

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.**