

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON MONDAY 4TH APRIL 2016

PRESENT: COUN K HAWLEY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- S Simpson, L M Wood, M A Cartwright, S
McDonnell, V Watson & M J Thompson

Messrs:- D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook & R Kyle

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.

119. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors K Liddell, (other commitments), J Alvey, (ill), G Cowie, (ill), H Bennett MBE, (ill), A Watson, (on holiday) and C J Metcalfe, (family commitments).

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

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 183- Internal Audit Services

To note that at the Council Meeting it had been agreed that Durham County Council be requested to provide the internal audit service for the Town Council.

121. TWINNING

The Chair welcomed representatives of the Peterlee & Nordenham Friendship Association to the meeting, Mr Gil Stokoe, Mr Wally Henderson and Mr Maurice Brown.

The Representatives thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to come to the meeting and make a presentation to Council which covered the concept, history, future, keys to success, where to find help, financial help with Twinning. Details were also given on the Peterlee & Nordenham Twinning and the Peterlee-Nordenham Friendship Association. The history of the visits to and from the Twin Town and both the Town Council's and Friendship Association's involvement in them.

In closing it was suggested that all needed to reflect on what could be done to ensure the continuation of Town Twinning.

There was a question and answer session was held which included comments on young people being involved; grants; the popularity of twinning in Germany; increasing awareness of Town Twinning, reciprocal visits by the Town Officials.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for preparing the information and coming along to the Meeting, which was felt to have been worthwhile.

RECOMMENDED in the light of the presentation the Council consider further the Councils involvement in Town Twinning and how it may be able to assist financially.

122. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE 10TH MARCH 2016 & 31ST MARCH 2016 copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

123. PUBLICATIONS, MINUTES ETC

- (a) NALC Newsletters
- (b) DIS Extra Issue 879 & 880
- (c) Bulletins on National Developments & Meetings
- (d) New Briefing on NALC web site – S 137 Expenditure limit for 2016/17 & Copyright
- (e) Future Audit Arrangements, further communication

- (f) Letter from Chief Constable Mike Barton
- (g) Minutes of the Meeting of the East Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils of the 19th January 2016

Members were circulated with extracts of the above documents and updates, with full copies being made available on request.

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

124. RECENT TV ARTICLE

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter from a previous resident of Peterlee following a recent TV article shown on Look North which featured the Town Council.

There were differing views on the article and reference was made to how issues were being portrayed to the public by elected Members. At this point reference was made to the recent electors meeting called by residents and the way in which issues and matters relating to Council business had been raised and openly discussed there.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.

125. REQUEST FOR A GRANT – COUNTY OF DURHAM SCHOOL BENEVOLENT FUND

Consideration was given to this request and background information in relation to support given within the Town was given. It was asked if the fund could refer Peterlee families to the Town Council so that Councillors could provide support directly. This was to be clarified.

RECOMMENDED progress be awaited.

126. 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
127. STOCK REPORTS PERIOD ENDING 22ND FEBRUARY 2016
(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. It was asked if the takings on a weekend had increased at the Pavilion and it was advised this would be checked and the Member given the information.

RECOMMENDED that the reports be accepted.

128. PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES & SUPPORT

Members were advised that Mr Dougal Swan was to move legal practices and it was requested that approval be given to complete outstanding issues with Mr Swan; Members were also asked to consider future legal services provision for the Town Council.

Reference was made to comments that had been made at the recent public meeting.

RECOMMENDED approval be given for issues to be completed with Mr Swan. FURTHER RECOMMENDED the provision of legal services and support be put out to tender to firms that had both local authority law and employment law experience.

129. LEASE & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE PREMISES AT EDEN LANE

Members were circulated with extracts of this paperwork for their approval. There were several comments made about the management of car parking at the site and it was asked that this be discussed further at the progress meetings held with Horden Rugby Football Club.

RECOMMENDED approval be given for the lease to be signed between Peterlee Town Council and Horden Rugby Football Club for the use of the premises at Eden Lane.

130. COSTINGS TO REPAIR THE ROOF OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING AT WOODHOUSE PARK – TO RECEIVE SEALED TENDERS

RECOMMENDED this matter be deferred to the Parks & Cemetery Committee.

131. CODE OF CONDUCT ISSUE

A Local Member raised the issue of Members conduct and she made allegations about actions demanded by her, being blocked.

The Mayor assured that she had received the correspondence referred to and had re directed the complaint to Durham County Council.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted and progress be awaited.