

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

Present: B Taylor (Chair) Mrs B E Allen,
Mrs K Brace, 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: R Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell,
Mrs G Bleasdale, D Cummings,
Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Pratt, K Shaw.

Officers: Mrs D Rickaby (Town Clerk)
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.

PE49/19 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.

PE50/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 3RD SEPTEMBER, 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.

PE51/19 PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

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

1.0 SEAHAM TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PROJECT

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Durham County Council had been successful in gaining £1.6m to carry out the Townscape Heritage Project with a range of regeneration improvements. The Deputy Town Clerk questioned whether Members wish to approve and work in partnership with the Heritage partnership which would include the on-line viewing camera, digital information board and the astroturf to cover the new car parking bays during Town Council events.

Members also discussed whether the land would be gifted to Durham County Council for the extra car parking spaces on Terrace Green or whether the land would be sold. Members agreed that the land should be gifted as this would be partnership working for the benefit of the town.

RECOMMENDED that the requests for the on-line viewing camera, digital information board and the astroturf be forwarded to Durham County Council and that the extra land for car parking be gifted to Durham County Council in exchange for the partnership working under a license so the Town Council do not need permission to hold events from Durham County Council.

2.0 SEAHAM CARNIVAL 17th, 18th & 19th JULY 2020

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he would be contacting Peterlee Town Council on Monday to discuss what contracts they have with the fair ground people.

A Member stated that it would be a good idea for the Deputy Town Clerk to liaise with Byron Place as well as speaking to Nobles Amusements to see if prices for rides can be capped as this would reflect well on both Byron Place and Seaham Town Council. A Member suggested that the Town Council could negotiate a reduction in the fee they charge Nobles so they can in return reduce the fair rides.

A Member also suggested that the Town Council consider a separate time and place for stallholders away from the music side to try and attract more interest in the stalls. Maybe the days can be separated ie music one day, stalls the following day or vice versa.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk meets with Byron Place and Nobles and reports back to the next available meeting.

3.0 ST JOHN'S CHURCH GROUNDS WILDFLOWER AND ART PARK

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he has a meeting arranged with the vicar of St Johns Church along with Durham County Council tomorrow to move the proposals forward.

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

4.0 BEATING THE RETREAT

Mr Dave Mckenna updated Members on the recent Beating the Retreat event. He stated that the Lord Lieutenant of Durham was in attendance. He also stated that the backdrop on the Terrace Green was second to none and the event could be built on year on year. He asked Members if they could be mindful of this event when the Budget Sub-Committee meets so it can get bigger and better each year.

Mr McKenna thanked the Deputy Town Clerk and his team for all of their support with the organising and running of this event.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

5.0 LONDONDERRY INSTITUTE PROPOSED HERITAGE CENTRE

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he has a meeting planned for the 30th September, 2019 to move this item forward and he will report back at the next available meeting.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

6.0 NEW DRIVE FENCING

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the fencing is now complete and came in on budget. There have been reports of spectators coming inside the fencing with dogs. The keyholders have been contacted regarding this matter and informed to ask spectators with dogs to keep on the outside of the fencing. Signs have also been placed around the fencing and on the gates asking people to keep dogs out.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

7.0 DENESIDE PARK – FENCING AND QUOTE FOR ELECTRIC SUPPLY

It was noted that fencing has been gradually installed over the last 2 years to prevent star bursting of gangs of youths who are drinking alcohol in the park.

The Deputy Town Clerk has been looking into whether an electricity supply would be viable in the park along with lights and CCTV.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

8.0 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 2019 11.00AM TERRACE GREEN

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he has been working with the Royal British Legion and the Police with the arrangements. He also noted that the sound system had been tested at the Beating of the Retreat and had sounded good.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

9.0 SEAHAM TOWN COUNCILS FIREWORKS DISPLAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2019 7.00PM ON THE SEA FRONT

The Town Clerk shared drawings he had received from Nobles Amusements regarding the proposed placement of fairground rides at the fireworks display. Members agreed to try fairground rides this year but stated that the rides

should only be single storey rides so the views of the fireworks display would not be interrupted.

A Member also questioned whether the agreement to allow the fairground rides this year could also be used as a bargaining tool for ride prices at future events such as the carnival.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the use of single storey fairground rides at the Fireworks Display.

10.0 SEAHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT 29TH NOVEMBER, 2019 5.00PM

The Deputy Town Clerk has now received written approval from Durham County Council for the addition of LED Christmas lights to go across Church Street. The Deputy Town Clerk will be contacting local shop owners to agree to this.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

11.0 SEAHAMS FIRST ARTS MARKET 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2019 TERRACE GREEN

The Deputy Town Clerk reminded Members of this event and noted he hoped that this would become an annual event.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

12.0 BRYAN MAYHEW MEMORIAL

Members discussed a memorial plaque to be placed in the entrance at the Town Hall in memory of Mr Bryan Mayhew who was a founder member of the Seaham Red Star.

Members agreed that a plaque of a similar size to the opening plaque could be placed at the entrance of the Town Hall.

RECOMMENDED that the memorial plaque be approved.

13.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

14.0 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.

15.0

HARBOUR CRICKET CLUB PARTNERSHIP WORK

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Harbour Cricket Club is now doing really well and questioned whether Members want to continue maintaining the cricket pitch.

Members questioned whether the Town Council's workforce could sustain this work. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he has done a brief report on staffing which will be shared with Members of the Establishment Sub-Committee next week.

A Member noted that the current fees the Town Council charge the cricket club were due to the cricket club allowing the New Drive football teams use of their changing facilities.

Another Member stated that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk should meet with the Cricket Club to establish if the Cricket Club are still happy with the service they receive from the Town Council and whether they wished to continue and then report this back to the next available meeting.

It was agreed to defer this item until further information is available for discussion.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk meet with Seaham Harbour Cricket Club to discuss current arrangements.
- (ii) This item to be deferred until all information is available.

16.0

LAND AT UNION STREET

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had previously reported that the sale of the land had been completed. After the meeting the Deputy Town Clerk was informed that the sale had not been finalised and following the Town Council not approving the change to the covenant the purchaser had decided not to go ahead with the sale. However, the prospective purchaser had shown an interest in continuing to maintain the land and would like to rent it from Seaham Town Council.

Members agreed that the person concerned could continue to maintain the land at an agreed annual fee and that the site would be managed by the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that the site be rented to the current plot holder at an agreed fee and the site would be managed by Seaham Town Council.

PE52/19 **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.