

## **MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 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, K Shaw, T Shepherd, B Taylor, Miss L Willis.

Officers: 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.*

### **PE88/20 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.

### **PE89/20 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.

### **PE90/20 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

There were two nominations for Chair of Parks and Events Committee, Councillors B Taylor and K Shaw. This then went to a vote:

Councillor B Taylor – 8 votes

Councillor K Shaw – 8 votes

The Chair used the casting vote and Councillor B Taylor was elected as the Chair of the Parks and Events Committee for the ensuing year.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor B Taylor be elected as the Chair of Parks and Events Committee for the ensuing year.

### **PE91/20 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

There were two nominations for Vice-Chair of Parks and Events Committee, Councillors Miss L Willis and E Bell. This then went to a vote:

Councillor Miss L Willis – 8 votes

Councillor E Bell – 8 votes

The Chair used the casting vote and Councillor Miss L Willis was elected as the Vice-Chair of Parks and Events Committee for the ensuing year.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor Miss L Willis be elected as the Chair of Parks and Events Committee for the ensuing year.

**PE92/20**      **PSPO FOR SEAHAM**

The Deputy Town Clerk along with the Police and ASB Team submitted a request to Durham County Council for a PSPO to help reduce anti-social behaviour around certain areas of Seaham including Seaham Town Park and the Terrace Green. Durham County Council have responded to say that they consider that there are further steps and measures which can be taken and until these are exhausted a PSPO cannot be justified. A Member questioned what other steps the Town Council could take and the Deputy Town Clerk stated that Durham County Council had not given any recommendations, however he suspected that one measure could be CCTV.

A Member suggested that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts Durham County Council to question what further measures the Town Council can undertake.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts Durham County Council for recommendations on what further action the Town Council can take.

**PE93/20**      **POLICE CCTV**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the Police will contact County Councillors directly regarding this matter.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**PE94/20**      **TERRACE GREEN CCTV**

The Deputy Town Clerk noted that the CCTV had been discussed in detail at a previous meeting. The CCTV for the Terrace Green was not only for security purposes but would also act as a tourism tool for Tommy, the lighthouse and people would also be able to watch the sun rising at the harbour.

A Member noted that he had spoken to the Police regarding this and felt that there would be little or no point in this CCTV as the proposed Police CCTV would cover this area and this would be linked to live monitoring. The Member noted that the AAP funding for the CCTV is imminent and has been approved.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the idea of the CCTV for Terrace Green is not to replicate what the Police are doing but is more for tourism value and such events as the Carnival could be live streamed.

A Member noted that there would need to be clear policies in place if there

were surveillance cameras to which the Deputy Town Clerk stated that he would ensure that there was plenty of signage and a policy in place.

A Member stated that the camera the Deputy Town Clerk is proposing can facilitate tourism for the North East which wouldn't be available on Police CCTV and he would like to consider this. The seafront, docks, Terrace Green and sea views could all be viewed by members of the public.

A Councillor suggested that this item be deferred until there is more information from the Police regarding the cameras they will be placing at North Terrace.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred until further information is gathered regarding the Police CCTV at North Terrace.

**PE95/20 FENCING AROUND VANE HALL, BLANDFORD PLACE, SEAHAM**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the resident had agreed to pay the Council's costs regarding the agreement.

RECOMMENDED that this item is for information purposes only.

**PE96/20 CHRISTMAS LANTERNS PROJECT**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that Michelle Harland has suggested that due to the Christmas Parade not going ahead this year due to the pandemic, she would like to work with the schools to create lanterns so they can be displayed in various places such as in the top window of the Town Hall glass tower. The lanterns would also be displayed in family homes on residents doorsteps for a drone social media event. Ms Harland is requesting £2,500 in Town Council funding towards the project and she is currently looking for further external funding.

It was noted that they would be expecting approximately 2,500 lanterns to be made and these would be stored for 3 days due to Covid restrictions. It was also noted that Ms Harland would not enter the schools due to the current crisis.

Members requested that a grant application form is sent to Ms Harland to complete to request the funding.

RECOMMENDED that Ms Harland is sent a grant application form to complete and return to request the funding.

**PE97/20 GREENSCAPE**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Greenscape have confirmed that they are a community based organisation and not a charity.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had emailed a copy of Greenscapes constitution to a Member who had requested this at the previous meeting.

RECOMMENDED that this item was for information purposes only.

PE98/20

**ALLOTMENT ISSUES**

(i) **Complaints about Dogs Barking at Fishbone Allotments**

It was noted that Members were furnished with an email which had been received from Fishbone Allotment Association earlier today.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had worked to phase out the problems due to dogs barking and he had assisted the Police with dealing with crime at Deneside Allotments and this was now settled and Deneside was doing well and had signed the new agreement. He also noted that Ernest Field Allotments and Hall Street Allotments had also signed the new agreements and there were no problems on either of these sites.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he felt there was nothing further he could do regarding Fishbone, Parkside, Dawdon Hill and Wagon Works Allotments and noted he was willing to take a step back from dealing with these sites if Members were happy for him to do so due to various incidents and allegations that have taken place over a period of time.

