

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014

PRESENT: COUN D MILSOM (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, M Milsom, M Thompson, J I Measor, V  
Watson & S Simpson

Messrs: C Watkins, C J Metcalfe, W M Jeffrey, J Alvey, D  
Sillito, R Kyle, G Cowie, C Robbins, F Price, A Watson & L  
Cook

**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. THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE  
PUBLIC PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

145. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted and accepted on behalf of  
Councillors R Curtis, (ill) & K Liddell, (other commitments).

146. POLICE - UPDATE

Ms Jepson & Ms Homes, PCSOs were in attendance at the meeting and the  
Chairman welcomed Officers to the meeting. Details were given on

incidents and nuisance calls received. It was reported there had been a huge reduction in the calls regarding off road motor cycles with fixed penalty tickets being issued. It was reported there were still issues with a bike in the Lancaster Hill area. Details of other reports made were given for Members and it was stressed by the Police they needed intelligence to help them stop thefts. In discussion there was consideration of the issues surrounding McDonalds with there and Asda being the most popular areas where young people were tending to congregate in the cold weather. The problems and frustrations of the Officers were given at the meeting and an offer was made by the Town Council to support the Police with their efforts and they send an appropriately worded letter to McDonalds and Asda.

Members asked about how the mobile scrap dealers were being controlled and details were given that dealers would be stopped if they were not displaying the appropriate permit and Durham County Council would prosecute. Members asked what was the law with the operation of horse and traps. The Police said they would look into this and report back to a future meeting. It was reported that no reply had been received from Ron Hogg about the traffic issues on Durham Way/Passfield and it was asked if this could be progressed and given extra attention with patrols. It was stressed that this was a problem at all schools and patrols were also requested for Acre Rigg Primary School. The continuing issue with the behavior of taxi drivers was discussed, parking in laybys sticking out onto the highway and taxis blocking the already limited space in the small car park next to the Post Office.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted and letters to Asda and McDonalds be sent.**

147. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor C Baty only being recorded as submitting her apologies and not being present at the meeting.

Matters Arising

(ii) The Minutes of the Twinning Sub Committee Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013, being recorded as accepted.

(ii) Police Report

It be noted that thanks were expressed from residents of Matterdale Road

to the Police for their recent support and work.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

148. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
149. THE REPORT OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
150. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 103 – Strategic Risk Management– further consideration

Councillor Jeffrey reported that the recommendation of the Town Clerk to use the council's insurer's to do the work on updating the council's approach to Risk Management, be dismissed. He suggested that the Town Clerk undertake the work and training that the Auditor had deemed necessary on Risk Management, in house. The Town Clerk responded that this would be undertaken, although meeting the auditor's timescale in completing the work and the training would be a challenge alongside the other priorities members had identified.

**RESOLVED that the required update of the council's Risk Management approach and training be carried out in house, by the Town Clerk.**

- (ii) Event Plan

Members asked for further details on the Pantomimes that were to be shortly hosted by the Town Council. They were unclear as to when these events had been approved and it was asked that this be clarified.

**RESOLVED further information be given to Members on the series of Pantomimes being held in January 2014.**

(iii) Stock Reports – Line Cleaning

**RESOLVED any Member wishing to see the line cleaning process first hand make the necessary arrangements with the Facilities Manager to visit Shotton Hall.**

151. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

152. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute number 56 - Absence Report

**RESOLVED that it be noted that the figures were not accurate and needed to be corrected. It was also suggested that future reports include details of hours worked by staff on a phased return to work programme.**

153. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

(i) The Bistro Operation – Further consideration

Consideration was given to a further report prepared by the Acting Manager in relation to the continued operation of the Bistro. It was felt there needed to be more information provided on the service ie at what level and at what costs the operation was best operated at, before decisions could be made regarding permanent staffing arrangements. It was considered that current temporary contracts could only be extended on a month by month basis until this was clarified.

**RESOLVED a further report be submitted as soon as possible and this be part of the budget considerations.**

(ii) Children's Christmas Party – Balance Sheet

**RESOLVED it be noted that the figures given in the balance sheet did not tally with those given previously, this be corrected and re submitted.**

(iii) Usage Report

It was asked that every effort be made for this to be issued to Members prior to the meeting to allow full consideration of the content.

**RESOLVED this course of action be followed.**

154. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Councillor Alvey thanked the Town Council for their support with a donation made to the valuable service of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Watson asked for the reasons behind not offering a grant to Haswell & District Mencap. Members of the Clerk's Advisory Committee explained their deliberations and how and why they reached the decision they did not to support this organization with a donation .

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

In relation to the Town Clerk's professional membership renewal it was **RESOLVED it be noted that this was at a cost of £212.00.**

155. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

156. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW WORKING PARTY OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Clarification was requested on actions carried out following the meeting and it was explained that it was understood that was the purpose of the

Working Party; to expedite matters that required action prior to the Show Meetings beginning in February each year.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

157. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(i) LAND NORTH OF CASTLE EDEN BREWERY  
CREMATORIUM UPGRADED ACCESS & ASSOCIATED  
WORKS

Whilst appreciating this did not fall within the Parish boundary Members felt such an operation would be an asset to residents of the Town.

**RESOLVED that no objections be offered on this application.**

(ii) FORMER THORPE MATERNITY HOSPITAL, ANDREWS LANE  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 50 NEW DWELLINGS  
FOR WOODSIDE LEISURE LTD

There was considerable discussion on this application particularly in relation to the former use of the site. It was reported by a County Councillor that she understood there was to be a Memorial Park within the site to acknowledge this. **RESOLVED concerns be expressed in relation to pressure on existing schools places, increased traffic, drainage/flooding near to the site.**

158. GARDEN PARTIES 2014

Members were circulated with details of this year's event and how to go about applying for a place/ticket.

**RESOLVED any Member wishing to be put forward for the Garden Party do so at their own expense, as was the current policy.**

COUNCILLOR WATSON VOICED HIS OBJECTIONS TO THIS ITEM BEING LISTED ON THE AGENDA STATING THAT IN HIS OPINION PARISH & TOWN COUNCILLORS SHOULD NOT BE POLITICAL.

159. POLITICAL LEADER'S REPORT

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The Leader reported that he was in London the next day with the Larger Local Councils Executive Committee where the main topic would be the budget. He reported there were tickets available for a social event at Easington on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

160. BUDGET SETTING 2014/2015

The Town Clerk had prepared a briefing note for all Members, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting. This paper outlined the implications of possible capping/referendum measures for Parish & Town Councils with a Band D Council Tax rate of in excess of £160/170.00.

**RESOLVED this be considered further and in more detail at the budget setting meeting to be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**