

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT:- COUN D MILSOM (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- C Baty, L Wood, M Milsom, K Liddell, J I Measor, S Simpson & V Watson

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

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.

Mr Duffy was in attendance at the meeting, he had sent a letter to the Town Council regarding the issues he wished to raise and a copy of this had been circulated to each Member. This letter explained that gardeners at the Thorntree Gill site wished to break away from the Lowhills Road site and he outlined the reasons behind this proposal.

COUNCILLORS W M JEFFREY, C J METCALFE & J ALVEY ALL DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER.

The Mayor thanked Mr Duffy for coming along to the meeting. The Council then considered the request made by Mr Duffy on behalf of the gardeners at the Thorntree Gill site. It was reported since the letter had been received the AGM of the Peterlee Leisure Gardeners Association had been held and they had agreed the Town Council

should be informed of the desired split. Members felt that as long as the Thorntree Gill site members were confident they could run their site independently, they had no issue with the split and accepted the proposal unanimously.

RESOLVED approval be given for PLGA to split into two entities, Lowhills Road and Thorntree Gill sites. FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Council be updated with progress with this move.

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies submitted for the meeting.

84. POLICE – UPDATE

The Police were unable to attend the meeting but were to forward a copy of their report that would be circulated to Members. It was asked if the issue of motorists double parking outside Seascape Primary School could be raised with the Police.

RESOLVED this matter be brought to the Polices' attention.

85. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 15TH SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 63 – Apologies for Absence – Legal Advice received from NALC

The Deputy Town Clerk gave details of the advice received from the Solicitor with NALC that the Town Council had not approved the reasons for the Councillor's non-attendance as per s.85 (1) of the 1972 Act; this meant that he ceased to be a member on the expiry of the relevant six month period. In simple terms **accepting was not the same as approving the reasons for acceptance.**

This meant that Councillor Prices' request for a dispensation to be granted could not be considered as it fell outside the six months, and that, due to the non attendance because of illness of Councillor Frank Price, a vacancy would now be declared for the Edenhill Ward.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) Councillor Price be advised that his request for a dispensation could not be granted in view of this being received after he had ceased to be a Member, on the expiry of the six month period;**
- (ii) Durham County Council be requested to make the necessary arrangements for the filling of this vacancy for the Edenhill Ward.**

86. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 15TH SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

87. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 25TH SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number - To appoint Chairman & Vice Chairman for the 2015

RESOLVED Councillor J I Measor be appointed to the position of Chair of the Show Committee and Councillor L Cook, Vice Chair.

88. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 22ND SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 15 – The Pavilion – Staffing

It was asked if skills such as fundraising and knowledge of submitting grant applications along with marketing skills be included within the person specification/Job description.

RESOLVED that this suggestion be included.

89. THE REPORT OF THE JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE 29TH SEPTEMBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

89. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

90. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

It was reported that the application relating to the erection of 57 no 2, 3 & 4 bedroom dwellings at the former Registry Office & Peterlee Area Education Office, York Road for Persimmon Homes, had been granted planning permission.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

91. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

92. THE MINUTES OF THE EDEN LANE COMMUNITY BUILDING STEERING GROUP OF THE 7TH OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved. It was noted that both Councillors Cowie and Liddell were no longer on this Steering Group.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

93. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 13TH OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 23 – Town Events

RESOLVED if possible contact be made and free tickets be offered for future Town Events be offered for children in residence at the time of the event(s); the issue of any tickets to be reported into Clerks Advisory Committee for endorsement.

94. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 13TH OCTOBER 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Play Areas – replacement parts

RESOLVED approval be given to the replacement of the equipment as listed in the report, to the total of £6,185.00, as viewed at the Parks Inspection.

(ii) Woodhouse Park, Skate Park Project - Grant Funding

Councillor reported on progress with the successful application for Neighbourhood Budget Funding agreed towards the skate park project. He asked that the monies for the art work project be paid up front by the Town Council to allow the project to go ahead and this be refunded once the grant funding was released by the County Council.

RESOLVED this course of action be agreed to.

95. AUDIT 2013/14

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Town Council's audit report had still not been received from the external auditors.

RESOLVED the audit report be awaited.

96. REQUEST TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS TO ALTER THE DATES OF MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY 2015 TO 9TH, 16TH 23RD FEBRUARY 2015

RESOLVED approval be given to, if necessary, the schedule of meetings being changed in February 2015.

97. LICENSING – MINOR VARIATION RECEIVED
Black Bull, The Village, Old Shotton
To extend opening hours of the premises to trade from 0.700
Monday to Sunday in order to serve breakfast

RESOLVED no comment be offered on this variation.

98. SOMETHING INSIDE SO STRONG
The Annual Conference of East Durham Trust, Wednesday 26th
November 2014, Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites, 10.30 – 3.00pm –

RESOLVED any Member wishing to attend advise the Office as soon as possible so that an RSVP could be made on their behalf.

99. CDALC AGM – 68TH AGM COUNTY HALL DURHAM, 8TH
NOVEMBER 2014 10.00AM

Details were given of this meeting where the Town Council would be represented by their representatives.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

100. LEADER & KEY HOLDERS TO COUNCIL BUILDINGS

RESOLVED the key holders remain as they were at present.

101. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S
REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey asked for an expression of thanks to be passed on to the Parks & Cemetery Department following feedback given from

a member of the public on the cemetery, saying it was very well kept and offered an appreciated area for quiet contemplation.

He reported the Parks Inspection had been very useful and not only offered several items for future consideration but also gave the opportunity to view the proposed Tesco site and the puzzling road work network which had recently been put in place at the site. He also reported DCC appeared to have filled pot holes in the car park next to the library and the state of the disused building was disgraceful.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and thanks be passed on to the Parks & Cemetery Department.

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

Councillor Watson reported that he had similar issues to report on following the recent Parks Inspection. He felt there needed to be strong representations made to Durham County Council about progress with the retail planning application for Tesco.

RESOLVED Durham County Council be contacted pressing for progress with realizing new supermarket provision in the Town.

103. 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, 1960 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

104. PURCHASE OF NEW DESK TOPS AND SERVER

RESOLVED approval be given to the purchase of a new server

and desk tops at a total of £7,640.00 form GBM, Boldon.

105. COMPLAINT RECEIVED

The Deputy Town Clerk advised receipt of a the contents of which she read out at the meeting.

RESOLVED the letter be received.