

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2017 at 6.45PM

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

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

Messrs:- G L Carne, L Cook, S Miles, R Kyle, C Robbins & A Watson

133. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been submitted from Councillor G Cowie, J Alvey, R J Curtis, C J Metcalfe, C Watkins & 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.

134. POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Lee Blakelock Peterlee NPT, Durham Constabulary had attended the PACT Meeting and members of the public had been in attendance. He reported that O'Neill Drive had been discussed and a local resident at the Council Meeting reported there were still massive problems with parking there. It had been rumored the Leisure Centre was to start to charge for parking. Local Members suggested they could carry out a parking survey to support and gather evidence of parking trends at the Urgent Care site. Anti

social behavior in the Town Centre was reported as being a big issue and there was discussion on how this was being approached by the various partners. It was asked what progress had been made with regard to use of the former Youth Club in the Town Centre. The Town Clerk assured he would seek progress from DCC/and or Praxis on this matter and report back to Members.

A number of Members gave reports of issues in their Wards including off road bikes and resident parking issues.

RESOLVED:

- (i) the Town Council lobby the Peterlee Community hospital to get the parking charges removed completely;**
- (ii) an update report be given on future youth provision in the Town and if appropriate a representative of the youth Strategy Meeting Group, organised by the East Durham Area Action Partnership, be invited to a future meeting to explore how the Town Council could actively engage with youth provision in the Town.**
- (iii) Inspector Blakelock be thanked for his attendance and involvement with the meeting.**

135. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A public participation session was held to allow Members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council. There were several members of the public in attendance at the meeting and the Chair welcomed them to the meeting then allowed each to speak in turn. The first speaker spoke on issues with dog fouling and school gate parking. There was considerable discussion on the issue of dog fouling and it was suggested that this should be considered in further detail at a future meeting where examples of good practice could be considered. A Local Member suggested employing an operative to clean up dog dirt from footpaths, with council tax being increased to fund this service; it was felt this could be an excellent public service to provide. Reference was made to DCC "Civic Pride" Scheme.

A member of the public asked about the temporary cabin that was on site at Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens site and what were the options for its replacement. He had heard it was not to be replaced as meetings were being held at the Rugby Club Eden Lane. The Town Clerk confirmed that no decision had been made to not replace the cabin, and that a further update would be brought to the next Parks & Cemetery Committee.

RESOLVED the Town Council consider a more proactive approach to dog fouling and a further report be made to the Parks & Cemetery Committee in due course. FURTHER RESOLVED an update on the cabin at the Thorntree Gill, be awaited.

136. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 23RD JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

The Town Clerk advised he had met with the Town Centre Manager to discuss the parking charges being applied in Peterlee Town Centre and Ms Bromwich had confirmed that a new contract for parking enforcement in the Town Centre was in place as of 1st January 2017. She stressed that in most of the main carparks the charges and time restrictions had remained the same. The only changes that had been made were to the car park next to the post office and for it to be a short term, (20 minutes or so), “nip in” car park. Further improvements had also been made including marking of car parks and double yellow lines around servicing routes.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

137. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYOR’S COMMITTEE OF THE 23RD JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 20TH FEBRUARY 2017

138. THE MINUTES OF THE SHOW WORKING PARTY OF THE 30TH JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.
139. THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE 30TH JANUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Councillor S Simpson being included in the list of those in attendance.
140. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH FEBRUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.
141. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH FEBRUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.
142. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 6TH FEBRUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.
143. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY MEETING OF THE 13TH FEBRUARY 2017 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.
144. PLANNING

Further to discussions at the last meeting and the planning meeting it was reported details of this application had now been listed by DCC:-

Land at Peterlee Lodge Hotel, Bede Way, use of land as hand car wash

Members asked that the details be given to the Horticultural Supervisor to consider and make comment, and endorsed the comments already submitted on behalf of the Town Council in terms of concerns at the affects of the activity may have on the neighbouring Dene Parks area.

RESOLVED the course of action as suggested, be taken.

145. REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

This item had been requested by the Mayor, Councillor Cartwright where she asked the Town Council to consider taking on the organisation of this Event. She explained there was now not a branch of the British Legion in Peterlee and the representatives had approached the Mayor to see if the Town Council would take on the Parade. Members fully supported this action and it was **RESOLVED a Working Party be established with all Councillors and willing partners to take this forward.**

146. CONSULTATION OF PROPOSAL TO REMOVE STREET LIGHTS

Members were circulated with details of a DCC consultation on the proposal to remove street lights in our locality at various locations in and around Shotton and the road from Shotton to Easington. Copies of the surveys carried out were also available. Members were strongly opposed to these plans, both in terms of fear of crime and road safety.

RESOLVED these objections be submitted to DCC for their consideration.

147. 2017/18 BUDGET

Members were presented with the finalised Budget 2017/18 Report, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED Members note the contents of the report and agree the final detail of the budget for 2017/18 as detailed in the report.

148. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – DECISION NOTICE FROM THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER’S OFFICE

Members were circulated with a copy of the report of the Town Clerk informing them of a recent Information Commissioners Office decision notice about the Town Council (reference FS50651244).

It was **RESOLVED Members note the contents of the report and the outcome of the ICO’s decision notice which upholds the Council’s position on ensuring it complies with the Data Protection Act and Freedom of Information Act, (FOIA), requirements.**

149. 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.

150. CODE OF CONDUCT REPORT

The final report of DCC Monitoring Officer into Code of Conduct Investigation had been received and a copy circulated to each Member for their consideration. The Town Clerk stressed the contents of the reports should remain confidential.

RESOLVED the contents of the report of the Town Clerk and the Monitoring Officer’s final report, be noted.

151. LETTER FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Members considered the report from the Mayor, Chair of the Council, which notified the Town Council of a letter from the Town Clerk regarding alleged inappropriate behavior by a Local Member and she read out the letter received.

Members expressed their total support for the Town Clerk and his work and it was asked if there was anything further they could do to support him.

RESOLVED the action taken by the Town Clerk in blocking e mails from this Local Member concerned and also that any future contact with Council Officers for information etc be made through the Mayor or the Chair of the appropriate committee. This sanction to remain in place until the findings of the Standards Hearing are published, at which time the Council review the sanction as appropriate.

152. SPOKESPERSON OF THE LABOUR POLITICAL PARTY'S REPORT

Councillor Kyle advised he had nothing to report.

153. SPOKESPERSON OF THE NEP MEMBER'S REPORT

Councillor Watson spoke on the street light consultation saying "we may not have the right to light but we have a right to feel safe".

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