

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2017 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: COUN S MILES (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- S McDonnell, K Liddell, M A Cartwright & K Hawley

Messrs:- G L Carne, L Cook, C Robbins, R Kyle, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins & 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.

117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted and accepted from Councillors S Simpson, D Sillito, R J Curtis, H Bennett, C J Metcalfe and G Cowie.

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

118. Citizens Advice County Durham

The Chair welcomed Neil Bradbury, Chief Executive and Sarah Ward, Client Services Manager for Peterlee & Seaham Offices of Citizens Advice Bureau, County Durham Citizens Advice (CA) to the meeting. An overview of the services and support provided at the CA hub in Peterlee every week was given for Members. Three days of drop in advice

sessions are offered in Peterlee every week along with an advice line which was available 5 days a week. The service was lead by volunteers and in 2015/16 had over 800 unique clients with over 1,600 appointments provided, with an approximate impact on the local economy of Peterlee of £2m. Help was provided on all sorts of issues with a large percentage on benefits and debt advice. With the changes to the benefits system it was anticipated this demand would rise significantly. Other services were offered from the Peterlee Office such as a food bank, Northern Rights, duty solicitors, Durham County Carers and Welfare Rights. Reference was made to the closure of Walkers/Pepsico and the work the CAB were to begin with their employees. There was a brief question and answer session.

RECOMMENDED consideration of a grant to the CA County Durham be considered further at item 125 and the Officers be thanked for their attendance.

119. The Minutes of the Last Meeting a copy of which had been previously circulated, were approved.

120. Report of the Scrutiny Meeting of the 3rd February 2017

The Minutes from this meeting had been circulated to each Member for their consideration and information.

RECOMMENDED the minutes be accepted.

121. The Report of the Finance Sub Committee Meeting of the 9th February 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was approved.

122. Peterlee Youth Opportunities – Notes from the 1st Meeting of this Group held on 1 February 2017

Members were asked to note the discussions of the Group relating to Youth Provision in Peterlee. This report was of particular relevance to the ongoing conversation regarding youth provision in Peterlee. Members were also asked to note that the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk would continue to participate in this Group and keep Members updated. It was also asked if the Town Clerk could get clarification on

the ownership of the Youth Centre.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted and progress with discussions, be awaited.

123. Summary of Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31st March to 31st December 2016

Members were asked to receive the summary report circulated and a verbal report on variances was given at the meeting by the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDED the report be accepted.

124. Publications, Minutes, Bulletins etc

- (a) The Durham Ask – an opportunity to provide services locally
- (b) Charter & Charter Revision
- (c) DCC – Outcome of the Gambling Act 2005, Statement of Principles consultation
- (d) Parish Polls
- (e) Direct Information Service, Issue 901 – NALC news, other news, planning, rural affairs and events
- (f) Section 137 expenditure figure for 2017/18

It was noted that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for local (parish and town) councils in England for 2017/18 was £7.57.

The majority of the information given had been received via CDALC. Members were requested to note the information listed and points of particular interest were given at the meeting.

RECOMMENDED the information contained in the bulletins and circulars be noted.

125. Town Community Initiative Fund

The report of the Deputy Town Clerk advising of the balance of the fund was circulated and Members were asked to consider the use of the remaining balance of the fund. It was suggested those that still had all of their allowance available should be contacted and reminded it needed to be awarded by no later than 31 March 2017.

At this point Members also gave consideration to a grant under s142 (2A), Local Government Act 1972 Citizens Advice County Durham and amounts were **RECOMMENDED** as follows:- **Councillor M A Cartwright £480.00; Cook £130; G Cowie £100; K Hawley £250.00; W M Jeffrey £200; R Kyle £100; K Liddell £150.00; G L Carne £150.00; C J Metcalfe £385.00; S Miles £100; C Robbins £450.00; C Watkins £200; A Watson £100. FURTHER RECOMMENDED** a letter be sent to those that still had funding available to seek their wishes on how they wished for it to be used (if at all) and this be considered further at the Council Meeting.

126. Requests for a Grant/Concessionary Use

(a) Acre Rigg Social Club Over Sixties

Members considered this request for help with expenses for coach trips out, stationery, bingo books, raffle tickets, club cards etc in club lunches and social gatherings.

RECOMMENDED grants be made under s19 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 as follows:- **Councillor S McDonnell £50.00; K Hawley £50.00; G L Carne £50.00; K Liddell £50.00 and S Miles £50.00.**

(b) Horden & Peterlee RFC

Members considered the request from Horden & Peterlee RFC to use the Banqueting Suites at a concessionary rate on 13th May 2017 for an Awards Evening, with approximately 180 persons attending.

RECOMMENDED free use be granted as a concession under s19, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, subject to 150 persons attending the event.

(c) AIMS - Health & Well Being

Members considered this request for funding and were given details of the project.

RECOMMENDED grants under s19, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 of £90.00 Councillor K Hawley; £130.00 L Cook; £70.00 Councillor McDonnell, G L Carne £50.00, S Miles £100.00 with £460.00 being funded from virement of underspend with plenary powers granted to the Town Clerk.

(d) Event Fundraising in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK & Merrington Twins Wish List,

Members considered the request for concessionary use of Shotton Hall Friday 22nd December 2017, that had been deferred from the previous meeting.

RECOMMENDED free use be granted of the Banqueting Suites be granted for this event.

(e) Letter of Thanks & Appreciation – East Durham Trust

Members were circulated with this expression of thanks and appreciation following the recent grant being awarded to this organisation.

RECOMMENDED the information given, be noted.

127. Automated External Defibrillator Policy

This Policy had been referred from the Health & Safety Meeting for consideration and adoption and a copy of the policy had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED the use of the automated external defibrillator policy for the equipment held at The Pavilion, be adopted.

128. Peterlee Show, Medical Cover & Fireworks and Training

Members were requested to consider the tenders for the Show and for the training provision contained in the report a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member.

RECOMMENDED:-

(i) that the quotation of Company A, NERAMS of Ferryhill in the sum of £1,781.87 and £405.62 excluding vat for the provision of medical cover for the Show and Fireworks, be accepted.

(ii) that the quotation of Company A, Nemisis of Cheshire in the sum of £2,250.00 and £3,640.00 for the provision of Fireworks at the Show and on the 4th November 2017, excluding vat to be accepted.

(iii) approval be given to commission Durham County Council to provide the training courses for Council staff, for manual handling; food hygiene; risk assessment; COSHH; working at heights, Spring maintenance of fine sports turf and Cricket wicket preparation and maintenance using the training budget within this financial year. The total cost would be approximately £2,480.00 funded from the current training and development budget.

129. Brewery Tenders

The Town Clerk advised that evaluation of the tenders received had been carried out on 3rd March 2017 and a report would be considered by the sub group appointed to consider this service provision on Friday 10th March 2017. A further report would then be made to Council for approval.

RECOMMENDED the action taken be endorsed and a further report be awaited.