSTITUTE RETURNING IT BACK INTO PUBLIC USE AS A VISITORS CENTRE**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that this is still being looked into by Durham County Council and it is hoped that external funding bids will pay for the building to be turned into a visitor centre.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

2.0 **SEAHAM'S BICENTENERY CELEBRATIONS**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that it has been pointed out by Mr & Mrs Baker local historians that the bicentenary could take place in either 2021 or 2028 as the land was purchased by Lord Londonderry in 1821 but the first foundation stone wasn't set until 1828.

A Member stated that there will be information in the Town Councils archives of when the 175th anniversary was and this will need to be taken in consideration.

The Deputy Town Clerk was requested to set up a meeting with Mr & Mrs Baker along with interested Councillors to discuss this matter further. Interested Councillors should contact the Deputy Town Clerk if they wish to be involved. Councillors B Taylor, G Hepworth, Mrs S Forster and Mrs B E Allen stated at the meeting that they wished to be involved.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk sets up a meeting with Mr & Mrs Baker and the Members mentioned above. Also if any further Members wish to be involved they should contact the Deputy Town Clerk.

3.0 SEAHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER – POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP WORKING ON EVENTS AND ST JOHN’S CHURCH GROUNDS

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had spoken to Durham County Council today and it had been previously suggested that Seaham Churches Together could be potential partners but this was not the case. The Deputy Town Clerk will update Members further at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will keep Members informed of developments at a future meeting.

4.0 TRAIN STATION UNDERPASS

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had received notification from Network Rail that they would repair the lights at the underpass as a one off but they are still insisting that they are not responsible for the underpass lights and it is their understanding that it is Durham County Councils responsibility.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

5.0 TRAIN STATION WASTE GROUND

Network Rail have visited the underpass site to look at the walkway/footpath and have stated that they were not overgrown, however they would do some cutting back of thorns when resources were available.

A Member stated that a member of the public had informed him that when the underpass was developed by Network Rail that there was an agreement that they would maintain the area. The Member suggested that the Deputy Town Clerk should request a copy of this agreement.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk requests a copy of the agreement from Network Rail for the maintenance of the underpass area.

6.0 PARKSIDE FOOTBALL PITCH REQUEST FOR FENCING AND FACILITIES

As discussed at a previous meeting the football team that plays at Parkside have requested fencing and facilities. The Deputy Town Clerk has passed this request to Durham County Council as the land belongs to them.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

7.0 SEAHAM FOOD FESTIVAL – CELEBRITY CHEFS CONFIRMED

Members were informed that John Torode, Phil Vickery and Rachel Green have been announced as the celebrity chefs who will be attending the food festival. Seaham Town Council have contributed £2k towards this event taking place.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

8.0 **SEAHAM BRASS BAND FESTIVAL**

The bands who are taking part in this event are Trimdon, Houghton and Pittington brass bands. It was noted that unfortunately Murton brass band has now folded.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

9.0 **SEAHAM ARMED FORCES DAY**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the preparation for this event was going well.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

10.0 **SEAHAM YOUTH FESTIVAL**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Ms Harland is preparing a performance about Seaham to do on stage with the youth members.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

11.0 **SEAHAM CARNIVAL**

Members were informed that the Police had requested a full road closure from Friday to Sunday as far along as Asda traffic lights due to public safety.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

12.0 **SEAHAM PIRATES AND PRINCESSES FESTIVAL**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information given.

13.0 **SEAHAMS BEATING THE RETREAT**

RECOMMENDED that Members note this event is taking place on the 13th September, 2019.

14.0 **SEAHAM FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

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

15.0 **SEAHAM REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

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

16.0 SEAHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

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

17.0 VICTORY IN EUROPE 75TH COMMEMORATIONS – 8TH MAY 2020

Members discussed this item and suggested that this item be placed on the next agenda with a note for Members to bring ideas of how to celebrate this anniversary. It was also noted that other armed forces organisations in Seaham should be involved in this and be invited to attend the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) This item be added to the next agenda requesting Members ideas for celebrating this event.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to invite members of local armed forces organisations to the meeting for their input.

18.0 SCOTS GUARD RECRUITMENT

RECOMMENDED that Scots Guard Recruitment next to Tommy dates of 3-7th June and 5th-9th August be approved.

19.0 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RECOMMENDED in view of the confidential nature of the following items which relate to issues of a commercially sensitive and confidential nature Members agreed to pass the formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960.

20.0 NEW DRIVE FENCING PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDED that the Intermediate Fencing be the preferred option of the Town Council for the New Drive fencing.

21.0 TRAILOR AND KUBOTA QUOTES

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that some of the Parks Department vehicles are leased and some are bought and in the case of the Kubota leasing is not an option.

Members questioned whether the Parks Department had any machinery or vehicles that they could put in part exchange to reduce the costs. The Deputy Town Clerk would look into this.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk looks into part exchange before purchasing the Kubota.

22.0 **LAND AT UNION STREET**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the land in question was not useful to the Town Council and it was neighbouring the land of the person who wishes to purchase the land so the person may just wish to extend their garden. The Deputy Town Clerk suggested that a covenant be placed on the land so that buildings cannot be erected on the land.

Members also discussed the rent which had been paid to the agent instead of Seaham Town Council and suggested that this should be recouped from the agent.

RECOMMENDED that the land be sold with a covenant and the Deputy Town Clerk to pursue the recovery of 6 years rent from the agent.

23.0 **REQUEST TO SELL REFRESHMENTS ON TERRACE GREEN**

RECOMMENDED that following discussions the Terrace Green should not be used by commercial businesses to sell their goods.

24.0 **REQUEST TO PURCHASE GRAZING/ALLOTMENT COUNCIL LAND UP NEW DRIVE (JUST UP FROM SEAHAM HALL)**

RECOMMENDED that following discussion this land should not be sold.

25.0 **DAWDON BUNGALOW**

RECOMMENDED that the drive way is fully removed from any liability to the buyers and the 70% overage is approved.

26.0 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE37/19 **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.