

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 7th JANUARY 2020

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs G Bleasdale, D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings , Mrs S Pratt.

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.

PE64/20 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.

PE65/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 19th NOVEMBER 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.

PE66/20 PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES

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

1.0 EAST DURHAM CREATES

Councillors Mrs L Kennedy, Mrs S Forster and B Taylor declared an interest and took no further part thereon.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he held a meeting with East Durham Creates in December and encouraged them to get more involved in Seaham events. He also stated that he had arranged a meeting to take place next week between Julie Anson, East Durham Creates and Seaham Town Council Officers.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

2.0 FEEDBACK FROM DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL REGARDING WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that himself and a Member had met with a representative from Durham County Council to discuss the Wildflower Meadows across various sites in the town. Unfortunately Durham County Council have responded to say that they are unable to facilitate this request this year as their schedules are already planned for the year ahead, however, they will keep this in mind for the future.

A Member questioned why other Members were not involved in this. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that this was agreed at a previous meeting as the Member who attended the meeting had proposed the initial idea. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he would bring the recommendation from Council to the next meeting.

A Member requested a list of the sites which were proposed. It was noted that the wildflowers could be placed on Seaham Town Council land but the Council only own a minimal amount of land and the majority of land is owned by Durham County Council.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) The Deputy Town Clerk brings the original recommendation to meet with Durham County Council to the next meeting.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to furnish Members with the proposed sites suggested for the wildflower meadows.

3.0 NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM & GREEN FLAG AWARDS 2020

It was noted that the Northumbria in Bloom and Green Flag Awards work is under way to try and regain the 5 gold medals which were won last year. This years theme is “Growing Social” and the Deputy Town Clerk requested suggestions of any groups who could get involved. He also noted that the cost of the entry is £1700. A Member suggested running competitions with local schools and possibly involving Older Peoples Homes.

A Member requested that an article be placed in the Seaham Today magazine to attract interest.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk writes an article on this item for the Seaham Today magazine.

4.0 YOUTH COUNCIL & EVENTS

The Deputy Town Clerk suggested that a budget of £2k is provided for the Youth Council in order for them to hold some events throughout the year.

RECOMMENDED that a budget of £2k is given to the Youth Council to hold events throughout the year.

5.0 NEW MARITIME FESTIVAL 2020

Ms Michelle Harland, Creative Youth Opportunities was in attendance at the meeting to request £2k sponsorship funding towards the cost of the Maritime Festival to be held in Seaham in 2020.

Ms Harland stated that they were looking to raise £34k and there were various bids submitted. She noted that the first Arts Market was held in Seaham in September and despite the poor weather they had 500 people in attendance. Ms Harland stated that she had spoken to local sculptors Ray Lonsdale and Andrew Cohen who were both keen to come to the event to hold talks. The event will include every school in Seaham and every child will be able to have their artwork on display.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the sponsorship of the event with £2k.

6.0 VE DAY FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020

It was noted that this event will be a 1940s themed event with a service, a community picnic and music on the stage.

The Deputy Town Clerk will update Members as arrangements are made.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

7.0 SEAHAM FOOD FESTIVAL 13TH & 14TH JUNE 2020

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council offer sponsorship of this event providing £2.5k of funding.

A Member questioned whether Durham County Council, the organisers of this event are trying to utilise Church Street. It was noted that they are looking to expand the area in the next few years. It was suggested that Julie Anson at Durham County Council should be contacted about this.

RECOMMENDED that Julie Anson, Durham County Council is contacted to try and utilise Church Street.

8.0 SEAHAM BRASS EVENT 20TH & 21ST JUNE 2020

The Deputy Town Clerk suggested that this event be split over the above two days.

RECOMMENDED that the Brass Event takes place on the 20th and 21st June 2020.

9.0 ARMED FORCES DAY – 27TH JUNE 2020

Councillor D McKenna declared an interest and took no further part thereon.