A Member questioned whether the Durham County Council complaints had been dealt with at Fishbone Allotments to which the Deputy Town Clerk noted they had been dealt with and there were no ongoing issues.

A Member stated that he was interested in the Deputy Town Clerks comments regarding the situation he has found himself in and he was disappointed to hear that there was now a deadlock/stalemate with the Associations who have not signed the new lease. Councillors cannot ignore what the Deputy Town Clerk has stated and if there are existing people in the Town Council who can deal directly with the Associations then a proposal should be brought back to Members. Further Members felt that Councillors should be supporting the Deputy Town Clerk in this matter and if the Associations have any evidence of their allegations then they should provide them.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he has proposed moving to the side, however he would still wish to be involved with the Allotments and that Councillors should support his views on this matter. A Member stated that the Deputy Town Clerk had raised this issue himself and Councillors were obliged to listen to what he said for his welfare.

It was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk would meet with the Chair to discuss these matters further.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk meets with the Chair to discuss these matters further.

(ii) **Complaints about Caravans Fishbone Allotments**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that a plotholder had previously been asked to move his caravan to the opposite of the site. A plan of the site was given to Members and the plotholder stated he would move the caravan to a concreted area which is marked as no 3 on the plan.

To date the caravan has not been moved and the Deputy Town Clerk requested a deadline from Councillors for the caravan to be moved.

Members suggested that the plotholder should be given 10 days notice to move the caravan and this should be done in writing. It was suggested that the Deputy Town Clerk should ensure that this is done legally regarding the 10 days notice.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk writes to the plotholder giving 10 days notice to move the caravan and ensures that this is the legal amount of notice required.

(iii) **New Allotment Agreements**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that Deneside, Hall Street and Ernest Field Allotments have all signed the new agreement and have given the Town Council details of the plans and the names of the plotholders.

Wagon Works Allotments has an elderly gentlemen on site who has a car hobby and the Deputy Town Clerk needs to go on site and speak to the Association regarding this. To date the Association have not responded to the Deputy Town Clerk regarding him being able to visit. Members requested that the Deputy Town Clerk approaches the Association once more to try and visit the site. It was noted that for the Deputy Town Clerk to gain access to the site he would have to give formal notice in writing to the Association.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk writes to Wagon Works Association giving formal notice regarding access to the site.

PE99/20

**£200 TO SCHOOLS FOR HALLOWEEN**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that unfortunately the Council did not get this to the schools in time before the half term holiday and suggested that the funds could be given as part of the schools Christmas celebrations.

RECOMMENDED that £200 be paid to each school as part of their Christmas celebrations.

**PE100/20**

**FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AROUND SEAHAM**

- (i) The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had received a positive update from Ms Anson from Durham County Council. The works to Church Street are almost complete and these look very good. There had been a few issues with market traders but these have now been addressed. The improvement works to North Terrace are to be started once the Christmas trees and decorations are removed in January.
- (ii) Members discussed the request from a member of the public regarding a mural of Tommy being placed on the side of a building. It was requested that the Deputy Town Clerk writes to the member of the public to suggest that they contact businesses etc privately to see if they would like to help.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk writes to the member of the public suggesting that they contact businesses privately to see if anyone is interested in having a mural of Tommy on the side of their building.

**PE101/20**

**RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

**PE102/20**

**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.

**PE103/20**

**CCTV SEAHAM TOWN PARK & RECENT SLIDE/TOWN HALL DAMAGE**

The Deputy Town Clerk provided three quotations from various companies to Members prior to the meeting. It was noted that the cheapest and best quote was from a local company for £3,958.80. There will be three cameras, one facing the front of the Town Hall, 1 facing the entrance to the car park and another next to the play area and the camera will also have the facility to zoom towards the play gym area.

A Member questioned whether the cameras would be suitable for evidential purposes. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that its due to the situation whether they would be good for evidential purposes such as if people are covered up wearing hoodies etc then it would be difficult for any camera.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had liaised with the Police and they couldn't comment but they did provide contact details for the Crime Prevention Team who the Deputy Town Clerk will contact for further information.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk contacts the Crime Prevention Team to ensure the cameras are fit for purpose for Police evidence prior to purchase.

**PE104/20**

**PROPOSED DRAINAGE WORKS AT SEAHAM CEMETERY**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had sourced a further company who offer a unique solution that only they provide in the UK and that the pipework does not show on the surface of the grass and they offer a better option to move forward with improving the drainage at Seaham cemetery rather than just test holes being carried out.

This type of drainage has been used at Hartlepool cemetery and the Parks Supervisor is happy with it.

Members discussed finances for the drainage works and agreed that they would discuss this further at the Budget Sub-Committee meeting due to be held shortly. The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to bring further information to the Budget Sub-Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the finances for the drainage works at Seaham cemetery be discussed at the Budget Sub-Committee meeting.

The meeting was then closed by the Chair.