

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT(CHAIR)

Mesdames:- A C Long, L Fenwick, K Hawley, K Liddell, K J Duffy & S Simpson

Messrs:- A T Wilkinson, A S H Meikle, S Kirkup, R Kyle, C Watkins, G L Carne, T Duffy, R Moore, S Miles & A Watson

155. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been submitted by Councillor S McGlen, J Robinson, (work commitments) & S Franklin (work commitments). **RESOLVED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received from the Councillors listed, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

156. Public Participation Session

A public participation session was held to allow members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council. Two representatives of the Cricket Club along with two representatives from the Lowhills Road Leisure Garden site were in attendance at the meeting.

The Secretary of the Cricket Club addressed the Town Council on the fence for the cricket oval. She stressed the need for the fence with safety being one of the main issues along with motor bikes, verbal abuse of players, dog walkers going across the pitch etc. She asked when would the fence be up. Members assured her that the Town Council was committed to completing this project.

Two representatives from the Lowhills Road site addressed the Town Council asking for permission to go forward, as soon as possible, with the new constitution and the election of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary for the management of the site.

157. To Receive Declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Councillor Meikle declared an interest

in Minute number 159, PATHH proposal and Councillor T Duffy and C Watkins in Minute number 166, Lowhills Road Leisure Gardens.

158. Stop Loan Sharks

The Chair welcomed Natalie Barker, North East Region, England Illegal Money Lending Team who gave an informative and interesting summary of their work in the area and their success in supporting local residents who had become victims of loan sharks. There was a question and answer session and Members were keen to take the posters and leaflets offered by Ms Barker and to take the message out into their respective wards to residents.

The Chair thanked Ms Barker for taking the time to come along to the Town Council and for her valuable work in the Town.

159. PATHH Holistic wellbeing pilot proposal

The Chair welcomed Barbara Chrisp to the meeting who then went on to give a summary of what her proposal was which was to work in partnership with the Town Council in delivering a 12 week pilot programme of holistic health which she felt was a fantastic opportunity to support Peterlee residents. There was a question and answer session after the proposal had been presented.

It was assured the report from the Town Clerk recommending funding for this proposed holistic wellbeing pilot project involving the Clinical Commissioning Group and a local well being provider would be considered at a future meeting.

160. The Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to Minute number 150 being headed as "Policy on the use of Town Council facilities and resources by Town Councillors". It was also requested that the Community Related Asset Transfer be placed on the agenda for the Resources meeting in June 2018.

161. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

162. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.

The issue of drainage at the Eden Lane site was discussed and the need to have confirmation that any works that were carried out to the building were fully inspected, approved and were carried out in consultation and in compliance with Northumbrian Water to avoid future problems with drainage at Eden Lane. It was **RESOLVED a written assurance be obtained Horden and Peterlee Rugby Club that**

**any works carried out to the building were fully compliant with Northumbrian Water's requirements for effective drainage at the Eden Lane site.**

Councillor A Wilkinson was present at the meeting from 7.30pm.

163. The Minutes of the Facilities Sub Committee of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 were to be reported to the Resources Committee for approval.

164. 2018 & 2019 Payscales & Allowances – Update

Members were asked to approve and implement nationally negotiated rates of pay for staff and the Chief Officer of Peterlee Town Council for the Town Council. **RESOLVED approval be given to this pay award being implemented, subject to pages 4 & 5 of the circular, (not attached as they did not apply to the Town Council), being circulated to Members.**

165. Hilton Drive/Quinn Close – community gardening

It was reported Denehouse Ward Members had been contacted by a local ward resident about the possibility of putting a bit of colour into his neighbourhood with a planting scheme with the suggestion of bulb planting on verges and grassed areas on his estate. If the project was successful this could then be rolled out into other areas of the Town to other interested resident groups. The Town Clerk had contacted DCC and they were agreeable to the suggestion of bulb planting as long as it was snowdrops or crocus not daffodils. It was suggested that the Town Council could provide the bulbs and work with local resident(s) on a suitable planting scheme. It was felt this would be very popular. One local Member was concerned that planting schemes may stop children being able to play on open grassed areas, it was suggested planting would be on verges etc and so may not affect such open areas. At this point a Member asked if the Town Council would contact DCC to see how they organised their volunteer section/cohort and for the Town Council to consider a similar scheme for its various activities. **RESOLVED the planting scheme be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Community & Environment Committee. FURTHER RESOLVED details be obtained on a volunteer scheme that may be mirrored by the Town Council.**

166. Exclusion of the Press and Public

**RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the committee pass the formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1961 & the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1072, Part 1, paragraph 14.**

167. Lowhills Leisure Gardens

This item had been requested by Councillor Rob Moore and he wished to discuss a number of issues relating to recent issues at the Lowhills Leisure Gardens Site. He was concerned that actions had taken place that he felt may have compromised a crime scene. He also provided details of activities that he felt should not be happening at the site. Reference was made to the rules of the site(s). **RESOLVED a copy of the current rules relating to having a leisure garden be circulated to each Member as soon as possible. FURTHER RESOLVED this item be placed on the next agenda for the Community and Environment Committee for further consideration.**

168. Spokesperson of the NEP Members Report

Councillor A Watson referred to the recent notice given by the Bowling Club at Lowhills Road. He was sad the Club were to leave the site and he thanked them for their partnership over the years. He said this now left a valuable community asset available for use and he encouraged all Members to approach the various groups they knew to seek interest in using the building.

He reported on the recent cricket match where Peterlee had won, he said there was no finer place to enjoy spectating and The Pavilion was a great facility to do this.

He commented on the excellent service provided by the "Stop Loan Sharks" organisation and encouraged everyone to get the message out to residents.

169. Spokesperson of the Labour Party's Report

Councillor Kyle had no comments to offer to the meeting.