

# Seaham Town Council



Seaham Town Hall, Stockton Road, Seaham, Co. Durham SR7 0HP  
Tel: Wearside (0191) 581 8034

Town Clerk: Dianne Rickaby  
Deputy Town Clerk: Paul Fletcher

## Meeting 2

DR/AR

27<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

In accordance with Paragraphs 7 & 10(2) (b) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

I hereby summon you to attend a Meeting of the PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE to be held **online** on TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 commencing at the rising of the Arts & Information Committee

Members of the press and public who wish to attend this meeting please email [info@seaham.gov.uk](mailto:info@seaham.gov.uk) to request the zoom login details.

**Dianne Rickaby**  
**Town Clerk**

## **A G E N D A**

**MEMBERS ARE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST, PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **1. ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT**

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 **DECISION REQUIRED** Virtual Council meetings.

### **2. PSPO FOR SEAHAM**

2.1 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 in areas of Seaham including Terrace Green and Seaham Town Park. Durham County Council has replied confirming that they "consider that there are further steps and measures which can be taken and are likely to have the effect of addressing the issues which

have been identified, and until such time these further steps and measures have been exhausted a PSPO cannot be justified”.

It is expected that these further steps include the CCTV currently proposed by the Police.

**DECISION REQUIRED** Members to note the information provided.

**3. POLICE CCTV**

3.1 The Town Clerk has asked for an update from the Police with regards to this initiative and will hopefully provide the update at this meeting if it has been made available.

**DECISION REQUIRED** Members to note the information provided.

**4. TERRACE GREEN CCTV**

4.1 Members will remember that a Seaham Town Council CCTV camera for Terrace Green was previously approved, however, this was put on hold while an understanding of the proposed Police CCTV was gained. The Deputy Town Clerk has previously explained that the Terrace Green camera will be of benefit even if the Police camera goes ahead as it has a tourism and events aspect to it and is not just important in reducing anti-social behaviour and therefore the Deputy Town Clerk requests Members to approve the installation.

**DECISION REQUIRED** Members to note the information and agree to the Terrace Green CCTV camera.

**5. FENCING AROUND VANE HALL, BLANDFORD PLACE, SEAHAM**

5.1 The resident has agreed to pay the Council’s costs and the proposed agreement is attached at Appendix A.

**DECISION REQUIRED** Members to note the information and approve the agreement.

**6. CHRISTMAS LANTERNS PROJECT**

6.1 Attached at Appendix B is a copy of the Deputy Town Clerks report for a Christmas Lantern Project.

**DECISION REQUIRED** Members to approve the project as detailed above.

**7. GREENSCAPE**

- 7.1 Greenscape have confirmed they are not a charity but a community based organisation and their constitution has been sent to a Member who requested to see it.

**DECISION REQUIRED** Members to note the information provided.

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

- 8.1 The Deputy Town Clerk will circulate separately quotes for additional CCTV at Seaham Town Park. The CCTV is needed to help reduce anti-social behaviour at the park and help the Police take any action if and when it does occur.

The Council has been working with the security firm and Police to try and catch those responsible for setting fire to the slides and smashing the window at the Town Hall. The glass for the Town Hall is currently on order and being manufactured and should be installed in the next couple of weeks. It is proposed to not replace the slide parts until Easter in the hope that during the winter months interest in burning the items wains and the play area can be as good as new ready for the busy Easter Holidays.

**DECISION REQUIRED** Members to note the information provided and agree the actions detailed above and the company to install the additional CCTV.

**9. ALLOTMENT ISSUES**

**9.1 Complaints about Dogs Barking at Fishbone Allotments**

Attached at Appendix C is correspondence from Durham County Council confirming quite clearly that contrary to what Mr Smith the Association representative stated at the last meeting that in fact it was two notices sent to two separate allotment plot holders and that they were indeed served as stated by Durham County Council "because we had audio evidence to demonstrate that barking was having a detrimental effect, of a persistent or continuing nature, on the quality of life of those in the locality and was unreasonable".

**9.2 Complaint about Caravans Fishbone Allotments**

As agreed at the last meeting the Deputy Town Clerk requested a site plan to see where the concrete pad and caravans were proposed to go in relation to the neighbour's boundary. Attached at Appendix D is what has been proposed with the caravans in the middle of the site and the concrete pad on the far side of the site. The Town Clerk has asked that the plot holder moves the caravans to the proposed location to see

whether they will be out of sight of the neighbour but as of yet this has not been done and it was thought that the neighbour and Councillors were actually wanting the caravans to go to the far side boundary and not in the middle. Councillors are asked to confirm exactly where they would like the caravans to go and instruct whether they want to impose a deadline and any further options in order to conclude the situation.

