

Seaham Town Council

Seaham Town Hall, Stockton Road, Seaham, Co. Durham SR7 0HP

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Deputy Town Clerk: Paul Fletcher



PF/AR

26th May, 2021

MEETING 2

A MEETING of the PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE will be held in the Council Chamber at Seaham Town Hall, Stockton Road, Seaham on TUESDAY, 1ST JUNE, 2021 commencing at the rising of the Arts Committee

To limit attendance due to Covid Restrictions members of the press and public who wish to attend this meeting are asked to consider attending remotely. To do this please email info@seaham.gov.uk to request the zoom login details. Anyone wishing to attend in person please inform the office to ensure the maximum capacity is not exceeded.

P Fletcher
Deputy Town Clerk

A G E N D A

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST, PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

To appoint a Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

To appoint a Vice-Chair of this Committee for the ensuing year.

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 2ND MARCH 2021**

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record at the Full Council meeting held on 23rd March, 2021.

4. **MEMORIAL – MR JOHN HAYS**

The Acting Town Clerk has now corresponded with Mrs. Hays regarding an appropriate memorial for her late husband. Attached at Appendix A is a picture of the bench she prefers. The cost of the seat is £629 net plus delivery and another £50 for the plaque. Durham County Council will not have it on Church

Street as it does not conform to the street furniture used in that area. Members are asked to agree that the Acting Town Clerk seeks to get it installed on North Road where it is known John and his wife walked and talked about his youth spent in Seaham and swimming in the sea.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information being provided and agree the purchase of the bench and for it to be located on North Road.

5. BENCH TO THANK NHS AND KEY WORKERS

Attached at Appendix B is a photo of a bench which was to be located at the Clock Garden. Durham County Council are not keen for it to be installed in this location as it, again, does not match their bench styles. Therefore the Acting Town Clerk suggests it replaces the bench as per the photo at Appendix C on the corner of Denehouse Road and North Road where residents and visitors will clearly see it.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information being provided.

6. DENESIDE PARK

The Council has received many positive comments from members of the public and Councillors expressing their congratulations for the work being carried out at Deneside Park. It may be worth continuing with this positivity by installing new benches like the ones suggested at Appendix D at approximate costs of £900 per bench.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information and agree the new benches.

7. ELECTRIC MODEL CARS

Pursuant to the previous Parks and Events Committee meeting Members instructed the Deputy Town Clerk to meet with the Model Car Club to look at possible sites to lay a permanent outdoor track. Following correspondence with the Electric Model Club they wished to thank the Town Council for their interest, however they have located a site in another area.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

This item is for information purposes only.

8. MINUTES OF SPORTS LEASE WORKING PARTY–22ND MARCH 2021

Attached at Appendix E are the minutes from the Sports Club Lease Working Party meeting held on 22nd March, 2021. This Lease was approved at the Full Council meeting held on 23rd March, 2021. The Acting Town Clerk is pursuing the clubs to sign the Leases as soon as possible.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to approve the minutes.

9. **SALE OF LAND AT SEAHAM STREET**

The Sale of the land at Seaham Street has now been completed and the dog bin relocated.

DECISION REQUIRED This item is for information purposes only.

10. **LAND AT FIELD HOUSE FARM**

Further to Members agreeing not to sell land at this site the Acting Town Clerk was asked to review and report back on the Title Deeds and can confirm that £7,000 was paid to Seaham Town Council as part of the transfer in agreement to maintain the land as a Country Wildlife Site for the general public and for the land to be used for this purpose for 80 years.

DECISION REQUIRED Members to note the information provided.

11. **REDUCING THE USE OF GLYSOPHATE AND OTHER CHEMICALS & INCREASING WILDFLOWER MEADOWS ALONG WITH OTHER SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES**

Several councils are looking to phase out the use of certain herbicides and looking to replace them with more sustainable practices. Seaham Town Council has in recent years been seeding wildflower strips where it can and encouraging Durham County Council to do the same. The parks department is currently looking into alternatives for the herbicides that it uses, and it is hoped that by April next year that the alternatives can be brought back to committee for approval and that it can be reported that both them and Durham County Council have managed to identify more new wildflower areas.

Attached at Appendix F are some examples of what other councils have been doing. In addition to this Members from previous meetings will know that the Council is working towards solar power for the Town Hall and recently got confirmation that the infrastructure is in place for it to be connected and feed electric onto the grid and will now pursue external funding for the solar panels.

DECISION REQUIRED Members to note the information provided and agree that a review of the herbicides used with a view of phasing them out with more environmentally friendly practices along with increasing wildflowers is carried out by April next year.

12. **SEWERAGE POLLUTION**

Attached at Appendix G is correspondence from a member of the public who would like Seaham Town Council to support their call for a regional public enquiry into the amount of sewerage pollution. Originally this would have gone to Planning but the next planning meeting will be taken up with the issue of the green energy project coming down from Scotland and it may well be that

Councillors can simply say yes that they support reducing sea pollution and the call for a regional public enquiry. The state of the beaches and any community action also helps towards the Northumbria in Bloom Campaign in the Parks remit.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information provided and decide whether they can support reducing sea pollution and the call for a regional public enquiry

13.

NEW DRIVE CAR PARK

The Council has received complaints about the cars parked during matches at New Drive blocking access and being a nuisance to residents. Members are asked to approve a temporary solution for the existing car park by adding knee high fencing to prevent vehicles gaining access to the pitches, filling holes and opening a gate so vehicles can park on the land behind the car park towards the train tracks with a view of providing a more permanent solution with better surfacing as part of a winter works programme.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to approve putting in knee high fencing, filling holes and opening the gate to provide additional temporary car parking with a view to create a more permanent solution at New Drive as part of winter works.

