

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 25th JUNE, 2019

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

Apologies: Mrs B E Allen, Mrs K Brace, D Cummings,
Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw,

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.

PE38/19 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 on item PE40/19 25.0 as a member of Dawdon Cricket Club.

PE39/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 28th MAY, 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.

PE40/19 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 Durham County Council are making this a priority and they are currently preparing an options report for management consideration.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

2.0 SEAHAM'S BICENTENERY CELEBRATIONS

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had held a brief meeting today and the group were looking at the actual date. He noted that there was support for 2025 as this marries up with the 175 year celebrations. The other options for dates are 2021 which is when the Londonderry's bought the land and also 2028. It was noted that the heritage people are going to do a timeline.

A Member noted that he had recalled that there was an initial discussion about the bicentenary at a previous Parks & Events Committee meeting and it had been agreed that it was too early to look at these events and they would be brought to this Committee approximately 3 years before the time and questioned why this was being looked into now.

Members noted that the 2021 date was too soon as there would not be time to organise the event so this item should be deferred to a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

3.0 ST JOHN'S CHURCH GROUNDS

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that Durham County Council have noted that they like to idea of project and the Deputy Town Clerk will update Members when more information is available.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will keep Members informed of developments.

4.0 CAMERA FOR TERRACE GREEN

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that a member of the public has offered to pay for a camera that could be not only used for security but also to showcase Seaham through the internet showing images of Tommy, the Light House and Terrace Green 24 hours a day.

Members agreed that they need to be furnished with the annual running costs and to bring this back to a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED that Members are furnished with the annual running costs for the camera.

5.0 GRAVE PLANTING SCHEME

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council operate a grave planting scheme and questioned Members as to whether they wish to continue with the scheme as it can take up a lot of staff time.

Members discussed this item and agreed that this service should continue.

RECOMMENDED that the current grave planting scheme continues.

6.0 FOUNDATION OF LIGHT REQUEST TO USE DAWDON PARK

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Foundation of Light have requested to use Dawdon Park (grassed area just above the play area) during July and September to run sessions to engage adults from lower socio economic groups to play football and will also include free football sessions for the children of the adults who take part.

Members agreed that this was a good initiative and the facilities should be provided for free.

RECOMMENDED that the Foundation of Light are offered the facilities at Dawdon Park for free.

7.0 SEAHAM FOOD FESTIVAL

It was noted that the Seaham Food Festival was a huge success, well attended and well organised. The only comments made were that it could have been spread out more and Church Street should have been included which can be looked into for next year's event.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

8.0 SEAHAM BRASS BAND FESTIVAL

It was noted that this was a very good event and the Deputy Town Clerk requested that next year's event is held on 21st June 2020.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

9.0 SEAHAM ARMED FORCES DAY

D McKenna stated that the services have all been arranged and the event will begin at 12.00pm. There are 6 bands performing on the stage and Nobles Fun Fairs will be sited in the Town Hall car park.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

10.0 SEAHAM YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that following the Armed Forces Day on the Saturday the Youth Festival will take place on the Sunday at the Town Park.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

11.0 SEAHAM CARNIVAL

Members were informed that following Police advice the road closure had to be extended.

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

It was noted that the military bands have been booked and the Lord Lieutenant of Durham will be in attendance.

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 to bring ideas of how to celebrate this anniversary to the next meeting. 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 this item be deferred until the next meeting.

18.0 COMPLAINT ABOUT CYCLISTS

A complaint from a member of the public has been received by Seaham Town Council as they wished Councillors to be aware of the situation, however it was noted that this item should be referred to Durham County Council who have responsibility for the pavements.

Members noted that it isn't just cyclists who are causing problems but also people who park their cars on pavements so wheelchair users are having to go on roads to get past the cars.

RECOMMENDED that this item be passed to Durham County Council and also the Police.

19.0 **NEW DRIVE FENCING**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that works will begin within the next two weeks.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

20.0 **NOBLES FUNFAIRS**

Mr Colin Noble requested to speak to Members regarding the blanket ban in Seaham on inflatables as it is a big part of their industry and noted that there have been no incidents from any members of the Showmen's Guild and noted the ban has been brought about because of a knock on effect from unregulated people.

A Member noted that Durham County Council issue certificates for this and the Town Council should take it up with Durham for their advice. Another Member noted that the ban was only on Seaham Town Council land. It was also noted that Durham County Council were carrying out a consultation on inflatables when Seaham Town Council made the ban and Durham have not banned inflatables.

Mr Noble noted that there had been complaints made when the fair was on the dock tops for 10 days which he agreed was too long. Mr Noble stated that Byron Place wanted the fair to be in place on every holiday time and if Noble's don't do this they will bring another company in to do it. Mr Noble stated that he wanted the fair to be in place during the Fireworks event and would bring a site plan to the Town Council showing where the rides would be placed so they would not interfere or spoil people's views of the fireworks.

