

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: COUN M CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames: K Liddell, S Simpson, L M Wood & M A Cartwright

Messrs: S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L Cook, R J Curtis, R Kyle & 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. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

80. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted and accepted from Councillors J Alvey (ill) and V Watson.

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

81. POLICE - UPDATE

Inspector Stephen Thubron, Peterlee NPT, Durham Constabulary provided Members with an update on priorities for the Peterlee area.

These were currently:

1. Maintaining a focus on Peterlee Town Centre – Insp Thubron would like to come back to a future Council meeting with a presentation on some of the highlights of the successful work to date;
2. Arson – currently looking for additional funding to enable some positive engagement work with schools and additional advertising;
3. Forth Close/Avon Road Peterlee – based on feedback from local residents at the PACT meeting earlier that evening;
4. Parking issues around O’Neill Drive - based on feedback from residents at the PACT meeting earlier that evening.

Several Members raised concerns about Police call-handling procedures as there was a perception amongst members of the public that issues were not being followed up properly, or that the same issues were ‘going round and round’. Inspector Thubron undertook to follow up on call-handling at Peterlee and report back the Council at a later date.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted and progress be awaited.

82. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

No members of the public wished to speak during this open session.

Members discussed the issue of car parking around the Community Hospital on O’Neill Drive and the views of the members of the public who had attended the Police’s PACT meeting that evening. Several Members raised the point that Peterlee Town Council has expressed concerns about the parking situation in the past and had formally raised a ‘strong objection’ to the retrospective planning permission application with the County Council. It was suggested that Durham County Council Councillors needed to do more to pressure their Enforcement Officers to take action on O’Neill Drive.

The Town Clerk was asked to contact DCC to look into arranging a meeting of DCC planning and enforcement teams, the Police, Community Hospital and local residents with a view to making progress to tackle the parking issues properly.

RESOLVED this course of action be taken.

83. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 19th SEPTEMBER 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
84. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH SEPTEMBER 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
85. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOTTON HALL COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH SEPTEMBER 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
86. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD OCTOBER 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
Matters Arising
Item No. 60 Contract for the Collection of Cash from the Town Council's Premises
RESOLVED that the Town Clerk report back to Members on the actual cost impact of moving to the new cash collection service once the service has been in place for at least 3 months.
87. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 3rd OCTOBER 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
88. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 3RD OCTOBER 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
89. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 10TH OCTOBER 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
Matters Arising
Item No. 35 Monthly Progress report of the Horticultural Supervisor
The Town Clerk confirmed that a walking tour of the Dene Parks had been completed and that various issues had been noted regarding drugs paraphernalia, litter, dumped shopping trolleys and general

landscaping and quality of public realm. Cllr A Watson asked for thanks to be noted for the Parks Supervisor and team's subsequent work to tidy up and 'thin out' the North Dene. Cllr W Jeffrey enquired into the current status of the reciprocal working agreement between the Town Council and County Council for public realm in Peterlee. The Town Clerk confirmed that he was looking at future options for the Council's role in the Dene Parks and wider public realm and was meeting with English Nature and Durham County Council Officers in coming weeks.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk report back to Members on options for the future upkeep of the Dene Parks and wider public realm areas at a future meeting.

90. ADOPTION OF AMENDED STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk spoke to the report circulated to all Members and to the appended draft amended Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Officers Scheme of Delegation.

Cllr A Watson raised a number of queries relating to the proposed amended Standing Orders document in light of comments made by various Members when the issue was discussed in May 2016. The Town Clerk undertook to review those comments and to amend the Standing Orders as required before bringing them back to Council for approval.

RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations and Officers Scheme of Delegation be adopted by the Town Council.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk review the Standing Orders document and return to Council with an amended version as soon as practicable.

91. NOTIFICATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE DECISIONS REGARDING ALLEGED BREACH OF THE DATA PROTECTION ACT

RESOLVED that the information given in the report circulated to

all Members, be noted.

92. INFORMATION COMMISSIONERS OFFICE DATA PROTECTION SELF-ASSESSMENT: UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that the information given in the report circulated to all Members, be noted. **FURTHER RESOLVED** a further report and recommendations be awaited in November once estimates had been sought from suitably qualified consultants.

93. PLANNING APPLICATION: 1 CHURCH CLOSE, PETERLEE

RESOLVED that the information on this planning application circulated to all Members, be noted.

94. SPOKESPERSON OF THE LABOUR POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Cllr W Jeffrey commented on the excellent opening event for Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club on Saturday 15th October. He requested that the Town Clerk should write to the Club thanking them for the invitation to the event and wishing them all the best for the future. Members of the Council agreed and supported the request for the letter of thanks.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted and a letter of thanks be sent as suggested.

95. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBERS' REPORT

Cllr A Watson also commended the Rugby Club's opening event and asked for his thanks to the Rugby Club to be recorded. Cllr Watson also raised concerns with ongoing issues with the alarm system at the Pavilion during September and October which had resulted in a number of unfortunate alarm activations at night, causing distress to local residents. The Town Clerk confirmed that the issue had been resolved and unintended activations had ceased. Cllr Watson suggested that lessons needed to be learned and communication improved for the future.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.