

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH JULY, 2021

Present: Councillors C J Thompson (Chair) and R Arthur, Mrs J A Bell, Mrs G Bleasdale, Mrs K Brace, Mrs S Forster, D Harding, R Lowery, J MacVeigh, Miss S Morrison, J Purvis, K Routledge, K Shaw, Miss J Watson, S Wayman, R Whitehead.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs L Kennedy, Mrs S Lingard.

Observers: Councillors Mrs H Cahill, Mrs R Charlton-Lainé, Mrs G M Fuller.

Officers: P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk), C Halliday (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.

PE76/21 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.

PE77/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 1ST JUNE, 2021

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of these meetings, copies of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, were approved at the Full Council meeting held on 22nd June, 2021 and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

PE78/21 ANNUAL ASSISTANCE FOR ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS

A proposal was brought forward that an annual maintenance budget of £1,000 be allocated to each allotment association site to ensure fairness. It was advised that this budget would be separate to any capital projects.

A Councillor suggested that items the association needs should be looked at when the association needs them. The £1,000 may not be enough depending on the requirements of the association.

A Councillor asked if the £1,000 would be handed over to each association every year to manage? It was advised the monies would remain with the Town Council and the Council would complete any orders as required the same as is done currently. The £1,000 allocation is so that all sites know they have funds available which they can request from the Council for use of skips or

materials. Any projects such as fencing or car parks which are larger costs would be applied to the Council as capital projects or external matched funders could be approached.

A Councillor asked if this was budgeted to cover all sites? It was advised this is a new proposal. The current budget is £4,000 and would need to be increased to meet these requirements potentially transferring from the current neighbourhood budget. This could be implemented from next year after budget allocations.

RECOMMENDED that the annual maintenance budget of £1,000 for each allotment association be approved.

PE79/21 URBAN GARDENING PROJECT – STREET SIGN FLORAL DISPLAYS

A Councillor asked if the Working Party for this has formed yet? It was advised it has not yet formed as this is an item which was from the recent Arts Committee. Due to Bloom judging happening shortly it is requested if the initiative can go ahead in a small scale prior to the Working Party being formed at which point the project can be reviewed.

A Councillor expressed concerns with maintenance and theft due to them being small installations.

A Councillor requested clarification if this would be carried out and planted by members of the public to hopefully instil pride in the community, hopefully get people involved. The worst that will happen is the plants go missing, if the community engagement is achieved then cost of flowers is worth it given the low cost of bedding plants and recommended the project be approved.

A Member suggested the project be trialled on a few identified locations first.

RECOMMENDED that the project be trialled on identified locations before being rolled out town wide.

PE80/21 PAINTING OF FENCING AND PLAY EQUIPMENT

It was proposed painting work on various sites including Parkside play area, Ropery Walk, Princess Road Cemetery and Seaham Town Park be contracted externally.

A Councillor requested Dawdon Park be added to the list of sites.

RECOMMENDED that

- (i) Members approve the works be contracted externally.
- (ii) Dawdon Park be included on the sites to be worked on.

PE81/21 **DEFIBRILLATORS**

It was proposed the Town Council assist with the installation of defibrillators across Seaham.

A Councillor advised local County Councillors are currently halfway through the process in understanding where the need for defibrillators is, with a co-ordinated approach. They recommended the Deputy Town Clerk liaise with the County Councillors to identify the additional need within the Town.

A Member asked if the one the County Councillors are looking at would be permanent units? It was confirmed them would be permanent units. The Member then suggested sites such as New Drive football and cricket, Seaham Town Park football and cricket, Dawdon be included. Another Member felt one at Parkside Community Centre would be beneficial.

The previous Councillor advised again the County Councillors are partway through identifying a network of defibrillators and are engaging to ensure town wide coverage and identify any shortfalls.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk work with the local County Councillors to identify the areas which additional defibrillator units are required within Seaham.

PE82/21 **RESURFACING OF SEAHAM TOWN PARK CAR PARK**

Quotes were provided for the resurfacing of Seaham Town Park car park. A County Councillor has offered £5,418.59 in matched funding towards this project.

A Councillor requested if there is a schedule detailing the works to be carried out? It was advised a summary has been requested and Officers are happy with the schedule of works. We have used the company previously and they have provided a good standard of work.

The Councillor queried that the cheapest quote is a lot lower than the others, does this include all the required tasks to complete the job? It was advised it does include all the required works.

Another Councillor queried that due to the cheapest quote being a lot lower than the others are we certain they are providing like for like? It was advised everything required is in the quote and we have works completed by the company before which we were happy with.

A Councillor asked if it would be dug up similar to how Station Road was as that was left in a poor state? It was advised Station Road works would have been Durham County Council not Town Council.

