

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD MARCH 2020**

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs B E Allen, R Arthur,  
Mrs G Bleasdale, S P Colborn,  
D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings, K Shaw.

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.*

### **PE70/20 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.

### **PE71/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020**

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman at the Full Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

### **PE72/20 PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES**

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

#### **1.0 MEETING WITH GREENSCAPE, VOLUNTEERING IN PARKS FOR BLOOM & INITIATIVE FOR REDUCING ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

It was noted that Members had previously requested that the Deputy Town Clerk organise a public meeting along with Greenscape to discuss improving parks such as Deneside, increasing wildflower meadows and to assist with bloom projects. This meeting has been arranged to take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 5.30-6.30pm at the Town Hall. The Deputy Town Clerk has advertised the meeting in the Seaham Today magazine and will also promote the meeting on social media to involve as much of the public as possible.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated with the proposed improvements to Deneside Park, he would suggest due to the previous vandalism caused by groups of young people on a weekend in the park that a security firm is employed by the Town Council to offer security on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday between April to October at a cost of £9,792. He noted that this cost could be reduced if it is found that Sunday's are quiet and this day could be cut.

A Member stated that she had attended a conference at the weekend regarding anti-social behaviour. It was noted that in the Glasgow area they are spending a lot of time and money attending schools to try and re-educate young people and suggested that this could be something that the Town Council could do along with other organisations such as the Police. A further Member noted that Deneside Park was a PACT priority and this would start again in the summer. The Police have already been to the schools and work has been done with the Police, Drug & Alcohol Teams and One Point. It was also noted that this topic had also been raised at the Youth Council meeting today.

A Member stated that he was happy with the proposal and the money would need to come from reserves but Members should be mindful that there will be many other issues that may bite into the reserves and therefore a prudent approach is needed and this will need to be monitored.

A Member questioned whether the security firm would also cover other parks as there are problems in other areas. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that they would cover other areas.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) A security firm is employed to cover Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the parks.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to look in to the possibility of contacting local schools to carry out talks regarding the local parks.

## **2.0 INFLATABLES ON THE PARKS RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES ITEM**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the inflatables ban has now been added to the risk management issues.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

## **3.0 YOUTH ART PROJECT**

Councillor Mrs L Kennedy declared an interest and took no further part thereon.

Ms Jess Hunt from East Durham Creates was in attendance at the meeting and informed Members that she is working with a group of young people from

Dawdon Community Centre and they have commissioned Mr James Holman who is based in Blackburn to work alongside the young people to create new trade union banners and create new song lyrics etc. The banners will be changed to permanent wall art in Seaham.

Ms Hunt stated that the group wish to use the Terrace Green for a finale parade and was requesting permission from the Town Council to do this on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.

A Member noted that the group have been given permission for the permanent wall art to be placed on the gable end of the Volunteer Arms.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the use of Terrace Green on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 for the finale parade.

**4.0 U3A & SEAHAM BLOOM LOGO'S PROPOSED FOR CIRCULAR BEDS ON NEW STRANGFORD ROAD**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the U3A would like a display on one of the circular beds on New Strangford Road to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve a circular bed to celebrate the U3A's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**5.0 ALLOTMENTS LEASE**

It was noted that there was a small amendment to be made regarding the keeping of machinery on the sites. The Deputy Town Clerk to add that machinery can be kept on site for animal welfare as well as for gardening purposes.

The Deputy Town Clerk also requested approval to work with the Associations over the next few weeks regarding the draft lease.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) The Deputy Town Clerk amends the lease to add machinery for animal welfare to be kept on site.
- (ii) Officers to start working with the Allotment Associations over the next two weeks regarding the draft lease.

**6.0 PARKS DEPARTMENT APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that at the Establishment Sub-Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 a discussion took place around the Gardening Apprentices being extended from 2 to 3 years in the future.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that they currently have a very good apprentice who is due to finish his apprenticeship in the Spring and wanted approval from Members to extend the contract for 1 year. Members were informed that the extra cost has already been budgeted for.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the extension for 1 year.

