

MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 5th JANUARY, 2021

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

Apologies: 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.

PE01/21 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.

PE02/21 ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDED that Members accept the amendment to the standing orders to incorporate the new regulations from the Flexibility of Local Authority to conduct virtual Council meetings.

PE03/21 SOLAR PROJECT – TOWN HALL

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that to initiate the process there is a cost of £350 + VAT but this could be slightly higher once the Northern Power Grid do an initial assessment. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that it would be worthwhile the Town Council applying at this stage as there maybe future grant schemes available.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the £350 + Vat for the initial assessment to take place.

PE04/21 GENERAL ISSUES WITH THE CURRENT COVID CRISIS INCLUDING INDOOR AND OUTDOOR EVENTS

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had wrote the report prior to Christmas and since then restrictions have changed again with the country being in full lockdown.

A Member noted that he could appreciate what the Deputy Town Clerk had reported at the time, however the current circumstances have surpassed this report and he felt that things should be left as they are now until a time that it

is safe to do so. A further Member agreed that the Town Council should abide by the current rules and keep everyone safe.

RECOMMENDED that indoor and outdoor events are looked at again once it is safe to do so.

PE05/21 **TWO ADDITIONAL MEMORIAL BENCHES FOR TERRACE GREEN**

The Deputy Town Clerk proposed that two further memorial benches which are purchased by members of the public could be placed looking out onto the roadside. A map of the proposed site was provided to Members. It was noted that the benches are themed and these can be chosen by the purchaser.

A Member stated that a former Mayor had enquired about a memorial bench at Bessies Hole and also a plaque to be placed on a bench already insitu at the top of the docks. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he could assist with the enquiry, however the land at both sites belongs to Durham County Council.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) The two additional memorial benches at Terrace Green be approved.
- (ii) The Deputy Town Clerk to make enquiries with Durham County Council regarding the plaque on the bench at the top of the docks and also the memorial bench at Bessies Hole.

PE06/21 **CCTV – SEAHAM TOWN PARK**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the CCTV would be installed in early January at Seaham Town Park.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

PE07/21 **DRAINAGE AT SEAHAM CEMETERY**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the drainage works will start in early January at Seaham Cemetery.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

PE08/21 **COVID 19 MEMORIAL BENCH**

The Deputy Town Clerk shared a drawing from Mr Ray Lonsdale for a potential memorial bench to thank all keyworkers who have worked during the current pandemic. The Deputy Town Clerk advised Members that this item should be placed on hold until the current crisis has subsided.

RECOMMENDED that this item be placed on hold at present and be brought back to a future meeting.

PE09/21 **JOHN HAYS MEMORIAL**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had telephoned Mrs Hays and also emailed Hays Travel Seaham shop and is currently awaiting a response.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will report back to Members when he has further information.

PE10/21 **SPORTS MURALS**

The Deputy Town Clerk noted that he has contacted local sports clubs for feedback on who they suggest should be included in a mural. One club had responded to say they thought it may be better to have current sports stars on the mural. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he would feedback to Members at a future meeting once he had received further responses from other sports clubs.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk will provide further information at a future meeting.

PE11/21 **RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE12/21 **LIGHTING AT DAWDON PARK**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the lighting at Dawdon Park had gone off and this was in the process of being replaced.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE13/21 **MEMORIAL AT PRINCESS ROAD CEMETERY**

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the memorial in Princess Road Cemetery is currently being refurbished. There are a few corrections to be made to the memorial which included some names to be added and some names already on the memorial which maybe shouldn't be on.

It was suggested that a replica of the memorial could be placed in the clock garden at the seafront and the Deputy Town Clerk could look into the costs for this and also permission from Durham County Council to place a replica in the clock garden.

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Town Clerk looks into the costs for a replica memorial and also seek permissions from Durham County Council to place a memorial in the clock garden.

PE14/21 **INCLINE**

Following discussions with Network Rail they have agreed for Seaham Town Council to replace the bulbs in the lighting at the incline and then to recharge Network Rail. Network Rail have also agreed to clear the vegetation on the derelict land next to the underpass.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.

PE15/20 **SHORE FESTIVAL**

Michelle Harland has invited Councillors to attend a zoom meeting to discuss plans for the shore festival.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information.

PE16/20 **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS PRECEPT**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that he had emailed them all regarding the proposed increase to the PCVC precept. This item will be added to next weeks Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting agenda for futher discussion.

RECOMMENDED that this item be added to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting agenda for further discussion.

PE17/20 **PROPOSED STATIC CARAVAN SITE**

Members briefly discussed the proposed planning application for the proposed static caravan park. County Councillors noted that they had not been notified of any information about this from Durham but had made enquiries and were awaiting a response which they would feedback to the Deputy Town Clerk once this was received. Members requested that this item be added to next weeks Planning & Environmental Committee agenda

RECOMMENDED that this item be added to the Planning and Environmental Committee agenda for further discussion.

PE18/20 **CHRISTMAS BURIALS**

A Member stated that the Town Council currently has a shutdown for two weeks over Christmas which has resulted in worry for some families who wish for relatives to be buried over the Christmas period and questioned whether this can be looked into so burials can take place over the Christmas period if families so wish.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that this could be arranged for families who wish to bury a relative over Christmas and the staff can liaise with the funeral directors about this. He also noted that the Parks Department also have an emergency plan for gritting and floods etc over the Christmas period so staff can be called on to work if necessary.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the information provided.