

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE  
ON FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

PRESENT: COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames: - D Howarth, M McCue, J Black  
& K Hawley

Messrs:- M Sanderson, R Burnip, G Johnson, R Moore & B  
Fishwick

5. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors K Liddell & D Hawley. **RESOLVED the Council approve the reasons submitted at the meeting for absence received, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

6. 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.

7. 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, paragraphs 11, (due to sensitive commercial and staffing nature of the issues being discussed).**

8. Shotton Hall

Members and Officers continued discussions from the previous meeting about future options for Shotton Hall with the benefit of additional background information from the Clerk.

The Clerk provided an update on issues/progress since the previous meeting including the major damage caused by water ingress to the civic offices following the recent theft of lead to the roof. The Clerk confirmed that the costs of the remedial work were to be the subject of an insurance claim.

The Clerk confirmed that work was underway to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced professional services consultancy firm to work with the Council on a costed options report. This report would provide the Council with as much detail as practically possible about the state of repair of the building, investment priorities, and potential funding sources.

Members offered suggestions on areas of grant funding, and he asked that Members send through any further suggestions they may come across and he would investigate them.

The Town Clerk also spoke on other issues that were facing the council with its buildings and services and that one of the options would be consolidating the operations from Eden Lane and Shotton Hall. There was also discussion on the costs of repairs and servicing vehicles.

**RESOLVED the Clerk's progress report be noted and the Clerk report back to the next meeting with a further update as well as information relating to the Parks Depot at Eden Lane and previous expenditure on vehicle servicing and repairs.**