Seaham Town Council in conjunction with the Remember Them Fund will be holding the Armed Forces Day at Seaham Town Park on the 27th June 2020. The Town Council have contributed £1.6k towards the event which is a relatively small budget for the size of the event. The remainder of the costs for the event will be met by the Remember Them Fund.

A Member questioned whether the stage would be left up for the Youth Council as they did the previous year. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that if this was required then it would be left up.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

10.0 SEAHAM CARNIVAL WEEKEND 17TH, 18TH & 19TH JULY 2020

A Member questioned whether the carnival could be split by holding the stalls on one day and the carnival on the other days as some traders felt they were not doing much business due to people bringing their own picnics to the carnival field. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he didn't think it should be split as it has always been successful previously.

A Member questioned whether Officers had been liasing with Nobles Amusements around the costs of the fairground rides. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that talks were ongoing with Nobles.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

11.0 PIRATES AND PRINCESSES FESTIVAL SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2020

The Deputy Town Clerk provided Members with quotes for the big screen for this event. Members agreed that the contractor should be Event Equipment Hire (EEH) as they provided the lowest quotation.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had been in discussion with Mr Wayne Butler the local Pirate Personality who had requested that the budget be spent on having bands on the stage in place of the films on the big screen. Following a short discussion Members agreed that this event was intended for children and bands were more aimed at an adult audience so it was agreed that bands would not be included and they would carry on with films as they have in previous years.

Members also agreed to providing more prizes for the different childrens age groups.

RECOMMENDED that EEH would provide the big screen for this event.

12.0 BEATING THE RETREAT FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Councillor D McKenna declared an interest and took no further part thereon.

It was noted that this event has a small budget from Seaham Town Council of £1.4k in conjunction with the Remember Them Fund who also fund the event. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that this was a very good event last year which cost very little but had a very big impact.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

13.0 SEAHAM FIREWORKS DISPLAY 2020

The Deputy Town Clerk requested clarification on the date when this year's Firework Display should be held. He noted that the dates could either be 30th October or 6th November 2020. Members agreed that as the 30th October was too close to Halloween the Fireworks Display should take place on 6th November 2020.

RECOMMENDED that this years Fireworks Display should take place on 6th November 2020.

14.0 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 8TH NOVEMBER 2020

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he felt last years parade was improved due to the road closure and the parade starting from the top of the docks.

The Deputy Town Clerk gave Members a copy of the Royal British Legion's information regarding purdah.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

15.0 SEAHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON – FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2020

It was noted that Church Street looked very nice last year with the addition of the Christmas Lights hanging across the street. Additional funds have been placed in the budget to purchase additional lights for 2020.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

16.0 SEAHAM UNITED REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR MOBILE FLOODLIGHTS ETC AT NEW DRIVE (WEMBLEY)

Seaham United have submitted bids for floodlights.

The Deputy Town Clerk noted that the floodlights will be locked away securely and will be insured by the football clubs themselves.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for the football clubs to purchase mobile floodlights if bids are successful.

17.0 **SEAHAM CEMETERY LORD BYRONS WALK**

Following complaints made by members of the public regarding the waterlogging at Seaham Cemetery the Deputy Town Clerk has arranged to meet with a drainage companies to discuss options available and potential costs to hopefully eradicate this problem. The Deputy Town Clerk will report back to this meeting with his findings.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk reports back to this meeting with his findings for drainage options at Seaham Cemetery.

18.0 **DAWDON PROJECT**

The Town Clerk informed Members that the contractors started on site today to carry out phase 3 of the cricket club refurbishment.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

19.0 **NEW LEISURE CENTRE**

The Town Clerk informed Members that there had been a press release regarding a potential new leisure centre being built in Seaham. County Councillors noted that this information had been embargoed up until today.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

20.0 **SEAHAM HARBOUR CRICKET CLUB**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had met with Seaham Harbour Cricket Club representatives to discuss the future costs. The Club noted that the landlord was also increasing the rent. He noted that there may need to be some negotiating to be carried out with the club and has requested copies of their finances to determine this. The Deputy Town Clerk will report his findings back to Members once this information is received.

RECOMMENDED that Members note this information.

21.0 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.