

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

Present: Councillor B Taylor (Chair) and  
Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace,  
S P Colborn, Mrs S Forster, Mrs S Pratt,  
T Shepherd, R Whitehead.

Apologies: Councillors Ms R M Gratton, D McKenna.

Officers: P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk)

*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/56/19 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/57/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> 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.

### **PE/58/19 PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES**

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

#### **1.0 SEAHAM IN BLOOM 5 GOLD MEDALS AND GREEN FLAG SUCCESS**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Seaham won 5 golds and a green flag this year and was mentioned in the new Town Council magazine residents will have had posted in their letter boxes today. Sunderland Echo did not run with the good news story even though they attended the photo call down the marina but a post on facebook has been well received and that he has thanked all those that have helped from Seaham Hall, Greenscape, Seaham Marina etc.

A Member said we should extend our congratulations to the team in the Council but also groups and individuals in the community.

RECOMMENDED that:

The Councils team along with groups and individuals from the community are sent letters of thanks for all their help.

**2.0 SEAHAM CARNIVAL WEEKEND 2020**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the fairground operator had not yet come back with a lower pricing proposal for 2020

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk informs members when a proposal come back.

**3.0 NEW DRIVE FENCING**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that 4 panels had been stolen but quickly replaced and fixed by the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information being provided.

**4.0 DENESIDE PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the meeting that the cost for electric, cctv, fencing and possible lighting makes the scheme currently unviable at this time and that he advises members to look at this during the next budget round as it maybe that they could set up a fund to grow over the next few years so that when other projects such as Dawdon and New Drive are completed Deneside could be ready to implement in a few years time.

A Member asked whether other Councillors actually wanted to pursue this and invited members for their comments. One Member said she would like to see it in the budget as the Council spends a lot on clear ups, though the Deputy Town Clerk explained these were carried out by internal staff. The cctv could be damaged making them inoperable. A member said do we just not need a park keeper. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that these days one park keeper could not handle a group of problematic youths. There is no lighting currently in the park. Security firms don't want to deal with it as it's considered a police matter.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk looks into these further options and ideas and brings them back to a future meeting.

**5.0 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the organisation of this event was going well.

RECOMMENDED that Members noted the information being provided.

**6.0 FIREWORKS DISPLAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he was organising performers on stage before the fireworks as per the request from the Youth Council and also trying to get additional fire dancers on Terrace Green and the Marina.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**7.0 SEAHAMS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that he was working on getting new Christmas lights across Church Street. He is hoping at least 6 sets will be installed however the success of installing them very much depends on the condition of the existing electrics and these have not been used for some time. Members asked for the Deputy Town Clerk to try and get the whole of Church Street done as half the traders say they get left out. Byron Place are not supporting the project again this year.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information and the Deputy Town Clerk looks into placing lights all the way down Church Street.

**8.0 SEAHAMS FIRST ART MARKET**

The feedback was good even though it was a poor weather day.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**9.0 GREENSCAPE PROPOSAL**

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that Des Consitt had previously put in a proposal for a community project on the piece of land at Dawdon Hill and come back with this proposal that uses up just one individual plot making up just 2.4 acres of the 9 acre site. Des did say he wanted it brought to the public part of the meeting and would like a letter of support in principle to be able to use the land if the funding bids were successful. Des continued by stating that he had raised already £43,000 in 5 years for the current project and off site activities and this project was desperately needed as the area was short of facilities for children with ADHD, autism, etc they already have a child coming from Gateshead to use Greenscape. Due to a lack of support for the previous project he is just wanting a letter of support to agree the land is available. He explained that he did have a business plan and had invited Councillors to come and view it at Greenscape but had not wanted to make it publicly available and give out too much detail.

A Member suggested that he got in touch with MENCAP and they would help him set it up.

A Member said that Des had carried out some excellent work and that the Council should work with Des to identify a site and help all they can with this project. Another Member also said it's a great idea but what about the person on the land? Des explained that the person brings his horse on in May and vacates by October and that he could possibly utilise the other land on the site.

A Member suggested that the proposal from Des needs an additional report from the Council Officers detailing how many people would be displaced by the project and what the repercussions would be so that Councillors understand what these are prior to making a decision.

RECOMMENDED that Council Officers provide a report in a months' time or so into how the project would displace anyone on site and what the repercussions would be.

**10.0**      **RISK MANAGEMENT**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**11.0**      **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.

**12.0**      **LAND DISPUTE WITH NETWORK RAIL**

It was explained that the Estate Agent needed to be asked for another valuation of the land and that a new solicitor be appointed with the existing solicitor paying for any additional legal fees incurred. The existing Solicitor would pay the difference in what Network Rail has offered and what the Estate Agent values the land at.

RECOMMENDED that the Estate Agent provides another valuation of the land and that a new solicitor be appointed with the existing solicitor paying for the additional legal fees and difference in the new valuation and what Network Rail offer.

**13.0**      **DAWDON PARK**

Costs for phase three should be in before the end of this month and brought back to this meeting. The cricket club would like permission to have a storage container painted green to blend in with the surrounds located on the small car park just past the pavilion, a Councillor suggested a mural and also the club and Council should start to look at an official opening in April 2020. Local Members will be asked about the location of the container.

RECOMMENDED that the cost for phase three to be brought back to this meeting, the cricket club given permission for the container with local members involved, painted green or a mural and both the Council and cricket club start to look at an official opening in April 2020.

**PE/59/19**      **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.