

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2017 at 6.45PM

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

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

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

115. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor G Cowie, J Alvey, D Sillito, V Watson & H Bennett, MBE.

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

116. POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Lee Blakelock Peterlee NPT, Durham Constabulary had attended the PACT Meeting and members of the public had been in attendance. Inspector Blakelock introduced himself to the meeting explaining he had now taken over the role from Steve Thubron and he gave an update on the issues that had been discussed at the PACT Meeting. He reported that a walkabout had been held with one of the County Councillors around the O'Neill Drive Community hospital site; the developer was looking into further parking spaces being provided and from the 1<sup>st</sup> April the parking charge was to be reduced to £1.00. There were other measures being pursued and all partners were working hard to try and improve the parking and

traffic issues at the site. A progress report was given on ASB issues in Peterlee Town Centre and how the Police were working with the various partners to tackle the issues.

Members gave reports including off road bikes in the Beverley Way area, vehicle tracks of cars coming out of the Pentland Close area into Old Shotton, parking across and over footpaths and school gate parking. There was also discussion on the parking charges applied in Peterlee Town Centre and it was asked that properly positioned and clear signs should be put in place so that motorists were in no doubt as to the restrictions in the various car parks.

**RESOLVED the information given, be noted and Sarah Bromwich, Town Centre Manager, be invited to attend a future meeting**

117. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A public participation session was held to allow Members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council. Mr Duffy was in attendance at the meeting and raised issues in relation to the allotment sites.

There was a lengthy discussion on issues that had been raised in the past. It was confirmed the shop had ceased operating.

**RESOLVED the report of the Council's Internal Auditor be considered as agreed at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.**

118. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 100 – Public Participation

A Local Member asked if it was necessary for members of the public to sign into the building if they were attending a council meeting.

**RESOLVED the Town Clerk obtain advice on this matter.**

119. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

120. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 93(c) Request for Concessionary use of Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites, Joan Bailey MBE

**RESOLVED the Council adopt a policy of granting concessionary use of Shotton Hall banqueting Suites for the funeral wake of any Peterlee resident who has made a significant contribution to the local community for which they have received a recognized award of OBE, MBE etc.**

121. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Although not covered in the minutes two planning matters were raised at the meeting.

It was reported a public consultation meeting had been held by Keepmoat about a proposed housing development and members were disappointed that the Town Council had not been invited to go along.

**RESOLVED the Town Clerk request that the Town Council be included in future consultation taking place in the Town by Keepmoat.**

Another Local Member asked for details on a proposed car valeting service that he understood was to operate from the carpark at the Lodge, Peterlee and he was concerned at where the excess water would run to and would it adversely affect the Town Council's land in the Dene Parks.

**RESOLVED the DCC Planning Department be contacted about this proposal.**

122. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

123. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY MEETING OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 58 – Provision of Salt Bins

It was **RESOLVED the minute be amended to include reference to a Local Member suggesting that in future the Member's Initiative Fund or s137 grant could be used to finance a request for a grit bin.**

124. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW WORKING PARTY OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Councillor Jeffrey's apologies being recorded.

There was considerable discussion about suggestions made by the Working Party, including there not being a Horticulture Show this year. Councillor Metcalfe asked that it be recorded that he had concerns this Council was to cancel the Horticulture Show and the effect it would have on Peterlee, especially the younger people of Peterlee and surrounding areas. Another Local Member felt the Show was becoming more about bands and entertainment and he asked for the reasons why it had been suggested the Horticulture and Arts and Crafts were not to be held. A Local Member explained that interest in taking part in both of these elements of the Show had seemed to have dwindled to a point where the cost of them being retained, could not be justified.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED the Horticulture Show still be held however it be relocated to the main hall in the Pavilion and the remainder of the suggestions made at the**

**Working Party, be accepted.**

125. PLANNING

(a) Application – Land to the East of 5 Durham Way, proposed dwelling and garage within the grounds of hot food takeaway, Mahil’s

Members considered this application and had no comments to offer to DCC.

**RESOLVED no comments be made.**

(b) The development of a new cremation facility, Castle Eden Brewery, Castle Eden

Members were pleased to hear the result of the recent planning appeal and it was **RESOLVED it be noted this appeal had been allowed and planning permission had now been granted for this proposal.**

126. 2017/18 BUDGET

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member. A local Member enquired about the option of 2% reduction in precept that had previously been discussed at the Finance & General Purposes meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The Clerk confirmed that the result of a 2% precept reduction would be a loss of income of just over £25,000 compared to the 0% increase precept option presented to Council in the report.

A local Member enquired about the possibility of delivering a 7.7% precept reduction. The Town Clerk reported that this would equate to a net loss of income of just under £99,000.

The Town Clerk advised Members that as per the budget presentation to Finance & General Purposes Committee, he had worked closely with the Council’s Senior Management Team to identify substantial reductions in discretionary budgets (equivalent to reductions of c15% on discretionary spend), and had set ambitious targets for growth in income generation from events and other activities. As such any reduction in precept would have to be funded from general fund

reserves as there was no scope to sustainably reduce expenditure or increase income beyond the figures presented in the draft 2017/18 budget.

Following further discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** that the budget as circulated be agreed with the exception of the precept income figure which would be reduced to £1,256,977, representing a 2% reduction in precept payments for individual households in Peterlee, with the balance being taken from general fund reserves.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a number of individual detail budget cost centres be considered further at the next Finance & General Purposes Meeting

127. APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR HAMPSHIRE PLACE PLAY PARK

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

**RESOLVED** approval be given to award a contract for the provision of new play equipment at Hampshire Place at a value of £24,906.50 + VAT to Kompan UK Ltd.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be granted plenary powers to work with the contractor and local Ward Members to agree the final specification and layout of the play area.

128. THE PAVILION – USE OF BAR SPACE

Members considered a motion submitted by the Scrutiny Working Group and **RESOLVED** that “exclusive room hire by private, public or community groups for the Pavilion sports and community facility will be prioritised over an open public bar, other than when a clear commercial or community opportunity exists (such as sporting events, Peterlee Show, etc).

The Town Clerk and Facilities Manager to be granted plenary powers to discern between private and community use as

**appropriate. A summary report on hire of the bar area to be presented to the Finance & General Purposes Committee on a quarterly basis as part of the quarterly budget outturn report for the Pavilion.”**

129. SPOKESPERSON OF THE LABOUR POLITICAL PARTY’S REPORT

Councillor Jeffrey had nothing to report.

130. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER’S REPORT

Councillor A Watson echoed concerns on school gate parking which was an issue throughout the Town and he asked if a request for attention be made via the Civil Parking officers.

**RESOLVED such a request be made to DCC.**

131. 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.

132. TOWN CLERK SIX MONTH APPRAISAL AND SALARY REVIEW

Members considered the report of the Mayor, Councillor M A Cartwright, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member. A Local Member felt this was a very comprehensive review by the HR Panel and the Town Clerk had made lots of progress in difficult times and had ore than demonstrated his capability.

**RESOLVED Council agree:-**

- (i) the Town Clerk had successfully completed his six month probation period;**
- (ii) to the regrading of the post to the ‘above substantive’ grade for LC4, as detailed in the report;**
- (iii) this regrading payment being backdated to the Town Clerk’s start date.**