

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE
ON FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2020 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT: COUN K HAWLEY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- D Howarth, & K Liddell

Messrs:- S Miles, R Moore, G Carne & T Duffy

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors L Fenwick, K Duffy, C Watkins & S McDonnell. **RESOLVED the Council approve the reasons submitted at the meeting for absence received, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

2. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. No declarations were offered.

3. To review the financial impact of the COVID pandemic upon the Council's budget and services

The Town Clerk had produced a presentation following the timeline of the COVID 19 pandemic and PTC's reaction to it. He outlined the financial impact based on the Council's two main commercial operations at the Pavilion Sports & Community Centre and Shotton Hall banqueting suites. The Clerk presented actual income and expenditure figures for Quarter 1: April to June and then provided projections for Quarter 2 ie to end of September 2020. There was discussion on the Government's guidance on reopening of facilities, potential future scenarios, and the Town Council's current levels of reserves.

Members suggested holding regular Scrutiny Committee meetings to review and track the financial impact of the COVID situation and it was **RESOLVED that a Scrutiny Committee meeting be held on a monthly basis to monitor the financial impact of the COVID situation.**

4. To exclude the press and 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 1961 & the Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, paragraph 1.

5. Staffing – Parks & Cemetery Department

This item had been referred to Scrutiny Committee from the Council Meeting held on 27th July 2020. Members asked for further information on the recommendation and option presented at the Council meeting. There was also discussion about the various employment schemes available to employers and the Parks Manager reported back on conversations he had with East Durham College and the Skills Mill organisation. There was discussion on the current workforce and the impact of the three posts coming to an end at the end of September 2020. Following consideration of the item in some detail it was **Agreed this item be referred back to the Council Meeting to be held on 17th August 2020 with a recommendation that consideration be given to extending one or more of the temporary posts in the department as per the original report.**