**7.0 PARKS DEPARTMENT USE OF CHEMICALS**

Members were provided with a sample list of the chemicals used by the Parks Department. It was noted that the chemicals were for professional use only and staff were trained to use these chemicals.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**8.0 DAWDON HILL ALLOTMENTS REQUEST**

Dawdon Hill Allotments have requested that the Council supply 100 tonne of road plaining at a cost of £500 following the work carried out to the trench and pipework by the Town Council.

The Town Clerk stated that Parkside Allotments had also requested assistance with manual work on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) Members approve the purchase of road plainings for Dawdon Hill Allotments.
- (ii) Members approve the manual assistance at Parkside Allotments on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**9.0 SPORTS FACILITIES LONG TERM LEASES**

The Deputy Town Clerk requested a working party be organised with Members and Officers to meet with sporting clubs to move forward on the leases.

RECOMMENDED that approval be given for Members and Officers to arrange a working party meeting regarding the sports club leases.

**10.0 VE DAY 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 11.00AM – 6.00PM TERRACE GREEN**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that traditional fairground rides are proving too difficult and expensive to hire for the day. However, there will be other entertainment available and the Deputy Town Clerk is looking into day time fireworks.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**11.0 NEW MARITIME FESTIVAL – 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2020 – 11.00am – 6.00pm – TERRACE GREEN**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that this event was now taking shape and the Town Council will be assisting with the sound and stage.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**12.0 SEAHAM FOOD FESTIVAL 13<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020 – TERRACE GREEN**

It was noted that as yet Durham County Council have not informed the Town Council of who the celebrity chefs will be. The Deputy Town Clerk will update Members once this information is received.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**13.0 SEAHAM BRASS EVENT 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2020 12pm – 4pm TERRACE GREEN**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that bands are currently being booked for this event and he will update Members on any new bookings.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**14.0 ARMED FORCES DAY – 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020 11am – 6pm SEAHAM TOWN PARK**

It was noted that this event will follow the format of the previous year.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**15.0 SEAHAM YOUTH FESTIVAL 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020 SEAHAM TOWN PARK 11am-5pm**

Members were informed that a new element to this years event will be the involvement of the local AMDRAM's.

The Town Clerk stated that a meeting of the Youth Council had taken place today and she would report this to the next Clerks Adivsory Sub-Committee.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**16.0 SEAHAM CARNIVAL WEEKEND 17<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020 TERRACE GREEN AND CHURCH STREET**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the fairground operator had agreed to providing 3 free rides for Church Street. He noted that there was no negotiation with the price of the larger rides as the land they are sited on does not belong to Seaham Town Council.

A Member stated that the Town Council are paying for the free rides and there should be a note at the side of the rides to say that the rides are sponsored by Seaham Town Council. Officers should ensure this is placed on the day.

RECOMMENDED that Officers place a note on the side of the free rides in Church Street to state they are sponsored by Seaham Town Council.

**17.0 PIRATES AND PRINCESSES FESTIVAL SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020 – TERRACE GREEN**

The organisation of this event is ongoing and the films are likely to be The Muppets Treasure Island and Treasure Planet.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**18.0 BEATING THE RETREAT FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 – TERRACE GREEN**

It was noted that this event is often referred to as a small version of the Edinburgh Tattoo. Members will be provided with any updates as they arise.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**19.0 SEAHAM FIREWORKS DISPLAY 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**20.0 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 8<sup>TH</sup> 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.

**21.0 SEAHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON – FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> 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.

**22.0      SEAHAM CEMETERY DRAINAGE ISSUE**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he is still waiting for a third quotation. Once received this will be provided at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**23.0      DAWDON PARK GENTS BOWLS PAVILION DEMOLITION QUOTES**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the pavilion is now partly demolished and this should be completed shortly.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information

**24.0      DAWDON CRICKET PAVILION OFFICIAL OPENING**

Members will be provided with further information once the work is complete which is expected in the next few weeks.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**25.0      REQUEST FROM SEAHAM TRINITY SCHOOL**

Councillor Mrs L Kennedy declared an interest and took no further part thereon.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had received a request from Durham County Council to have loan of the Seaham 1864 Model to display at Trinity Primary School.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the loan of the Seaham 1864 Model to Durham County Council.

**26.0      RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**27.0      UNION STREET**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the tenant wishes to install wooden fencing at his own cost.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the installation of wooden fencing.

**PE73/20      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.

The meeting was then closed by the Chair.

