

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, S McDonnell, K Hawley & V Watson

Messrs:- S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, L Cook, R Kyle, J Alvey, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe & 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 THE MAYOR WELCOMED MR I HALL AND RESIDENTS WHO HAD REQUESTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME ALONG TO ADDRESS THE MEETING.

Mr Hall put a list of questions 1 – 6 to the Council relating to the current and future precept and management of the Council's balances and reserves.

Mr Hall advised that unless the electors were satisfied with the Council's response to their question, they were demanding a poll to address "Peterlee Town Council do not increase the Town Council precept for 2016/17 and any identified financial shortfalls for the following four years would be met by the council making savings".

Mr Hall advised that he and the electors were aware of the cost of a parish poll which would have to be met by the Town Council, however they felt the potential savings to the tax payer made the cost an investment. He advised that a minuted agreement from the Council not to increase the precept and that any identified financial shortfalls for the following four years would be

met by the Council making savings would negate the need for a poll.

It was advised that this 15 minutes open session held prior to the start of the meeting was not a two way dialogue; it was to allow questions to be put to the Council. This was not accepted by those in attendance who were given the full opportunity to speak and air their views. Residents advised they were not satisfied with what they felt were limited responses made by Council at the meeting.

The Mayor thanked residents for their attendance and for their interest and assured that their representations would be taken into account when the budget was to be considered and agreed.

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor L M Wood, (ill) and C Watkins, (personal commitments).

**RESOLVED the Council approve the reasons submitted for the absences received on the grounds given above, and the Councillors' apologies for absence be recorded.**

124. POLICE UPDATE

A brief update was given for Members and council had the opportunity to put any issues to the Officers in attendance.

**RESOLVED the Officers be thanked for their attendance.**

125. MACMILLAN CENTRE, PETERLEE

Unfortunately as the meeting had not run as planned Mrs Benson had to leave and she offered her apologies. The Deputy Town Clerk had apologized to Mrs Benson for any inconvenience and miscommunication on the Council's behalf.

126. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved

Councillor Jeffrey made reference to the Mayor wearing her chain of

office at the meeting.

127. THE MINUTES OF THE JOINT HEALTH & SAFETY SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved  
It was confirmed DBS checks were currently being arranged as agreed.
128. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOTTON HALL COMMITTEE OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Councillor Liddell being recorded as in attendance.
129. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW WORKING PARTY OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved
130. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved  
Matters Arising  
Minute Number 70 – PLGA – Allotment Sites, Special Meeting  
**RESOLVED the second paragraph be amended to show that Councillor Metcalfe had declared an interest in the matter.**
131. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved
132. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved
133. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved
134. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 59 Peterlee Leisure Gardens

At the meeting a Local Member had passed a comment about the management of the gardens. Councillor Jeffrey wished for it to be recorded they were not corrupt.

(ii) Horden Rugby Club

Members asked that it be recorded that the works to the spectator stand should be financed by HRFC. This to be negotiated.

135. PRESS RELEASE – MAYOR & PACES

A copy of the press release had been circulated as requested.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

136. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey made reference to the attendance and interest shown by ratepayers and he hoped to be able to please them. Reference was made to the purchase of logs and the facility for Members of the public to buy them.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

137. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor Watson commented that it was good to see involvement by residents in the Town Council, he was happy to see people here and interested and he hoped savings could be made and that council needed to look to themselves first. He felt the council needed to prove they were efficient and could account for every penny spent.

In closing he wished everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The Mayor when closing the meeting wished everyone all of the best of the season.