

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 1st DECEMBER 2020

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

Officers: P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mrs J Knight (Finance Officer_
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.

PE105/20 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.

PE106/20 ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED that Members accept the amendment to the standing orders to incorporate the new regulations from the Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, to conduct virtual Council meetings.

Prior to the meeting starting a Member stated that he wished to thank the Deputy Town Clerk and the Parks staff for the wonderful Christmas Lights which were switched on the same day as the Tier 3 announcement was made and this had cheered a lot of residents up. He noted that the lights are appropriate and respectful. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had sent a memo to the Parks Staff thanking them for their hard work and he had also received a lot of compliments and photographs from members of the public.

PE107/20 PSPO FOR SEAHAM & TOWN PARK CCTV

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had received information from Durham County Council regarding suggestions such as CCTV, signage, fencing and other kinds of Police initiatives measures the Town Council could take before a PSPO Order would be agreed.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated with this in mind he suggested that the Town Council should install CCTV as soon as possible at Seaham Town Park and also look into other problem areas. There are currently two cameras at Dawdon Park and maybe the Council could add more cameras over a period of time and then go back to Durham County Council to reapply for a PSPO.

A Member stated that the Town Council needs to ensure that the cameras are of a good quality that can be used for evidential purposes. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had taken this to the Crime Prevention Service and they were happy with the images the cameras gave. The cameras that the Deputy Town Clerk had suggested at a previous meeting were of good quality.

Members agreed to discuss this matter further later in the meeting.

PE108/20 **CHRISTMAS LANTERNS PROJECT**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that St Cuthberts and Mary Magdalene Primary Schools were both now engaged in the project and Ms Harland is hoping that further schools will also take part in the project.

Pupils will be filmed in the town with their lanterns and then the lanterns will be brought to the Town Hall to be displayed over the Christmas period.

A Member also noted that Ms Vicky Greene had started a facebook page for the 6pm Christmas Eve Jingle and requested that the Town Council also advertises and publicises this event on their website and facebook pages.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) Members note the information regarding the Christmas Lantern Project.
- (ii) The 6.00pm Christmas Eve Jingle to be added to the Town Council's website and Facebook page to assist with publicising and promoting.

PE109/20 **ALLOTMENT ISSUES**

(i) **Complaint about Caravans – Fishbone Allotments**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that confirmation had been received that the caravans had now been moved to the agreed site.

A Member requested that a letter be sent to the plot holder thanking him for complying with the Town Councils request.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk writes to the plot holder thanking him for complying with the Town Council's request to move the caravans.

(ii) **Deneside Allotment Association**

Mr Paul Jorgenson from Deneside Allotment Association stated that he had recently taken over as Secretary of the Allotment Association. He noted that the allotments had fallen into disrepair but he was now working to repair footways and to level an area off as a car park. He stated that he had applied for funding from the AAP to carry out the works but he needed permission from Seaham Town Council as the landlords to carry out the works to the car park.

A County Councillor stated that subject to the Town Council giving their permission and in connection with the AAP funding County Councillors had financed what the Association were requesting.

A Member stated that he was delighted that the AAP had agreed to fund the project via the County Councillors and moved that the Town Council grant permission for the works to be carried out. The Member also thanked Mr Jorgenson for improving and enhancing the site and asked for the Town Councils compliments to be passed on to association members.

Mr Jorgenson thanked the Deputy Town Clerk along with the Council for assisting with skips.

A Member questioned whether the area which is to be used as a car park require fencing. Mr Jorgenson stated that he was hoping to get a security fence to border the outside perimeter. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he was assisting the association with funding applications.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council gives approval for the new footways and car park.

PE110/20

£200 TO SCHOOLS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that a few schools had already responded and had received the £200 donation from the Town Council and the Council had received positive feedback and thanks.

Officers are currently chasing the schools who have not responded to date to get their details so they can also receive the £200 donation.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE111/20

FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AROUND SEAHAM

(a) Covid 19 Memorial Bench

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Mr Ray Lonsdale was interested in designing a memorial bench. Once the designs are received he will bring these to a future meeting.

A Member requested that the memorial bench be placed in the Clock Garden as he felt this was a more appropriate site.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

(b) Footballer Mural

This item was raised at a previous meeting. The Deputy Town Clerk noted that this project could be used on the sports pavilions at both the parks and also that this could be a project that the Youth Council could get involved with.

A Member questioned whether this had had been raised with the Sports Committees as they lease the pavilions from the Town Council. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he would have meetings with the sports committees to discuss this matter.

A further Member stated that there are a lot of Seaham residents who have done well in the sporting arena and suggested that there could be a montage of them all. He also requested if this project comes to fruition that it be publicised.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will keep working on proposals for this project and also speak to Sports Committees.

(c) John Hays Memorial

Members discussed a memorial for the late Mr John Hays. A Member suggested that a memorial should be placed in Church Street as this is where he started his Hays Travel business. Members suggested a memorial bench opposite the Hays Travel shop.

Members agreed that they thought it was fitting for a memorial to be placed in Church Street and suggested that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts Mr Hays wife to discuss this matter further.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts the late Mr John Hays wife to discuss a memorial in Church Street.

PE112/20

RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE113/20

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.

PE114/20

PROPOSED DRAINAGE WORKS AT SEAHAM CEMETERY

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that phase one of the drainage works would cost £4k and he would like the works to commence this month. Phase 2 of the works would cost £9k and this would be carried out in the next financial year. This item had been discussed in the last Budget Sub-Committee meeting.

A Member questioned whether there had been test feedback on how good the system was. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the Parks Supervisor had been to Hartlepool to look at a system the company had installed there and he had also spoken to the contractors. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that there was no guarantee that there would be no further flooding in the future due to the ground surface being clay.

A Member stated that it was his understanding that there would be a test run carried out first to see if the drainage system was effective. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that a test run could be carried out but this would incur a further charge of £1.5k.

A Member suggested that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts some of the locations where the drainage system has been installed for feedback.

A Member stated that the Council needs to be mindful of how relatives feel and the flooding needs to be addressed.

RECOMMENDED that a test run at a cost of £1.5k is carried out along with phase 1 and then Members to decide if they wish to carry on with phase 2.

PE115/20

SEAHAM TOWN PARK CCTV

RECOMMENDED that the purchase of the CCTV cameras at Seaham Town Park be approved at a cost of £4k.

The meeting was then closed by the Chair.