

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT:- COUN S MILES (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, K Hawley & M J
Thompson

Messrs:- D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook, R Kyle, J
Alvey, G Cowie, 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.

64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor L M Wood, (on holiday), V Watson, (on holiday), S McDonnell, (funeral), H Bennett (family commitments).

RECOMMENDED the Council approve the reasons submitted for absence received on the grounds given above, and the Councillors’ apologies for absence be recorded.

65. POLICE – UPDATE

The Chairman advised the Police had offered their apologies but

asked that any issues be sent on to them. The statistics had been provided and circulated to all Members. Members reported that there was still a fear of people making a report to the Police and it was felt that the Police needed to increase the confidence of residents to make reports to them and it was asked if an invite could be extended to the new Chief Inspector at Peterlee to attend a future meeting.

RESOLVED an invite be extended as suggested.

66. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 17TH AUGUST 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 50 – Delegates to other bodies

RESOLVED the minute be amended to read that Councillor A Watson be appointed to represent the Town Council on the Shotton Airfield Group.

- (ii) Minute Number 59 – Complimentary Drinks at Town Council & Mayors Functions

The Minute be amended to read,

“This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor K Hawley. Councillor Hawley commented that she felt the cost of Town Council hospitality should be considered carefully and be reduced. There was debate on the issue and it was agreed that all drinks offered as hospitality be stopped with immediate effect.”

RESOLVED the Town Council cease to offer, with immediate effect, any alcoholic complimentary drinks at all of its events.

67. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 27TH AUGUST 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

68. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 7TH SEPTEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

69. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 7TH SEPTEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

70. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 7TH SEPTEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 23 (ii) Employment Tribunal

Councillor Jeffrey requested that it be recorded that he was not happy with how this was minuted, indeed he commented he had not refused to give information.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(ii) Minute Number 24 – Policies, Grievance & Mental Health/Well Being – for approval

It was confirmed that everyone that had requested a copy previously, had now received them.

RESOLVED these policies be adopted for use by the Town Council.

71. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 8TH SEPTEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Whilst not being on the Management Board anymore Councillor Jeffrey reported that many of the issues being raised had been discussed previously.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

72. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Councillor Hawley being recorded as in attendance.

73. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

It was noted Councillor Sillito had also left the meeting at the same point as other Councillors.

Reference was made to the Thorntree Gill Allotment site and the need to resolve the outstanding issues, without delay.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

74. LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

(i) What to expect in the Employment Tribunal, Tuesday 6th October

RESOLVED approval be given for one place to be reserved.

(ii) Code of Conduct & Standards Training 2015, Wednesday 18th November 2015, 6.00pm

Members were advised of an invitation for all Members to attend this event. Councillors W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, K Hawley, G Cowie and A Watson asked for their names to be put forward for the event.

RESOLVED 5 places be reserved and any other Councillors wishing to attend advise the office so that further places could be booked.

(iii) Stress Awareness & Building Resilience for Managers, 17th November 2015

RESOLVED approval be given to reserve four places for the Management Team to attend this Learning & Development.

75. ESSINGTON HOUSE – SURPLUS DECLARATION

Members were circulated with correspondence from Durham County Council advising of the availability of Essington House potentially surplus to requirements, which they would be looking to obtain full market value for the property.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

76. UNCLASSIFIED BEDE WAY, PETERLEE - TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE

Members were circulated with details of a temporary road closure of a 300m length of Bede Way between its junctions with Burnhope Way and St Cuthberts Road Peterlee.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

77. 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.

78. CODE OF CONDUCT ISSUE

Members were circulated with a copy of a letter received from a local resident. He asked that this now close the issue and he said that no further action of the correspondence was required.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

79. REVIEW OF FOI RESPONSE

RESOLVED the matter be reviewed as requested.

80. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey reported on the recent occupation of the former college car park site by travelers, where when they had left they had left lots of rubbish. This had been reported via the County Councillor and the site had been fully cleared and cleaned up. This weekend he reported particularly bad congestion of cars being parked along Lowhills Road, this had caused a danger both to pedestrians and motorists using this area at that time. It was asked if this could be taken further in terms of application of the Rules for Use for the football teams using the pitches.

RESOLVED a first written warning be issued to the Team responsible for the parking issues on the day and date given.

81. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor Watson reported on wheelie bins being burnt out in the Dene Parks area and it was asked if the Town Council had received any reports with these issues; it was confirmed they had not, although fencing in the Dene Parks had been damaged/vandalized. Reference was made to a recent leaflet published and its contents which he felt went against the Nolan Principles and those involved should resign from their positions immediately.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

82. INVITATION TO ATTEND THE SHOWMENS GUILD ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that invitations had been received to attend this event on 11th November 2015 to be held at the Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham.

COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER
2015

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED** the invitations be accepted for the Mayor, current Chairman of the Show Committee and the Show Co Ordinator only to attend this event.