

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, L M Wood, S McDonnell & K Hawley

Messrs:- S Miles, D Sillito, H Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook, R Kyle, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins, & A Watson

157. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor J Alvey, (bad back), V Watson & G Cowie, (ill).

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

158. POLICE UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed Acting Inspector Steve Thubron to the meeting, he asked would everyone introduce themselves and indicate which Ward they represented so that he could put names to faces. Acting Inspector Thubron then went on to tell council a little bit about himself and his policing background and in closing he said he felt these were busy and exciting times.

The Mayor then opened the meeting for a question and answer session which covered issues including response times, the need to make reports with the firm message being to tell the Police

everything. Youth Issues were raised, had the changes to street lights affected crime, parking issues next to schools and cars parking on grassed area outside the Catholic Church, cannabis use and finally the use of the PACT meetings, mobile, on line etc.

The Mayor thanked Acting Inspector Thubron for coming along to the meeting.

159. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 25TH JANUARY 2016 & SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 26TH JANUARY 2016 copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 141 – Prices of Tickets & Acceptance

The Acting Town Clerk requested clarification on the agreed action and it was **RESOLVED invitations over £30.00 in price could be considered and the Mayor would pay the difference of the ticket price and that a taxi would be provided by the Council.**

- (ii) Minute Number 150 – Spokesperson of the Majority Political Party's Report

Councillor Jeffrey explained it was a programme of re surfacing not of filling pot holes. He also reported he had not brought up the item relating to school gate parking problems. **RESOLVED this be noted.**

- (iii) Minute Number 151 – Spokesperson of the NEP Member's report

Councillor Watson asked for the minute to be amended to record that he expressed his disappointment at the decision made to close the DLI Museum Durham. **RESOLVED the minute be amended as requested.**

- (iv) Minute Number 154 – Councillor M J Thompson

It was **RESOLVED a section of the minute be deleted.**

- (v) Minute Number 156 (iii) Estimates of Income & Expenditure for 2016/17

RESOLVED the following amendments be made, the donations budget would be £11,000 and the amount of £50,000 allocated in

capitalized maintenance was for Shotton Hall Civic Offices only.

160. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 25TH JANUARY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to the amendment as given earlier where the Mayor would pay the difference in the ticket price of any ticket over £30.00 and a taxi would be provided if required.
161. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST FEBRUARY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved
162. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST FEBRUARY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved
Matters Arising
Minute Number 34 – erection of new cremation facility – Plans rejected over fears of balls hitting mourners

Members were extremely disappointed at this decision as they supported the application whole heartedly.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

163. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST FEBRUARY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved
164. THE REPORT OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 2ND FEBRUARY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved
Matters Arising
Minute Number 26 (6) Review of pitch Usage
A Local Member made reference to the plans for a fence to the cricket ground and the possibility of a 9 v 9 pitch installed and he requested the full costs of this work and the justification for it.

RESOLVED the further report on this matter be awaited.

165. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 8TH FEBRUARY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved

Matters Arising

Minute Number 63 – Local Ward Member Grant Awards

RESOLVED the minute be reworded to say the recipient charity/organization members/users must be made up of at least a minimum of 51% of residents from Peterlee.

166. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 8TH FEBRUARY 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 78 – Purchase of Land

It was asked if a timescale for this sale was known, it was confirmed it was not however members would be kept updated with progress.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

(b) Service of Remembrance, Bill (Paddy) Fox

The Mayor reported the service had been very well attended with over 250 people coming along to show their respect for Mr Fox. There had been mention of a plaque being erected however it was suggested that perhaps Horden would be the appropriate location for such a plaque.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

167. BUDGET SETTING 2016 - FINALISED ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017

Members were circulated with a report confirming the amount to be funded from reserves for the Budget agreed for 2016/2017, along with a copy of the finalized budget paperwork.

RESOLVED the finalised budget be accepted with the amendment to the description of the capitalised maintenance allocation for Shotton Hall Civic Offices.

168. SMALLER AUTHORITIES' AUDIT APPOINTMENTS

Members were circulated with communication from the Chairman of Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Limited, (SAAA) and council were asked to consider and examine the options available to the Town Council in terms of its external auditor.

RESOLVED the Town Council remain “opted in” (Group 1) to the SAAA arrangements and continue to receive an audit from the auditors appointed on their behalf by the SAAA.

169. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey reported he had been asked by an individual about when the Council was to place an order with him for boulders at Lowhills Road. It was confirmed that although an estimate had been submitted for boulders no decision had been made and a report was awaited from the Horticultural Officer outlining the options available to the Town Council at this site.

Councillor Jeffrey expressed his disappointment that the plans for a crematorium had been refused. He said people were asking for such a facility and that it was much needed and would be a good facility to have near to the Town.

He asked for a report to be made requesting a road sweeper and for the footpath needing repair to Durham County Council.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

170. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor A Watson echoes his disappointment at the refusal of the planning application for the crematoria. He asked if the application went to appeal would the Council support it being approved and this was agreed. Councillor Watson reported back from a recent meeting of the Larger Local Councils where Ron Hogg had been in attendance where there had been discussion on body cameras being worn by staff and information would be sent out in due course on the cost of this.

RESOLVED the Town Council make representations of support for the crematoria if and when an appeal was lodged and further information be awaited on body cameras form CDALC.

COUNCILLOR H BENNETT MBE LEFT THE MEETING AT 8.30PM.

171. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE IS 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.

172. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – FURTHER REQUESTS

- (i) Mr Stanley – 1 February & 28 January 2016
- (ii) Mr Hall – Parish Poll – Budget Matters

Members considered the contents of these request and spoke at length on the costs to the ratepayer in replying to these requests.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and progress be reported. FURTHER RESOLVED a request be made on the cost of a SLA with Durham County Council to support the Town Council with such issues and legal matters.