

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT:- COUN D MILSOM (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, C Baty, M Milsom & V Watson

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

**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.

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

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors J I Measor, (family issues) and L Wood, (on holiday).

The Deputy Town Clerk circulated a letter received from Councillor Frank Price seeking a dispensation for his non attendance, from the Town Council on the grounds of his ill health. It was **RESOLVED**

**further advice be sought on this matter and consideration of the request for a dispensation received from Councillor Price, was deferred.**

64. POLICE - UPDATE

The PCSO David Edson was present at the meeting along with Danny Harland, [Parking and Transport Infrastructure Team Leader](#), Jenny Graham, (Parking Services Supervisor) and Rebecca Yong, Licensing Enforcement Officer from Durham County Council who had been invited to the meeting. It was explained the behaviour of taxi drivers had been a concern of the Town Councils for some time now and it seemed like every month issues were raised at this meeting.

It was assured that Officers did spend time monitoring the ranks in the Town and letters had been sent out to operators. It was stressed that problems and issues should be reported to Officers via the office so that appropriate enforcement action could be taken. The offer was made to attend future meetings if and when requested. It was also assured that a programme of joint enforcement would be carried out to tackle the issues raised at this meeting.

PCSO Edson gave a progress report for Members and answered issues raised with him. He reported on pro active patrols in Woodhouse Park and that the force were trying to find a consistent way of dealing with off road motor bikes. It was reported David Coxon Neighbourhood Police Team Inspector, was moving posting from Peterlee. It was asked that an expression of thanks and appreciation be made on behalf of the Town Council.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

65. ITEM FROM THE MAYOR

Civic Mayor's Duties

The Following quotes had been taken for the web site gov.uk  
“Many councils have civic Mayors. They carry out ceremonial duties and chair meetings but cannot make decisions about council business”, also, “the full council is responsible for all decisions”.

The following quote is sourced from the Local Government Association, “Once you are Mayor you will need to be outside of party politics, be prepared to be apolitical for one year”. This was for information only. Councillor A Watson commented that he felt the whole Town Council should be in his opinion apolitical and this was a view shared in the “Good Councillor Guide”.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

66. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 38 – Apologies for Absence

There was a typing error and recoding should have read “recording” and it should also be amended to read “all future meetings”. It was agreed that there needed to be a policy put in place for public participation. Councillor Watson advised that he would not record a member of the public without their consent.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) **a public participation policy be considered by the Governance Working Group and presented to Council when drafted;**  
(ii) **Standing Orders be amended to reflect the changes that had recently taken place with regard to the recording of meetings.**

- (ii) Planning Applications

**RESOLVED that further information be requested on the planning variation submitted by Tesco Stores and how this affected the main application.**

- (iii) Annual Parks Inspection

**RESOLVED arrangements be made for a Parks Inspection to be held shortly.**

- (iv) Cellar Cooling System – Burdon Suite Bar

**RESOLVED it be clarified with the Facilities Manager if this had been a repair or replacement of the system.**

67. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

68. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

An expression of thanks and appreciation had been received from a member of the public, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member. The author said he had attended the event with his wife and friends on both the Saturday and Sunday and had a fantastic time. He said the bands were outstanding on the Saturday and that the change in tempo with the rock and roll theme on the Sunday catered for all over the weekend. He had also heard comments on how clean the porta loos were and that staff should be recognized for all the hard work they had put into the weekend. He felt the organization and commitment from all involved with the show weekend should be applauded, with the cleaning of the arenas and safe environment being second to none. The only negative he had was that he wished funding would allow for more events or music shows like this during the summer months.

**RESOLVED the letter be received and the thanks and appreciation be fed back to all involved.**

69. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 42 - Flying the Flag for the Commonwealth, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**RESOLVED the Town Council support the event and it be held at The Pavilion.**

70. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to

each Member, were agreed.

71. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
72. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
73. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were considered. Following considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED the minutes of this meeting be agreed.**
74. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor Cowie's name not being included as being present at the meeting.
- Matters Arising
- (i) Proposed Stopping up of Highways  
**RESOLVED further information be obtained on this proposal.**
- (ii) Land at Essington Way  
**RESOLVED the Ambulance Station be asked if they had any objections to this proposal.**
75. MEETING OF THE SUB GROUP HELD TO CONSIDER THE FIREWORKS EVENT ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Following this meeting a further report had been prepared by the Show Co Ordinator/Administration Assistant a copy of which was circulated to each Member at the Meeting. It was stressed that if the event was to go ahead every effort should be made in publicity

issued to stress those attending should try to walk to the event, and, if this was not possible they should park in the overflow car parks to be provided off site. The suggested road closure arrangements were also circulated for Member's feedback.

**RESOLVED the fireworks event be held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**

76. CHANGE TO STANDING ORDERS AND POLICY DOCUMENT FOR COUNCILS

An update issued NALC was circulated for Member's information. This matter had been considered earlier in the meeting at item 66.

**RESOLVED Standing Orders be amended to reflect the changes that had recently taken place with regard to the recording of meetings.**

77. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Due to the lateness and length of the meeting Councillor Jeffrey had nothing to report.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

78. SPOKESPERSON OF THE FAIR & INDEPENDENT PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Watson commented that some Members appeared to have a scorched earth policy and he felt there was only a slight chance of moving forward with a current issue and he saw a bleak future ahead.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

79. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC  
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE ASKED TO PASS 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 1985.

80. LEGAL ADVICE & SUPPORT

Members were advised of receipt of advice from Smith & Graham Solicitors. It was reported that a direct access request had been made to legal chambers and advice received and taken as a result of this advice. It was recommended that the council pursue with a single minded determination a resolution of the grievance. It was felt the Council had a duty to do everything within its powers to see this matter resolved.

**RESOLVED the course of action as suggested, be followed.**

81. SICKNESS ABSENCE TRAINING FOR MANAGERS

Endorsement of action taken in arranging for training, supported by Durham County Council, in sickness absence management was requested. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that there were a number of places available for Members should they wish to attend also, if they could let he know as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED the action taken in arranging this training at a cost of £230.00, be endorsed.**

82. TOWN TWINNING - KARIN & GUNTER TONJES – 50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**RESOLVED the Town Councils best wishes be sent to Mr & Mrs Tonjes on their special anniversary.**