

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 2019

Present: Councillor B Taylor (Chair) and R. Arthur, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, S P Colborn, S Cudlip, Mrs S Forster, Ms R M Gratton, Mrs L Kennedy, Mrs S Pratt, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, G Hepworth, K Shaw.

Officers: P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk)
C Halliday (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.

PE/60/19 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.

PE/61/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22ND OCTOBER 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.

A member added subject to any changes from the Full Council meeting being implemented.

PE/62/19 PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

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

1.0 REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2019

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that working in partnership with the Royal British Legion the event went excellent and the 10k Tommy run was successful and finished in good time for the service.

A Member asked if the Parade Marshall was aware of purdah, the Deputy Town Clerk advised this was discussed with the organiser in the days prior to the event regarding the participation of the MP. The organiser received guidance from the Royal British Legion Headquarters as to the protocol which needed to be followed regarding the MP.

The Member queried the Town Council were made aware of purdah and no political involvement and the British Legion were made aware of purdah and no political involvement. It was advised the Member of Parliament was attending as a member of the public so should no political parties should be represented at that event. It was advised it will be looked into if purdah affected MPs only or all political involvement. It was advised the Town Council can take this issue up with the Royal British Legion if Members wish.

It was requested the Town Council write to the National or Regional Headquarters of the Royal British Legion to check clear advice was given to the local organisers regarding this issue and what advice was given.

It was queried how long does purdah last before an election? It was advised that purdah was active during this event.

RECOMMENDED that a letter be sent to the National or Regional branch of the Royal British Legion seeking the advice which was provided to the local organisers to be reported back to Members.

2.0 FIREWORKS DISPLAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2019

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that it was a great event with lots of praise and went smoothly.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

3.0 SEAHAMS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that there will be a lantern parade and local pantomime characters in attendance. The new light curtains are to be placed across Church Street.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

4.0 GREENSCAPE WELLBEING ACTIVITY CENTRE PROPOSALS

The Deputy Town Clerk advised no response has been received from the plot holders, the Deputy Town Clerk will follow this up.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contact the allotment plot holders and report back to Members.

5.0 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY NOMINATIONS

A Member nominated S. Cudlip, K. Shaw and T. Shepherd. A Member noted they have been nominated previously so must decline on this occasion.

RECOMMENDED that K. Shaw and T. Shepherd be nominated.

6.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

7.0 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.

8.0 DAWDON PARK PROJECT PHASE 3

It was advised the costs has come in under budget and included the previous suggestions. A Member queried if the Dawdon committee have been involved in the proposals. It was advised a meeting was held with the cricket and they are happy with the developments.

It was advised the disabled access in place needs more protection. A Member stated previously a trophy cabinet was requested by the club but does not appear to be included in the costings, it was advised this will be added to the schedule.

A Member asked if gates could be considered to reduce fly tipping, it was advised CCTV is in place, but this can be investigated.

It was advised the standing orders were waived previously. It was noted the possible letting of the contract was provisionally agreed on the subject of costings being acceptable at a previous meeting. A Member requested the Town Council ask again the Quantity Surveyor provides the appropriate certification that this particular contract is the best price obtainable by the Council and he confirms that in waiving standing orders that he is satisfied that the Council are getting value in connection to the letting of this contract, so we are covered for audit feedback.

A Member requested no entry be allowed onto site by the contractor until documents are signed.

RECOMMENDED that a trophy cabinet be included in the costing schedule.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk investigate the possibility of installing a gate to reduce fly tipping.

RECOMMENDED that certification be sought from the Quantity Surveyor provides the appropriate certification that this particular contract is the best price obtainable by the Council and he confirms that in waiving standing orders that he is satisfied that the Council are getting value in connection to the letting of this contract.

9.0 **SEAHAM HARBOUR CRICKET CLUB**

It was advised two years ago Seaham Harbour Cricket Club approached the Council to assist when faced with financial difficulties. The Council agreed to maintain the pitch with the understanding other sports users of New Drive could use the facilities if required. It was advised New Drive sports users have not taken up the offer to use the facilities and it is believed Seaham Harbour Cricket Club are now in a stronger financial position.

A Member stated a phased programme of charges for sporting facilities owned by the Council was previously agreed however as Seaham Harbour Cricket Club are an independent club they were not included in this programme. It was suggested the fees should be re-examined to be more in line with similar clubs and the affordability for the Council be considered given the current yearly expenditure the Council is incurring.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk meet with representatives of Seaham Harbour Cricket Club with a view to negotiating a payment plan for the fees to become more in line with similar sports clubs.

PE/63/19 **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.