

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 18TH APRIL 2016

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

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

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

PRIOR TO THE MEETING THE MAYOR ASKED ALL TO STAND FOR A MINUTES SILENCE AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF FORMER MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR MR JOHN HARDY.

195. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor H Bennett MBE, (ill), G Cowie, (ill) and M J Thompson.

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

196. POLICE UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed the Officer to the meeting and she gave the report update to Council. It was reported there had been 524 incidents since the last meeting and details of the various crimes; it was reported that crimes were up by 15% compared to the previous year and anti social behavior was down by 31% for the whole of Peterlee.

The Mayor then opened the meeting for a question and answer session which covered issues including theft from garages; stealing to order; crimes being recorded and statistics. A Local Member reported he had cause to make a report recently and he was impressed with the prompt response from his 101 call; he commented the system appeared to work. A Member asked for information in relation to the Pub Watch scheme and details were given on the Officer's contact details that dealt with the Scheme. It was asked if smart water and cycle marking was still in operation and details were given on the free services still offered for bike marking.

The Mayor thanked the Officer for coming along to the meeting.

197. CASTLE DENE SHOPPING CENTRE

It was reported that a new Manager had now been appointed and it was suggested that they' along with Sabri Marsaoui, Organiser/Manager, (Praxis Facilities Management Ltd) Castle Dene Shopping Centre be invited to come along to a future meeting.

When the new manager was appointed ask them both to come along to a future meeting.

RESOLVED this course of action be followed.

198. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 21ST MARCH 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 183 (a) Audit – Issues Arising Report - Policies

It was reported that this item had been considered at the newly established scrutiny committee as it fell firmly within their terms of reference. It had been suggested at the meeting held on 8th April 2016, the Town Council should consider adopting the policies used by Durham County Council en masse and make them appropriate for adoption and use by the Town Council.

Members were asked if they were satisfied with how the matter had been dealt with and it was confirmed they were.

RESOLVED the report of the Scrutiny Committee be considered at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 6th June 2016.

199. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW MEETING OF THE 31ST MARCH 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

The Organizer of the Horticulture Marquee asked that it be noted the schedule had been approved by all present at the Show Committee, not just him.

RESOLVED this be noted.

200. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH APRIL 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

(a) Minute Number 121 - Twinning

It was reported following a recent PNFA Meeting it had been agreed the trip would not be taking a coach over to Germany this year and that those taking part were to fly over.

RESOLVED this be noted.

(b) Minute Number 131 - Code of Conduct Issue

Councillor Jeffrey reported Councillor Thompson could not get to the meeting however she had asked the word “demanded” be deleted from these minutes.

The Mayor was concerned as she felt her honesty and integrity had been brought into question by certain parties in how she had handled the matter. This code of conduct issue had been considered, as requested, as an “any other business item” where the Mayor had confirmed to Council how she had handled the matter by the correct process and in the correct and proper manner.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and the minutes be

accepted.

201. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH APRIL 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

An update on the County Plan process was requested both from County Councillors and appropriate officers.

RESOLVED an invitation be extended for an Officer to attend a future meeting to update Members.

202. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH APRIL 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

203. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 11TH APRIL 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 74 – Art Project

Further consideration agreed in principle subject to checking on terms of the lease conditions.

RESOLVED approval be given for this short term use of the former Information Centre.

204. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 11TH APRIL 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to the minute relating to the planned cricket fence for Helford Road be read as “facility improvements including, (not or), a fence around the cricket pitch”.

RESOLVED this amendment be agreed.

205. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOTTON HALL MEETING OF THE 12TH APRIL 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

A Local Member raised a Point of Order and it was agreed that none

of the business transacted could be actioned. Councillor A Watson asked for it to be recorded that if the Member had not left the meeting, the meeting would not have been inquorate.

Members were asked to consider, as a matter of urgency the item relating to Eden Lane Community Building and works that were required before the lease could be signed with Horden Rugby Football Club.

RESOLVED approval be given for these works as detailed in the report, to be actioned immediately and plenary powers be granted to allow this. FURTHER RESOLVED the remainder of the items from the Parks & Cemetery Meeting be considered at the next meeting.

206. PARK LIFE – AAP PROJECT – POTENTIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This item had been submitted by Councillor Alvey and it was suggested that further information be awaited.

RESOLVED consideration of this item be deferred.

207. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following application was reported:-

Proposed Demolition of existing single storey side and rear extensions and erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions

At 40 Lakemore

RESOLVED no observations be offered in connection with this application.

208. PARISH POLL

Members were circulated with details of this poll that was to be held

on Thursday 21 April 2016. Several Members asked for background to this poll and this was briefly given. It was reported Members had been advised of the public meeting when details had been received, those not aware of it may have not been at the meeting when this was communicated. There was discussion on the comments made at the public meeting on 30 March 2016. Councillor Watkins wished for it to be recorded he did not vote at this meeting.

The Mayor had received a draft set of minutes from the public meeting, however she did not agree them as being a true and correct record as from her recall several issues were not recorded correctly.

RESOLVED the result of the parish poll be awaited.

209. SPOKESPERSON OF THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey had nothing to report.

210. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor Watson spoke about the Parish Poll. He reported he had, on many occasions, made reference to the fact that this Town Council had one of the highest council tax rates, Band D, in the country. He felt this poll could be the start of move into a full Governance Review which could ultimately abolish the Town Council. He expressed his concerns at the cost of the parish poll to the Town Council, and ultimately residents. He felt that operating with a "head in the sand" approach would not work.

RESOLVED the report be accepted.

211. 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.

212. COMPLAINT – ALLEGED BREACH OF MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Members were circulated with a complaint made to the Monitoring Officer by a member of staff about a Councillor's conduct.

A further complaint, (Ref COM031-32), made by a Councillor against two Councillors, had been made and was circulated at the meeting for Member's information.

Councillor Hawley commented that at no point did she bully or be aggressive towards anyone at the meeting in question. She felt there were very serious allegations made at the meeting and that perhaps those spoken about should be told what was said about them at the meeting.

RESOLVED the outcome of these investigations by Durham County Council, be awaited.