14.

EVENTS AND TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Town Hall staff have successfully researched the legalities and safety concerns about holding in person meetings and these have been carried out successfully for a few weeks now.

Councillors have previously approved the planning of outdoor events again and these are currently being organised and any updates will be given at this meeting. The events so far include Armed Forces Day 26th June, NHS and Frontline Works Day 5th July, Mini Miners Gala 10th July, Carnival 16th, 17th and 18th July, small ceremony to remember the Seaham air raids 5th August, Pirates Festival 29th August, Fireworks 5th November, Remembrance Sunday 14th November and Christmas Lights 26th November. The brass band day may not take place or be put back later in the year as currently bands are saying they have not been able to practice.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information being provided.

15.

REMEMBRANCE EVENT AT TOWN HALL

Attached at appendix H is a request from a member of the public wanting to use the town hall to put on an exhibition and maybe a play for the schools during the run up to Armistice and Remembrance Sunday.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information being provided and decide whether to support the initiative.

16. MEMORIAL TO SEAHAM AIR RAIDS

It was previously agreed to set a meeting up with interested parties to come up with a definitive list of those who lost their lives during the air raids so that the memorial at Princes Road Cemetery can be amended and renovated. It was also suggested that something could be installed at the Clock/Memorial Garden to provide interpretation and information to the public about the air raids. It was agreed to set up a meeting of interested parties such as RBL, History Society etc. once in person meetings were allowed. It is proposed that this could be on the 16th June 10am at the Town Hall.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information and agree the meeting takes place.

17. FENCING AND MATERIALS FOR DAWDON HILL ALLOTMENTS.

A request has been made to provide approximately £500 of materials for Dawdon Hill Allotments for fencing.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to approve the purchase of materials for Dawdon Hill Allotments.

18. LITTER PICKERS, HOOPS & BAGS FOR VOLUNTEERS

As more people are volunteering to litter pick around Seaham. It is suggested that the Council considers providing free litter pickers, hoops and bags for anyone wishing to help. A suggestion is a budget for giving a maximum of 10 per month. Currently it is not just a burden on staff to collect these tools from volunteers but also leaders of volunteer groups and often someone wanting to help with litter picking does not want to be part of a group and want the freedom of doing it in their own time. Litter pickers are £3.33 each, hoops are £6.22 each.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to approve providing the litter pickers, hoops and bags to volunteers.

19. WHITEHAVEN TO SEAHAM COAST TO COAST CYCLE ROUTE

It is proposed to try and move this forward by having a zoom meeting with all interested parties such as Sustrans, Durham County Council and Whitehaven Town Council in the next couple of weeks.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information being provided the zoom meeting as as soon as one can be held in the next couple of weeks.

20. PUBLIC TOILETS

This issue is regularly raised, and it is suggested that a member of Durham County Council's regeneration team is invited to a Planning Meeting in July to inform members of the options and possibilities of new public toilet facilities. Providing public toilet facilities on the sea front would improve the visitor

experience for those attending events and just enjoying the Terrace Green and our seaside town generally.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to agree to invite a DCC Regeneration Officer to July's Planning Meeting.

21.

PARK SECURITY

The Park Security on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday has begun and their use of body cameras to enable reporting to the police has had a positive impact. It is hoped that the damaged slide at the Town Park will have been fixed by the time of this meeting and with the help of the security it is not damaged again.

**DECISION
REQUIRED.**

Members to note the information being provided.

22.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Attached at Appendix I is an email from Michelle Harland detailing proposals for various projects. She is requesting a letter of support and the £2,500 funding normally provided by the Council towards the Youth Festival, which was cancelled last year and this year, could instead be put towards external match funding to help create more future events and activities for the youth of the town and requesting that the Council continues to support the Shoreside Festival.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information being provided and agree to continue to support the initiatives with the requested funding and letter of support.

23.

ARMY RECRUITING TERRACE GREEN

Attached at Appendix J is a request to hold recruitment days on Terrace Green. These have been done before and caused no problems.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information being provided and agree the recruitment days.

24.

WATER SMART METERS

Attached at Appendix K is a quote from a company to install smart water meters that would help prevent large bills from unreported water leaks. Other companies have been approached but no quotes received to date. A smart meter installed would cost £330 per site per year and would have a one off charge to NW of £170.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information being provided and to waive standing orders and approve the installation of the smart meters as detailed.

25.

RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

There are financial and health and safety implications with regards to items on this committee report particularly considering the current virus crisis. However, all risks have been minimised by careful risk analysis and consultations with industry experts. Most of the issues in this particular report are low risk both from a financial and health and safety point of view and any risks follow industry best practice and guidance from the Health and Safety Executive. All larger events such as the Carnival and Fireworks Night are organised in partnership with the local Police, Fire brigade, Durham's Safety Advisory Group. Smaller events are risk assessed and managed internally. Thorough risk assessments are compiled, and inspections of the sites carried out prior and on the day of the events. Inflatables such as bouncy castles, big inflatable slides, walk in inflatable mazes etc are banned from council owned land due to the risk of injury however attractions that use for example inflatable sides for safety and protection as part of a larger non inflatable ride are allowed. Financial risk is reduced by the above reducing the risk of public and employee liability claims however the financial risk of an event not attracting large crowds due to poor weather conditions is always a problem in particular with free events.

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members to note the information.

26.

PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

**DECISION
REQUIRED**

Members are asked to consider whether any of the items discussed present a press opportunity.

SENT TO

ALL 21 ELECTED MEMBERS OF SEAHAM TOWN COUNCIL