

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PETERLEE TOWN
COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 18th APRIL 2011

PRESENT: Coun. MRS L WOOD (CHAIR)

Mesdames: M Milsom, J Black,
S McDonnell & J I Measor

Messrs: W M Jeffrey, R Curtis,
T Jones, D Milsom, J Hardy,
C Austin, R Kyle, H Bennett MBE,
R Huitson, D Langan, R Jones, C J
Metcalf, J Alvey & C Watkins

***MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO
DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.***

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Ripon to the meeting.

Mr Ripon thanked the Council for the opportunity to come along and speak on a matter relating to his allotment garden at Lowhills Road. He felt he had been “rail roaded” off his allotment, with charges made against him, meetings held by the Association, and he had not been allowed to go along and explain or have his say. Mr Ripon felt that he had not broken any rules.

RESOLVED that information given, be noted, and the full report of the meeting with the members of the Association, be submitted for Member’s consideration to the next Parks and Cemetery Committee.

242. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors:- G Cowie (ill) and E W Hall (cannot drive/stroke).

243. POLICE -UPDATE

There was no representative from the Police at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

244. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 225 – Stocktake Summary Sheets – Itemized Tills & Supply of Beer & Lager

The Acting Town Clerk advised that a quote was awaited and a meeting of the Shotton Hall Sub-Committee would be held on Monday 9th May 2011.

(b) Minute Number 227 – Staffing Restructure

A draft letter had been circulated to Members for consideration, a suggested alteration had been made to the letter.

RESOLVED that the letter with suggested amendments, be approved and all Members of Staff be sent a copy.

(c) Minute Number 230 – Drainage Problem at the Pony fields, Seascape Primary School - Progress

The Acting Town Clerk advised urgent action was still awaited from Durham County Council. It was confirmed that the wayleaves had not been signed off.

RESOLVED that progress be awaited, and until this issue was fully resolved no completion be agreed on any of the easements.

(d) Minute Number 231 – CCTV The Pavilion

The Acting Town Clerk advised of information from the Architects the CCTV installation was a later, additional instruction by Peterlee Town Council, and was not part of the original scheme brief. Neither DTA nor them had any input into the design of the CCTV scheme, and it was suggested Steadfast would be in a better position to furnish the Town Council with a copy of the original specification and quotation. It was suggested that this be considered further at the meeting of the Helford Road Working Party to be held on 19th April 2011.

RESOLVED that Members be advised on the outcome of this meeting.

245. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR’S COMMITTEE OF THE 21ST MARCH 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

246. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW MEETING OF THE 31ST MARCH 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

247. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH APRIL 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 193 - Digital Durham Event, 7th April 2011

Councillor McDonnell had attended the above event on behalf of the Council and her report had been circulated to Members.

RECOMMENDED that Councillor S McDonnell represent the Council at any future relevant event.

a) Minute Number 195 - Peterlee Football Club

The Acting Town Clerk advised that the Peterlee Newtown Football Club had paid £581.00 for Season 2009/2010. The fee for Season 2010/2011 was still outstanding.

The Ladies Team which ran separate to the Men's Team had asked the Council for consideration in paying their fees for Seasons 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 in instalments in the sum of £248.00 per month until cleared.

RESOLVED that the Council agree to the Ladies Team paying in instalments in the sum of £248.00 per month until the debt was cleared.

b) Minute No. 200 Devil Wear

RESOLVED an update be provided on this project.

c) Minute No. 204 – Able Construction

The Leader gave Members an update on this matter and advised a further meeting was to be held with the Architect and the Council's Solicitor.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and Members updated on the outcome of this meeting.

d) Minute No. 206 – NAC

Members felt very strongly about attendance at these meetings and mentioned the expenses of Executive Members attending their meetings.

RESOLVED that a further letter be sent to NAC on this matter.

248. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH APRIL 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 51 – MDA Presentation on behalf of Tesco

The Acting Town Clerk advised of a response from Mary Dryden to a query Members had at the presentation, with regard to the proposed library to be built at their new Store in Newton Aycliffe. It was confirmed that no mandate had been given to any Member of the Town Council to attend the Planning Meeting, either to support the Tesco bid, or otherwise.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

249. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH APRIL 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 93(b) – Casual Staff

The Acting Town Clerk advised she had contacted Ellis Whittam who could provide an Employment Law Specialist to do an on site visit at a cost of £800 - £1,000 plus overnight expenses, alternatively, a Human Resources Specialist at a cost of £600 with no overnight expenses.

Members suggested that the Acting Town Clerk contact Mike Brodie at NEREO, to ascertain a cost for this specialist service.

RESOLVED further investigations be made into obtaining specialist, legal employment law advise and details be provided to progress this matter.

250. THE REPORT OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 6TH APRIL 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

251. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 11TH APRIL 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- a) Minute No. 91 – Durham Miners Gala – Advertising

RESOLVED that the Council do not take up any advertising this year.

- b) Minute No. 90 – Power of Well Being - Donations

RESOLVED that as given as best practice issued by NALC, the decision to use the power be included in the minutes and publicised on the Council’s web sites and About Town and these be included in the Annual Report

252. THE REPORT OF THE INFORMATION CENTRE COMMITTEE OF THE 11TH APRIL 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- a) Minute No. 17 – Visitor Figures

RESOLVED every effort be made to ensure that “true” visitor figures for the Centre were gathered.

- b) Staffing

RESOLVED that a seasonal member of staff not be taken on this Summer, and holidays be covered by the existing staff.

253. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 11TH APRIL 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- Minute Number 123(c) – Fees & Charges – Town Band

RESOLVED that the GT Group Town Band’s room hire charge be brought in line with other

User groups at The Pavilion.

FURTHER RESOLVED the Council's representatives meet with Trevor Langthorne and the Acting Town Clerk provide them with further details as to their application for financial assistance.

254. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application had been submitted;-

Proposed Change of use from open space to private garden & side extension

At 54 Cheviot Place,

For Mr Keily

RESOLVED that no comments be made on this application.

255. ARMED FORCES DAY “FLY A FLAG”
SATURDAY 25TH JUNE 2011

The Acting Town Clerk advised Members of the above event and asked if the Town Council wished to participate again this year.

Members agreed that this event be held at The Pavilion this year and a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits be provided afterwards. It was also suggested that Horden Cadets be invited to take part along with the cadets from Peterlee.

RESOLVED that this event be held on Monday 20th June 2011 at The Pavilion, Members be sent invitations nearer the date.

256. 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, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

257. STOCK TAKE SUMMARY SHEETS

The Leader requested that in future this item be reported solely to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

258. INSURANCE RENEWAL

RESOLVED that this item be placed on the Finance and General Purposes agenda for consideration.

259. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report which covered the following items:-

a) Betty's Bash – Thank You

The Leader read out a card from Mr Bill Burnett, thanking the Council for granting concessionary use to hold a Charity night in memory of his late Wife, Betty, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. The evening had been a huge success raising £11,000.

b) Appointment of Town Clerk

The Leader advised a new Town Clerk had been appointed, namely, Jane Russell, who would be commencing as soon as medical clearance received and satisfactory references.

c) Special Planning Meeting

The Leader advised that there would be a Special meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on Wednesday 20th April at 2pm to meet with the Town Centre Operators with regard to the town centre re-

development proposal.

d) Councillor George Cowie

The Leader advised Members that he had visited Councillor Cowie and he was on the road to recovery after his recent accident.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.