A Member stated that one of the complaints was from local residents in the area and there needs to be a sufficient space between residences and the fair.

RECOMMENDED that Mr Noble furnishes the Town Council with a site plan for the Fireworks Display.

21.0 **PARKSIDE AND FISHBONE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had held meetings over the last week with Fishbone and Parkside Allotment Association members to which Councillor McKenna had been present due to his role in the MP's office. It was noted that the Associations wished to have 6 months grace to hand over the documents which the Town Council have requested and for this to be written into the lease.

A Member stated that he had read through the proposed lease and couldn't understand why the Associations needed 6 month to produce the requested documents.as they are aware of who is currently on the site and they should be able to provide this information within a week.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated if there are other areas of the lease which the Associations don't agree with they need to inform him of them and a deadline should be set down for the signing of the leases as there has been a status quo here for a number of years now.

A Member stated that these discussions should be resolved before they come to this meeting and if there is an impasse this should be discussed at another meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk meets with the Associations to discuss what they don't agree to within the proposed lease and bring this back to a future meeting for a further discussion with Members.

22.0 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.

23.0 SEAHAM TOWN PARK RED STAR FOOTBALL AND SEAHAM TOWN PARK SPORTS CLUB LEASES

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had been in contact with the Town Councils Solicitor regarding the proposal by the Town Clerk to have annual rent reviews with the clubs.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

24.0 DAWDON BUNGALOW

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the sale of the bungalow should be complete by the end of the month.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

25.0 DAWDON PARK PROJECT

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had visited the pavilion and the works were looking very impressive. A Member stated that the contractors are very fast workers and the cricket club are really happy with the works.

The Deputy Town Clerk requested approval to pay the invoice received from the Quantity Surveyor which Members agreed.

It was also discussed for the Deputy Town Clerk to arrange a visit for Members along with the Quantity Surveyor to visit the cricket club so Members could see the work that has been carried out to date.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) Approval is made to pay the Quantity Surveyors invoice.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to arrange a visit to the cricket club for Members.

26.0

SPECIAL PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10TH MAY 2019

A Member stated that the minutes of the Special Parks and Events Committee meeting were inadequate and incomplete and they do not provide the Council and Councillors with sufficient information to satisfy Internal Audit that the Council have undertaken due diligence. Some items which were specifically discussed and highlighted were not present in the minutes.

The Member proposed the following amendment to be added to the minutes.

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk which outlined the work proposed for Phase Two on the Dawdon Cricket Club refurbishment which involved work to the ground floor.

The report showed the three tenders which had been received. The Town Clerk confirmed that due diligence had been undertaken and the Project Manager/Quantity Surveyor had checked that all prices were correct and that the final contract price was correct.

The lowest tenderer has also previously completed satisfactorily a large construction project, the works depot, at the new cemetery.

The contractor has indicated that he was willing if the job went satisfactory to be considered on a negotiated basis to undertake the work on phase three

Following discussions a Member stated that the Special Parks minutes along with the Assembly of Electors minutes were not satisfactory and should be reported to the next Establishment Sub-Committee for further discussion.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that the amendment be added to the minutes and reported to the next Establishment Sub-Committee meeting. This is regarding the Special Parks Minutes and also the Assembly of Elector minutes from the meeting held on 10th May, 2019.

(ii) that the contract be awarded to the lowest tender, Wearside Contractors, for phase two in the sum of £206,374.

At the Full Council meeting held on 16th July, 2019 a named vote took place for an amendment to the minutes for this matter not to be taken to an Establishment Sub-Committee meeting.

27.0

RISK MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE41/19 **SEASONAL DOG BAN**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that he had received an email from Durham County Council regarding the seasonal dog ban on the beaches which the Town Council had requested. This will be reviewed in the autumn of this year to enable a potential implementation in the spring of 2020.

Members discussed the problems with dog dirt and agreed that there should be a ban on the slope beach as that is an ideal family beach. Another Member stated that the Town Council had already set their parameters for the ban from the Hall beach to the slope leaving other beaches available for dog walkers.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE42/19 **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE PARKS**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that he had also addressed the anti-social behaviour in the parks with Durham County Council and had asked them to look into this. It was noted that the solar powered cameras do not work in the park and other options including bringing an electricity supply into the park are being looked into.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE43/19 **LONDONDERRY STATUE**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that there had been a bit of movement regarding the ownership and refurbishment of the Londonderry Statue. A Member stated that the Trustees of the statue have a sum of money for the statue but wanted the Council to pay for future maintenance.

Members agreed that they did not wish to have ownership of the statue and the Deputy Town Clerk stated that he would look at past minutes to confirm this.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk checks previous minutes to see where the Council have stated they do not wish to have ownership of the Londonderry Statue.

PE44/19 **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.