

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 16TH APRIL 2012

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

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HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 16TH APRIL 2012

PRESENT: J HARDY (CHAIR)

Mesdames: S McDonnell, L Wood & J Black

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

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

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A 15 MINUTE “OPEN SESSION” WAS HELD TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL. TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING.

(i) Eden Lane Community Facility

Mrs Patterson was in attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Eden Lane Resident’s Group. She explained there was a huge group of passionate people interested in the future of the Eden Lane Community Facility and they wanted to know either way if the Town Council would consider was it on their agenda or have the Town Council ever considered, allowing the residents of Eden Lane take over the running of the Football Club.

Mrs Patterson was advised she would receive feedback from the Town Council in due course.

(ii) Car Parking in Castle Dene Shopping Centre

Mrs Laverick had come along to the meeting to report her concerns with the car parking available in the Town Centre. Particularly, she wished to highlight that disabled people were not properly provided for in respect of parking and access to many of the parts of the Town Centre. Mrs Laverick was assured this issue would be discussed further by the Town Council and that the Town Council would be making representation to the appropriate parties involved.

RESOLVED that the Town Council support Mrs Laverick's concerns and raise the issues with both the Town Centre Manager and the Local MP at meetings arranged to consider parking etc.

192. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted from Councillor C Robbins, (on holiday).

193. POLICE REPORT AND UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Neighborhood Police Team Inspector Coxen to the meeting. Members were given an update on crime statistics since the last meeting. Issues were reported on the 101 contact telephone number to be used for non emergencies and the Police gave details of how this telephone number was staffed and also in detail how Peterlee Station was currently staffed.

An update was given on issues raised at the last meeting:

- Vibe night Club – there was a bid for new CCTV monitoring to cover this area, but incidents had reduced since last year and no incidents had been reports at the Pub Watch Meetings;
- Parking outside of the bingo had been identifies as a “hot Spot” by the Police;
- Five other hot spots had been identified and the Police were working in partnership with premises owners/operators to reduce problem issues.
- The Police were still investigating the road traffic incident with the mini bus and a car reported previously. It was

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assured that the Town Council wanted to stop incidents happening again before there was a major accident.

The Leader voiced the Town Council's frustration with the way feedback was supplied by the Police at the monthly Council Meetings. The Town Council Members wanted to know what was happening in the Town and to receive full responses on issues that were highlighted as important to the Town Council. Inspector Coxen gave an undertaking that he would ensure that all issues raised by the Town Council would be investigated and reported back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED thanks be recorded for Inspector Coxen's attendance at the meeting and for his positive feedback on issues.

194. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 19TH MARCH 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
195. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH MARCH 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
196. THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE 26TH MARCH 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
Matters Arising
In connection with Minute Number 39(ii) it was noted that it was confirmed that following this accident the member of staff in question had been absent from work. **RESOLVED this be included in the minutes.**
197. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 26TH MARCH 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 36 **RESOLVED** that the minute be amended to include the reason that Councillor Austin had left the meeting over the issue of cold food being served.

(ii) Minute Number 44 – Stock report **RESOLVED** that it be noted that there issues with wastage at the Pavilion also.

(iii) Minute Number 45 it was **RESOLVED** further investigations be made into Organisations' funding and for future concessionary use applications a full breakdown of financial position continue to be requested. **FURTHER RESOLVED** contact be made with the East Durham AAP on this particular matter.

198. THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL FINANCE MEETING OF THE 27TH MARCH 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

The Town Council's representatives on the Castle Eden Dene Joint Management Board assured they would keep the Town Clerk informed on progress with the Dene. It was agreed that the Town Council's support needed to be included in any promotional material or advertising.

RESOLVED the clauses contained within the asset transfer from Peterlee Development Corporation relating to Castle Eden Dene NNR, be investigated further.

199. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW WORKING PARTY OF THE 28TH MARCH 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

200. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 29TH MARCH 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

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201. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND APRIL 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

RESOLVED all Officers be reminded of the requirement under Financial Regulation 8.4 where the Town Clerk may incur or authorize urgent expenditure subject to a limit of £2,500.

203. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND APRIL 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

204. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND APRIL 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Members asked for clarification as to how overtime was allocated to staff. The Town Clerk explained existing procedures and reported that all arrangements would be reviewed and discussed with staff as part of the establishment review.

RESOLVED the Town Clerk monitor overtime allocation and ensure overtime requirements were fully considered during the review.

205. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 3RD APRIL 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

RESOLVED an urgent meeting be arranged with all Members to discuss the progress with the Eden Lane Community Facility.

206. THE MINUTES OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH APRIL 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor R Kyle as being shown as in attendance.

207. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH APRIL 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

(i) Tree Planting

RESOLVED Councillor Austin have a tree planted in the grounds of Shotton Hall.

(ii) Lowhills Road – Gate

RESOLVED letters be sent to all Football teams advising of the rules of their use, and the parking issues be re enforced. **FURTHER RESOLVED** arrange for the works for the gate to be carried out quickly and the recycling bins re located.

208. FLYING THE FLAG FOR THE ARMED FORCES – 30TH JUNE 2012 – CONSIDERATION

RESOLVED this event be held once again at the Pavilion on Monday 25th June 2012 at 10.30pm.

209. NOTIFICATION - PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED – DALTON PARK

Members were advised of receipt of details of planning permission being granted for the proposed retail unit, hotel, cinema, food and drink retail units, petrol filling station, creation of new access and landscaping, (out line application). After taking all relevant matters into account, it was considered that there would not be such an adverse effect on amenity or any other grounds to warrant a refusal of planning permission. Thus it was considered that the proposal was acceptable and planning permission was granted.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

210. SECTION 116 – HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
UNCLASSIFIED ROAD – PROPOSED STOPPING UP ORDER OF
HIGHWAY ADJACENT TO NUMBERS 1 – 33 YODEN WAY,
PETERLEE

This matter had been previously been considered at the close of last year. The Town Council had lodged a holding objection on the proposal. A Plan would have been posted on site and advertised in the local press. This would then be the opportunity for owners/tenants and anyone else to advise Durham County Council of their objections and their reasons for doing so. It would be up to the Magistrate to decide whether the objection(s) is/are upheld and the Order refused or approved.

RESOLVED that no comments be offered by the Town Council on this proposal at this stage.

211. HELFDOR UNITED COUNTY CUP MATCH

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED that Mr Robson be issued with a final written warning regarding his conduct.**

212. 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.

213. WORKS TO THE MAST AT EDEN LANE – VIRGIN MEDIA

Members were circulated with details of a request received from Virgin media to carry out works at Eden Lane to their equipment.

RESOLVED approval be given for these works to be carried out.

COUNCILLOR J BLACK DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND TOOK NO PART IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ENSUED.

214. APPROVED JUDGMENT – STEVEN BURROUGHS v PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council Leader, Councillor Jeffrey, advised that on the advice of his legal representative he would make a short statement in relation to this item. He would not answer any questions, if they were to be put, they needed to be done so in writing to his legal representative, (details of which he would supply in due course).

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Town Clerk prepare a **full report on any actions required to improve processes, policies or procedures at the Town Council as a result of this judgment. FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk carry out an investigation as to why the information had allegedly been held back/not provided to the Town Council at the time the judgment was made. **The findings of the investigation to be brought back to Members as soon as possible.**

215. EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL - UPDATE

The Town Clerk gave an update with this staffing matter and pointed out the confidentiality clause that Members must comply with in this case. Any general issues arising from this case that would require action or having impact on future operations at the Town Council would be reported back to Members in due course.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and endorsement of the action taken in this regard, be given.

216. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

- (a) Annual Report
- (b) Bars Audit – The Pavilion

RESOLVED these reports be considered further at the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

217. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader had no verbal report to make to the meeting this month.