

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 4th FEBRUARY 2020

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, G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy, D McKenna, Miss L Willis.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Pratt, T Shepherd.

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.

PE67/20 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.

PE68/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7th JANUARY, 2020

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman at the Full Council meeting held on 28th January, 2020.

PE69/20 PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

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

1.0 POSSIBLE WILDFLOWER PROJECTS

The Deputy Town Clerk as previously requested provided a list of possible sites for wildflower projects and stated that Greenscape had started planting an area in Dawdon. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that Greenscape had contacted him requesting approval to plant wildflowers and hedging at Deneside Park. It was noted that the thorny hedging would act as a boundary protection around the perimeter of the park but this may take a few years to cover the open space.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Greenscape had sought permission from Durham County Council to plant on the land at Dawdon and

was now seeking permission from Seaham Town Council to plant at Deneside Park.

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Members agreed that this would be a positive project and will eventually stop unauthorised access to Deneside Park. A Member noted that Greenscape wished to hold a meeting with interested Councillors and members of the public to volunteer with the project. Members agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk should contact Greenscape and arrange a meeting and to inform Members of the date.

A Member suggested that an article could be placed in the Seaham Today magazine to recruit volunteers for the project.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts Greenscape to arrange a meeting and informs Members of the date.

2.0 INFLATABLES BAN

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Nobles fun fair operators had requested that the Town Council reconsiders its decision of 20th November, 2018 to ban inflatables on Seaham Town Council land as they follow all of the correct safety procedures.

Following discussion Members agreed that they wished for the ban to remain in place as they did not want to be liable for any accidents. It was noted that the Town Council would allow inflatables at indoor events such as parties and christenings but felt that it was a danger outdoors due to weather conditions especially on the seafront area.

RECOMMENDED that the ban of 20th November, 2018 remains in place.

3.0 VE DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020 11.00AM – 6.00PM

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that due to the hard work of Mr Gary Richardson, Royal British Legion and Mr Dave McKenna, Remember Them Fund this event is progressing well. There will be a service at 11.00am followed by War Vera who will be singing WW2 songs and the Houghton Pipe Band have also been booked to perform. The day will have a 1940's theme with bunting across the Terrace Green. It was also noted that the Sea and Army Cadets will also be participating in this event.

The Deputy Town Clerk thanked Mr Richardson and Mr McKenna for their hard work in organising this event.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

4.0 NEW MARITIME FESTIVAL 2020

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that this event is now taking shape and the event will include an arts market, workshops, artists talks, demonstrations and performances.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

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5.0 SEAHAM FOOD FESTIVAL 13TH & 14TH JUNE 2020

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that it was expected that this years Food Festival would be busier than last years and he is waiting for Durham County Council to announce who the celebrity chefs will be. The Deputy Town Clerk has requested entertainment on Church Street for this event but is still waiting for a response.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

6.0 SEAHAM BRASS EVENT 21ST JUNE 2020 12pm – 4pm TERRACE GREEN

It is hoped that the bands are able to perform at this years event. The Deputy Town Clerk is still awaiting confirmation and will arrange to publise this once confirmation is received.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

7.0 ARMED FORCES DAY – 27TH JUNE 2020 11am – 6pm SEAHAM TOWN PARK

The Town Council works in partnership with the Remember Them Fund on this event. It was noted that this is a free event held at the Town Park.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

8.0 SEAHAM YOUTH FESTIVAL 28TH JUNE 2020 SEAHAM TOWN PARK 11am-5pm

It was noted that arrangements for this event are currently underway.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

9.0 SEAHAM CARNIVAL WEEKEND 17TH, 18TH & 19TH JULY 2020 TERRACE GREEN AND CHURCH STREET

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the films will include Elton John's Rocket Man on the Friday and there will also be a tribute act to him on the Sunday. Other various tribute bands have been booked for the Sunday which include U2, The Doors, Arianne Grande, Ed Sheeran and hopefully Duran Duran and INXS to follow. There will also be local acts on the Saturday night.

Members discussed the costs of fair ground rides and suggested that the Deputy Town Clerk should negotiate for free rides for small children.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk negotiates with Nobles Fun Fairs for free rides for small children.

