

**SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2010 AT 2:00PM
AT MORESBY PARKS DEPOT**

Present: Councillors Mrs W Metherell (Chairman); Mrs E Eastwood; G Garrity; F Gleaves; K Hitchen; J Jackson; J Park; Mrs C Watson; P Watson; Mrs J Williams and Mrs M Woodburn.

Officers: A Johnson, Interim Scrutiny Consultant; J Hall, Customer Services Officer, R Walsh, Acting Parks Development Officer; J Davis, Parks Operations Officer; A McKinnon, Enforcement Manager and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Apologies for absence: Councillors F Heathcote and W Southward.

SSC 17/09 Introduction of New Scrutiny Support Officer

Members were introduced to the new Scrutiny Support Officer, Jessica Hall, who will be in post from 15 March 2010.

SSC 18/09 Minutes of the Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2010 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SSC 19/09 Site Visit of Moresby Parks Depot

Committee began the meeting with a tour of the Council's Moresby Parks depot with Parks Operations Officer. Members were shown various items of machinery including Grass Cutters, Chippers/Shredders and a brief explanation of each was provided.

The Parks Operations Officer was thanked for the tour.

RESOLVED – That the site visit be received.

SSC 20/09 Quality of Parks/Green Spaces

The Acting Parks Development Officer delivered a presentation to Committee on Improving the Quality of Copeland's Parks and Open Spaces.

Members were advised that the standard of Parks and Open Spaces in Copeland was high with four Green Flag nominated sites and three Green Heritage nominated sites with the borough.

Members were also advised that the focus was on six key areas; Quality, Design, Management, Access, Promotion and Sustainability.

Community participation was also key and the Council was working with Schools, Housing Associations and Community Groups.

The Acting Parks Development Officer was thanked for her presentation.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be received.

SSC 21/09

Grass Management, Herbicide Management and Nature Conservation

The Parks Operations Officer delivered a presentation to Committee on Grass Management, Herbicide Management and Nature Conservation.

Committee was advised that the Parks operation had obtained contracts not only in Copeland, but also in South lakes, Eden and Carlisle. These contracts would be covered by seasonal staff.

With regard to grass cutting, this occurred from February to November and included roadside verges within 40 mph limits across the borough.

Members were advised that Roundup Pro-biactive 450 was the preferred Herbicide, however, it was necessary for the weed to grow before it could be treated.

Members were also advised that a Pest Control Operative had been trained in dealing with moles.

During the discussion that followed, Members asked why grass cuttings were left on some areas and not others. A request was also made for clarification regarding footpaths/footways within the Lake District National Park.

The Parks Operations Officer was thanked for his presentation.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be received.

SSC 22/09

Environmental Crime – Education and Awareness

The Enforcement Manager delivered a presentation to Committee on the work undertaken by the Council's Enforcement Unit to combat Environmental Crime through education and awareness.

This included Fly-Tipping and Littering, Dog Fouling, Dog Barking and Noise Nuisance, Stray Dogs, Graffiti and Fly-Posting, Nuisance and Abandoned Vehicles, Commercial Waste, Residential Waste, Gypsies and Travellers.

An overview of other enforcement activity including Licensing Enforcement, Markets and Parking was also made.

The Enforcement Manager was thanked for her presentation.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be received.

SSC 23/09 **Time Limit on Meetings**

At this point, the time limit on meetings was reached. In accordance with Standing Order 13.1.a, it was moved, duly seconded and;

RESOLVED to continue in the normal manner and complete the business remaining on the agenda.

SSC 24/09 **Work Plan**

Members considered the Committee’s updated Work Plan.

RESOLVED - that the Work Plan be received and updated.

The Meeting Closed at 5:10 pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....