RECOMMENDED that the quote from MA Stanton be approved.

PE83/21 **SEAHAM IN BLOOM**

Members were informed this years judging will take place on the 9th July at 11am starting at Seaham Hall Car Park then going on a tour of Seaham. As in previous years local community groups are being contacted to assist.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

PE84/21 **DOG AGILITY EQUIPMENT**

Quotes were provided for dog agility equipment for New Drive.

A Councillor stated they do not think this should be provided by the Council as it would create additional work for staff, could be a target of vandalism and the potential for broken glass causing injury to pets.

A Councillor queried where the proposal came from? It was advised this came as a public suggestion.

RECOMMENDED that the purchase of dog agility equipment be declined.

PE85/21 **BENCH TO THANK NHS AND KEY WORKERS**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that Durham County Council approved the location but requested the potential finger traps on the benches be addressed. The supplier has addressed these concerns and added a plate to remove the hazard.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE86/21 **MEMORIAL TO MR JOHN HAYES**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that representatives have confirmed they are happy with the suggested location at North Road. The bench and plaque have been ordered.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE87/21 **DENESIDE PARK**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the benches have been ordered and a site visit was held.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE88/21 **REDUCING THE USE OF GLYSOPHATE AND OTHER CHEMICALS & INCREASING WILDFLOWER MEADOWS ALONG WITH OTHER SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated suggestions for more environmental and sustainable practices are being reviewed and will be brought back to this committee in October.

The Chair advised they have been contacted by Believe Housing with the view to arranging a meeting to look at possibly installing additional wildflowers on their sites. Once the outcome of their meeting is known the Chair will feedback to this committee.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE89/21 **SEWAGE POLLUTION**

A Councillor asked who the member of the public is and if their name could be provided?

The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members a meeting is to be held with the member of the public and the local MP on the 13th July to progress this matter.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE90/21 **MEMORIAL TO SEAHAM AIR RAIDS**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members at the meeting of the Working Party suggestions for a small service on 15th August on Terrace Green to acknowledge the air raids was raised. It is suggested a permanent memorial could be located in the flowerbed at the Clock Garden. The site is owned by Durham County Council so would require their approval.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE91/21 **EXISTING DETERIORATING BENCHES ON NORTH ROAD**

Due to the deterioration of the benches on North Road it is proposed to replace the remaining twelve benches.

A Councillor asked if money is in budget? It was advised it is in budget.

A Councillor asked if the currently installed ones could be repurposed? It was advised they are beyond repair due to age and the type of metalwork.

RECOMMENDED that the twelve benches at North Road be replaced in a uniform manner.

PE92/21 SEAHAM CYCLE ROUTES

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that a Zoom meeting is to be held week commencing 26th July with key stakeholders with a view to exploring options to improve cycle routes to, in and around Seaham.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE93/21 PARK SECURITY

It was advised banning notices had been recently issued to four youths causing issues at Seaham Town Park and the potential for them to be used at other sites is an option.

It was advised these have not been used within the last ten years but could not say for certain if they have never been used. Even though the land is public if we have evidence of individuals vandalising property, as landlords we can prevent those individuals coming back onto site. The orders seem to have worked so far since being issued. Other sites could be looked at if required details and evidence are gathered on repeat offenders.

A Councillor asked what process was utilised to enable the issuing of this banning notices? It was advised it was suggested by the Police. The Council then sought clarification from its solicitor to check the legality.

The Councillor asked if the banning orders are legally enforceable? It was advised they are legally enforceable.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE94/21 INACCURACY IN MINUTES OF PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD 30TH APRIL, 2019

A Councillor requested this item be deferred whilst additional information is gathered.

RECOMMENDED that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Parks and Events Committee.

PE95/21 HAWTHORN SQUARE PLAY AREA FENCING

Correspondence was received from Believe Housing seeking the Council's permission to install fencing around Hawthorn Square play area following safety concerns caused by vehicles.

A Councillor advised vehicle access concerns for this site have previously been logged with the Police.

RECOMMENDED that permission be granted for Believe Housing to install fencing at Hawthorn Square play area.

PE96/21 **RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE97/21 **PRESS OPPORTUNITIES**

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk promote suitable items were required.

PE98/21 **MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC**

Following the close of business, a member of the public in attendance requested the opportunity to raise a concern with the Council. The resident highlighted due to people feeding the birds at the Clock Garden it is causing the site to become unsightly and asked if signs could be erected.

It was advised the Town Council recently installed signs on the bins following a report of this issue. If the signs are ignored and it is identified the same person is repeated it could be possible to work with the Neighbourhood Wardens.

RECOMMENDED that the Neighbourhood Wardens be informed of the issue.