Attached at Appendix E is the latest correspondence from the neighbour. It is obvious that this issue has and will continue to be referred to the ombudsman if nothing is done and bearing in mind the evidence of past letters from the Council where the Council has requested the caravans to be moved it is important that the Council tries to conclude the issue now.

### 9.3 **New Allotment Agreements**

It was agreed to give the remaining allotment associations a month to sign the new agreement. As explained previously Deneside, Hall Street and Earnest Field have welcomed and signed the new agreement and have been grateful for the support the Council has given them in improving their sites over the years and are providing all the information the Council requires such as who and what is on each allotment plot and details of their governance and finances.

However, Fishbone and Parkside Associations have not signed and refused to provide the information to the Council that the others are providing. Dawdon Hill Association would like some items removed and Wagon Works would like one elderly plot holder to be allowed to keep his car fixing hobby to continue on site until he gives it up as he is in his 70s. It is hard to see how these requests can be approved as the whole idea was to come up with one agreement that all sites would follow and would phase out issues and provide better accountability but maybe the hobbying request is easier as there is an end in sight so it is phased out and evidence may be provided to show it is not commercial. Attached at Appendix F is the feedback sent to the Town Clerk.

The Council has already agreed to take over management of Fishbone and Parkside sites for an interim period and create new committees to work with. If the previous Allotment Association committee members do not provide the Council with a plan detailing who has what on site and who has paid what then the Council will have to invite plot holders to register their interests on the site to the Council directly.

**DECISION REQUIRED** Members to note the information being provided above to decide and provide instruction to Officers on how they want items 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 to be dealt with.

**10.           £200 TO SCHOOLS FOR HALLOWEEN**

10.1           Unfortunately we did not get this to the Schools in time before the half term and therefore it is suggested that it can go out now as help towards their Christmas celebrations or look at trying to support those families who need it during school holidays.

**DECISION**Members to note the information being provided above and to decide on  
**REQUIRED** how they want to issue the funds.

**11.           PROPOSED DRAINAGE WORKS AT SEAHAM CEMETERY**

11.1           Further details of the proposed drainage improvements works are circulated separately. The information details that the company provides a unique solution only they provide in the UK and that the pipe work does not show on the surface of the grass and they offer a better option to move forward with improving the drainage rather than just test holes being carried out.

**DECISION**Members to note the information being provided and approve the works  
**REQUIRED** as detailed.

**12.           FURTHER IMPROVEMENT AROUND SEAHAM**

12.1           It is hoped that Durham County Council will have provided an update on improvements around Seaham so they can be shared at this meeting including the Church Street and North Terrace works.

12.2           Attached at Appendix G is a request from a member of the public wanting to help get an image of Tommy on the side of a building.

**DECISION**Members to note the information being provided and decide how to  
**REQUIRED** respond to the request for help with the Tommy image.

**13.           WATER QUALITY ISSUES**

13.1           Water quality issues have been discussed for many years at Seaham Town Council and partnership work with Bob Latimer and Seaham Environmental Society has helped to keep the water companies held to account for pollution. Attached at Appendix H is the latest information provided by a local environmental activist.

**DECISION**Members to note the information provided and agree to write to the  
**REQUIRED** Environment Agency asking for an explanation why the discharges are still so high and what has been planned to ensure they are reduced in the future.

**14. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 14.1 There are financial and health and safety implications with regards to items on this committee report particularly in light of the current virus crisis. However all risks have been minimised by careful risk analysis and consultations with industry experts. The majority of the issues in this particular report are low risk both from a financial and health and safety point of view and any risks follow industry best practice and guidance from the Health and Safety Executive. All larger events such as the Carnival and Fireworks Night are organised in partnership with the local Police, Fire brigade, Durham's Safety Advisory Group. Smaller events are risk assessed and managed internally. Thorough risk assessments are compiled and inspections of the sites carried out prior and on the day of the events. Inflatables such as bouncy castles, big inflatable slides, walk in inflatable mazes etc are banned from council owned land due to the risk of injury however attractions that use for example inflatable sides for safety and protection as part of a larger non inflatable ride are allowed. Financial risk is reduced by the above reducing the risk of public and employee liability claims however the financial risk of an event not attracting large crowds due to poor weather conditions is always a problem in particular with free events.

**DECISION** Members to note the information.  
**REQUIRED**