

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> JUNE 2015

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, C Baty, L M Wood, M A Cartwright, K Hawley, M J Thompson & V Watson

Messrs:- S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook, R Curtis, R Kyle, J Alvey, 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.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor G Cowie, (on holiday).

**RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received on the grounds given above, and Councillor Cowies’ apologies for absence be recorded.**

29. POLICE – UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Bowman to the meeting. An update

on activity in the Town from the date of the last meeting to date was given for Members, a copy of which had been previously circulated to each Member prior to the meeting, and the Chairman invited questions of the Officer.

Reference was made to recent attacks of vandalism at the skate park in Woodhouse Park and intelligence was given to the officer to assist. A report was also given of an issue in one of the wards of anti social behavior being caused by off road jeeps, cars and motorbikes in a neighbourhood; there was also a report of nuisance to the rear of LIDL; the Officer assured she would investigate.

**RESOLVED the Officer be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.**

30. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015 & SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015 copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to an amendment being on minute number 9 and the reference to the Fair party was replaced by the North East Party and 12(f) Peterlee Information Centre Committee, be deleted.

Members considered further the composition of the Pavilion Management Board and the Eden Lane Community Building Management Group and it was agreed that they remain as indicated at the AGM.

**RESOLVED the alterations to the minutes be made and the composition of the various meetings be confirmed.**

Councillor Metcalfe had offered his apologies for the Special Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May and these were not shown.

**RESOLVED Councillor Metcalfe's apologies, be accepted and recorded.**

31. THE REPORT OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was approved.

32. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

33. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 8 - Twinning Welcome Night

The Deputy Town Clerk asked for the Councils consideration of donating two kegs of lager/beer for the Twinning Welcome Evening. It was suggested that perhaps the Friendship Association could write directly to the Council's supplier.

**RESOLVED this be considered further at the Shotton Hall Committee.**

34. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

35. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 8 – Payment of Honoraria – Head Groundsman/Team Leader, Parks & Cemetery Department

Concern was expressed by several Members that the process used to fill this post on a temporary basis and the honoraria payment made saying that this set a dangerous precedent, was not fair and transparent and open to abuse and they asked to be named in the minutes that they were against it: Councillor M J Thompson, W M Jeffrey, J I Measor, C Robbins & J Alvey.

36. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

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(i) Minute Number 3(6) Bistro

Reference was made to the added value to users' experience of the Pavilion that the Bistro gave, whilst accepting it did not provide a large income stream.

(ii) Safeguarding Procedures

A Local Member asked about the updating of DBS checks and it was **RESOLVED that this matter be clarified as to how often checks were required.**

37. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 5 – Request for Grant

**RESOLVED this item be considered as soon as the further information had been received.**

ii) Minute Number 8 (ii) Attendance at Conferences - NALC Event – 15 July, London

**RESOLVED a conference list be compiled from names chosen at random and each conference be considered on its merits.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED Councillors MJ Thompson, J Alvey & D Sillito not be included on the Conference list, (as per their request), the Mayor to be included and the policy be amended to include this.**

38. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 4 - Fit for All Project

A site visit had not been carried out with Members, however they asked that the Horticultural Supervisor advise Members of the recommended location for the equipment.

**RESOLVED this be considered further at the Parks Committee.**

39. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15

(i) Approval of Section 1 & 2 of the Annual Return

A Local Member challenged that one of the sections of the Annual governance statement for 2014/15 return and said it could not be agreed by the Council as she felt there was a lack of clear policies and governance and procedures and there was, in her opinion, nothing in place. She then went on to refer to Police investigations that she had initiated and was reminded this section of the meeting was open to the public and could be recorded.

The Deputy Town Clerk assured the Council she was confident in signing the Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 on behalf of the Town Council as the areas identified were being managed and operated by the council, the Mayor confirmed she was also confident in signing the return on behalf of the Town Council and for it to be submitted to the Council's auditor.

**RESOLVED the Council approve Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual return for the financial year ended 31 March 2015.**

(ii) Statement of Accounts, Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

A Local Member asked where the accounts were circulated and it was confirmed a copy was posted on the Town Council's web site and a copy would be sent with the Audit Return.

(iii) Capital Budget – request to vire monies from the capital fund

**To resolve to re assign the budget agreed for capital expenditure to be used on other items in the budget.**

40. FLAG FLYING EVENT, MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2015 AT 11.00AM, THE PAVILION, HELFORD ROAD, PETERLEE

Members were reminded of the details of this Town Event.

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

41. MINOR VARIATION APPLICATION RECEIVED – ASDA, SURTEES ROAD

It was reported this proposed variation was to change the internal layout plan only.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted and no objections be offered.**

42. NOTICE OF VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR – PASSFIELD WARD

It was reported the notice of the vacancy in the Passfield Ward had been advertised and a request for an election needed to be received by no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015.

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

43. LETTERS OF THANKS & APPRECIATION – SOUTH SHIELDS FOOTBALL CLUB

Members were circulated with two letters received from South Shields Football Club conveying their grateful and lasting appreciation and most sincere thanks to the Council, and its officers for making the facilities at Eden Lane available to them for the past two seasons. The Deputy Town Clerk also made a special mention for the parks staff and attendants for their excellent service and support for this venture.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted**

44. TESCO SITE – PROGRESS

County Councillor Alvey reported there had been an officer meeting scheduled however this had been changed to July.

**RESOLVED a further update on progress with the site be requested.**

45. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey made reference to Councillors changing their party allegiance and that comments had been made from outside the Council on this happening and he felt a statement should be issued by them on their change of party label. There was some discussion on the report.

**RESOLVED the report be noted.**

46. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor Watson congratulated Roy Simpson on his recent award, he felt it was very well deserved and he offered their congratulations to him.

He referred to the Tesco site and he repeated he would be calling for a compulsory purchase order to be applied as the site was no further forward to being developed. He felt the Town Council should try to put pressure onto Durham County Council to get action or the development would go no where. He referred to community funds that had been offered elsewhere by the operator.

**RESOLVED the report be noted.**

47. 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.

48. LETTER OF RESIGNATION – COUNCILLOR C BATY,  
DENEHOUSE WARD

The Deputy Town Clerk read out a letter of resignation received from Councillor Baty. The North East Party said they were saddened to receive this resignation and offered their thanks to

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2015

Councillor Baty and wished her well for the future.

**RESOLVED the resignation be accepted and Durham County Council be contacted to support the Town Council in advertising this vacancy.**