

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON TUESDAY 7TH APRIL 2015

PRESENT: COUN C BATY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, V Watson & K Hawley

Messrs:- S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, R J Curtis, J Alvey, C J Metcalfe, D Milsom & A Watson

MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

The Chairman advised Members of the committee that part of the meeting may be recorded by both audio and video, and it may be that photographs were taken.

The Chairman of this Committee felt he was not well enough to Chair the meeting. C Baty was then nominated to take the Chair of the meeting.

129. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been previously submitted and accepted from Councillor L Wood, (ill), G Cowie, (ill), C Robbins, (ill), L Cook, (Princes Trust Meeting), M A Cartwright.

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reasons submitted for absence received from Councillors on the grounds given above, and their apologies for absence be recorded.

130. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING a copy of which had been previously circulated, were approved.

131. PETERLEE'S FIRST BUSINESS CONNECTOR

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Vanessa Sexton, Business Connector, Peterlee to the meeting. Mrs Sexton explained about herself, her role and objectives. Her post was a secondment to Business in the Community by HMRC from December 2014 to November 2015, with an overall commitment of 3 years Business Connector Support in Britain's most deprived areas. The task was to identify community needs, connecting people and organisations to address needs which tackle social issues; promoting education, employment, enterprise and community cohesion. This would involve talking to people and networking. Community and voluntary organisations identifying their "wish list" and matching people from across the public, private and third sector. This would be taking place in East Durham, anywhere there was a need, and the focus would be on Peterlee and the most deprived wards.

Mrs Sexton then went on to give details of her journey and work to date and what issues and actions and what was in progress. She hoped the Town Council could assist by raising awareness of her and her role, helping her to network, giving some feedback and suggesting ways that she may be able to help and support her in generating an enterprising culture in Peterlee.

The Chairman opened the meeting up for a question and answer session which covered comment on the Youth Centre, CEDNNR and superfast broadband in the Town Centre. In closing the Chairman thanked Mrs Sexton for her informative address and coming along to the Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.

132. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 19TH MARCH 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was approved.

133. POLICE STATISTICS

Members were circulated with a copy of the Police report as discussed at the Council Meeting. It was explained the report could be circulated in advance of the council meeting, as long as it did not duplicate work or result in any negativity from the meeting due to the report not being fully up to date.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted and the Police be thanked for supplying the report.

134. POLICE & CRIME PLAN 2015-2017

Members were circulated with a message received from Ron Hogg, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Durham giving details of the feedback received following consultation on the refreshed Police and Crime Plan.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.

135. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EAST DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2015

Members were circulated with a copy of the minutes of this meeting.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.

136. COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – VARIOUS ITEMS

- (i) Meetings of Parish Meetings
- (ii) Grants for War Memorials – War Memorials Trust
- (iii) Welfare Assistance Scheme
- (iv) Local Council Working Group - update

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.

137. PETERLEE & DISTRICT SUNDAY LEAGUE CUP FINALS – REQUEST FOR CONCESSIONARY USE OF THE PETERLEE NEWTOWN FOOTBALL GROUND

Members were asked to give consideration to a request to use the Eden Lane Newtown Ground for a maximum of 6 Cup Final Matches. Details of Officer's recommendations were given to assist Members in their consideration and it was agreed that support should be given. It was asked if the Secretary's help could be enlisted with the issues relating to indiscriminate parking at the sports pitches by the Teams and their spectators.

RECOMMENDED free use be granted for this use and plenary powers be garneted to advised the Secretary of the League immediately so that he could make the necessary arrangements.

138. SLCC – NEW 2015 REGIONAL ROADSHOW – DURHAM WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE 2015

RECOMMENDED three places be reserved on this Event for Councillors Metcalfe, Jeffrey and the Deputy Town Clerk.

139. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING 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 1985.

140. STOCK REPORTS PERIOD ENDING 17TH FEBRUARY 2015
(A) Shotton Hall
(B) The Pavilion

Consideration was given to the stock reports for the above period for all of the Town Councils licensed premises.

RECOMMENDED that the reports be accepted.

141. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – CORPORATE PROCUREMENT

RECOMMENDED this item be considered further at the Parks & Cemetery Meeting to be held on Monday 13th April 2015.

142. RESPECT & DIGNITY, MUTUAL RESPECT & DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY & MEMBER/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS PROTOCOL

Councillor K Hawley requested the conduct of Members be placed on the agenda for consideration at this meeting. She referred to recent issues and felt that something needed to be done about officers feeling under pressure. She referred to the Code of Conduct that every Member had signed up to abide by and she felt the Council should be enforcing it. Members had been circulated with copies of the above policies for their reference to assist in considering this matter. There was a lengthy discussion on the matter and the various ways in which this unacceptable conduct could and should be tackled.

RECOMMENDED the Town Council's support for the Deputy Town Clerk be recorded. FURTHER RECOMMENDED further attention be given to the enforcement and adoption of the Policies already in place governing how the Town Council operates.