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10.0 **PIRATES AND PRINCESSES FESTIVAL SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2020 – TERRACE GREEN**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the local pirates who help to organise this event accepted the need to keep the big screen and were pleased with the idea of showing the Muppets film Treasure Island.

It was noted that the pirates had requested that they hold a raffle prior to this event to raise money to pay for other stage acts. The Town Clerk stated that Officers would request a plan from the pirates.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk requests a plan from the pirates for this event.

11.0 **BEATING THE RETREAT FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020 – TERRACE GREEN**

It was noted that this is a small cost event but very successful and is often referred to as a small version of the Edinburgh Tattoo.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

12.0 **SEAHAM FIREWORKS DISPLAY 2020 – 6th NOVEMBER 2020 – TERRACE GREEN**

A date of the 6th November, 2020 was agreed at the last meeting and organisation of this event is currently underway.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

13.0 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 8TH NOVEMBER 2020 – TERRACE GREEN**

Organisation of this event is currently underway and any updates will be provided to Members.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

14.0 **SEAHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON – FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020 – CHURCH STREET & TERRACE GREEN**

Organisation of this event is currently underway and any further updates will be provided to Members.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

15.0 **THANK YOU LETTER FROM GRETA MAYHEW**

Members were furnished with a thank you letter which was received from Mrs Greta Mayhew wife of the late Mr Bryan Mayhew for the plaque placed in the Town Hall on 13th December, 2019 in his memory.

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RECOMMENDED that Members note the information

16.0 **RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

A Member suggested that inflatables should be added to the risk management issues.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk adds inflatables to the risk management issues.

17.0 **DRAFT ALLOTMENT LEASE**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Allotments Working Party had been meeting over the last few months and were hoping to move forward with the lease and proposed a meeting in two weeks time. The Deputy Town Clerk was hoping to receive feedback on the lease this week from the Associations. A Member stated that it would be helpful for the Associations to know that this is not the final document as the Working Party need to meet to review the latest document with suggestions from the Associations.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk arranges a meeting of the Allotments Working Party in two weeks time.

18.0 **DOG BAN ON SEAHAM BEACHES**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the community group who are opposing the dog ban on Seaham beaches were invited to attend the meeting tonight but since the agenda was released the community group have met with Councillors separately so did not wish to attend.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

19.0 **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RECOMMENDED that in view of the confidential and commercially sensitive nature of the following items, the formal resolution was approved to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960.

20.0 **HARBOUR CRICKET CLUB**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had met with the Harbour Cricket Club representatives twice over the last two months and they had requested that the fees stay the same until the 21/22 season as they have only just got back on their feet.

A Member stated that the Harbour Cricket Club have gone through a bad patch and the Town Council should support local clubs. The Member suggested that

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he felt it was fit and proper to look at the costs or money the Town Council subscribes to help the cricket club over a period of time and gives the club a chance to rise. He noted that the Town Council did the same for Seaham Park and Dawdon Cricket Clubs previously.

It was noted that the Harbour Cricket Club land is not owned by Seaham Town Council, however it is the responsibility of Councillors to help voluntary organisations in the town especially when they have been through hard times.

A Member stated that the Harbour Cricket Club are more than happy with the current fees and they have 80 new members and have started a girls cricket team. He noted that the landowners had increased the rent which wasn't helpful to the club.

Members discussed that they would need to look further into the extra staffing costs and this should be taken to the next Establishment Sub-Committee meeting for further discussion.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) That the Harbour Cricket Clubs fees will remain the same and reviewed in 2022.
- (ii) The Parks staffing costs to be placed on the next Establishment Sub-Committee agenda.

21.0 SEAHAM CEMETERY DRAINAGE ISSUE

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had received two quotes for the drainage issue at Seaham Cemetery and was awaiting one further quote. He noted when this is received he will bring further details back to the next meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will bring this issue back to the next meeting.

22.0 DAWDON PARK GENTS BOWLS PAVILION DEMOLITION QUOTES

Members discussed the 3 quotes received for the demolition of the gents bowls at Dawdon Park. It was noted that the building would be demolished and the asbestos removed leaving behind the base which can be reused.

RECOMMENDED that the cheapest quote of £4,860 be approved from Nor-Dem Ltd.

