



PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Date of Issue: 5th March 2024

A Meeting of the Resources Committee will be held on Monday 11th March 2024 in The Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee, SR8 2PH at 6.30pm

Mr I Hall

Acting Chief Officer

AGENDA

Any members of the public wishing to attend Shotton Hall to observe the meeting are strongly advised to contact the Council in advance to reserve a seat:
council@peterlee.gov.uk or 0191 5862491

Members of the Committee and members of the public are reminded that the public part of the meeting may be recorded in both audio and video, and photographs may be taken.

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are cordially invited to inform the Deputy Town Clerk of their apologies as soon as practicable.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Members are reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Please seek advice from the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk prior to the meeting if in doubt.

Members are reminded that they can check their published declaration of interests here: <https://bit.ly/2wVyeLA>

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

Members are recommended to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Resources Committee on Monday 15th January 2024 as a true and correct record.

(Minutes of previous meeting, copy attached)

4. Notes of the Scrutiny Meeting held on Friday 1st March 2024

To note the information contained in the notes of the meeting
(copy attached)

5. Town Council Insurance Arrangements 2024/25

To confirm the arrangements for the Town Council's insurance cover for 2024/25 following a review of provision by the Interim Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk
(verbal report to be provided at the meeting)

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2024 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN R MOORE (CHAIR)

Councillors: K Liddell, M Mc Cue, S Simpson, R Burnip, H Stockport, D Hawley, K Hawley, R Scott & D Howarth

48. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors D Quinn, A Laing, K Duffy and T Duffy.

49. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Councillor Scott declared a non-pecuniary interest but did not leave the meeting on the item relating to the planning application for the mast and associated apparatus.

50. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED the minutes of the previous meeting of the Resources Committee held on Monday 13th November 2023, be approved as a true and correct record.

51. Houses in Multiple Occupation

This item had been requested by Councillor Rob Moore. There was a discussion on the issues of concern and County Councillor L Fenwick who was in attendance at the meeting stated that she was making enquiries about the situation. It was suggested that Mears Housing and Aptitude Property Investments may be active in the town at the moment and it was agreed that both organisations be contacted and invited to a future council meeting to provide information about their intentions in the town.

RESOLVED further information be reported back to the Committee in due course.

52. Installation of mast and associated apparatus, Land West of 8A Church Close, Peterlee

A number of Members spoke to this item, and it was noted that there had been a substantial level of local opposition to the application with dozens of local residents objecting as well as objections from Councillors and the constituency MP. Cllr D Howarth confirmed that she had requested that the matter be called in to Durham County Council's Planning Committee rather than being dealt with as a delegated decision.

RESOLVED the Town Council submit an objection to this planning application on the grounds of it being an inappropriate location and recommending that an alternative non-residential site be identified.

Councillor Scott asked for it to be noted he was disappointed that several Peterlee County Councillors were not in attendance at this meeting to consider the previous two important issues discussed.

53. Notes of the Events Sub Committee held on 19th December 2023

A copy of the notes are attached for Member's attention the contents of which were noted.

54. Draft budget and precept requirement 2024/25

Members considered the report from the Town Clerk setting out the draft budget and precept requirements for the 2024/25 financial year. Following a discussion on a number of issues including the 3% increase needed to offset the Durham County Council LCTRS grant reduction and planned movements in reserves, it was **RESOLVED that the Committee recommend to Council that:-**

(i) **the 2024/25 precept be set at 1,773,832.91 which is equivalent to an increase in individual Band A households' council tax of £40.79 for the year or 78 pence per week (equivalent to a 13% increase);**

(ii) **the 2023/4 charges for general council services and activities be increased as set out in the report; and it was**

FURTHER RESOLVED that the May 2016 '2% referendum resolution' be formally rescinded as advised by the Council's External Auditor.

55. Exclusion of The Press & Public

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the committee passed the formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 & the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, Part 1, due to the commercial and personal information contained in the report.

56. Arrangements for the recruitment of a New Chief Officer & Town Clerk

Members were provided with confirmation of the resignation of the Chief Officer/Town Clerk and asked to consider the award of contract for the recruitment process to fill the vacancy and to provide interim locum arrangements. The resignation of the Deputy Town Clerk/Democratic Services Manager was also reported. It was **RESOLVED** that further deliberation on the available options was required and that the report be referred to the full Council Meeting to be held on 22 January 2024.

DRAFT

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2024

PRESENT: COUN K HAWLEY (CHAIR)
D Hawley, A Laing, D Howarth, R Scott, K Liddell & R Moore

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Michelle McCue. RESOLVED the apology be noted.

10. The Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 16th October 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and approval as a true and correct record. RESOLVED the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record.

11. The Pavilion, Helford Road

Members discussed The Pavilion and their thoughts on how they want it to play a part in the community. Discussions surrounded the current running costs, what services they felt needed improving or offered and the recent short-term changes to building operations due to staff shortages.

The Clerk advised that Members need to agree on a clear purpose for the building, whether this be community based or commercial. It was explained that discussions were in progress regarding what the Pavilion currently offers users, however, if Members would like the building to be open during the normal operational hours then the decision to fill the current vacant role needed immediate attention. RESOLVED that the Committee support the Officers' recommendation to fill current vacant role. FURTHER RESOLVED that a Scrutiny Committee meeting be convened on Friday 15th March 2024 at which Members would put forward their ideas for the purpose of the building and its services moving forward.