

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

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

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

118. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors S McGlen, S Kirkup  
& D Howarth.

119. Public Participation Session

A public participation session was held to allow members of the public an opportunity  
to put questions to the Council. No members of the public were present.

120. Police Report

PCSO Simon Walters offered his apologies. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

121. Mayor's/Chair's Report

The Mayor gave his report for Members, (see attached).

122. To receive declarations of interest

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

123. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 the minutes of  
the previous meeting were attached for consideration and were approved as a true and  
correct record.

124. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

125. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted, subject to Councillor Fenwick as being shown as in attendance.

126. Budget 2020/21

Council received a report from the Town Clerk seeking Members' approval of the outline budget for the Town Council for 2020/21 and set the precept level for 2020/21.

A proposal was put forward that the Town Council reduce its precept by 0.5% for 2020/21.

Councillor A Watson requested a recorded vote and the results were as follows:-

For a 0.5% reduction in the council tax making a Band D property £287.56, Councillors S McDonnell, R Moore, S Miles, G Carne, A Watson, L Fenwick, R Kyle, K Hawely, K J Duffy, A C Long, K Liddell, S Simpson, M A Cartwright, A Watson, T Duffy; and Against the motion Councillor C Watkins.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) **Approval be given to the Peterlee Town Council outline budget for 2020/21 as detailed in the report;**
- (ii) **The precept figure for 2020/21 be £1,296,004.16, equivalent to a Band D Council Tax figure of £287.56.**

127. Letter of Resignation – Councillor for the Passfield Ward

The Chair reported receipt of a letter of resignation from Councillor Scott Meikle.

**RESOLVED the process to fill this vacancy commence immediately.**

128. 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 1960 & the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, Part 1, paragraph 13.**

129. Issues relating to the Code of Conduct

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K J Duffy

“To consider the submission of a Code of Conduct complaint to the DCC Monitoring Officer”.

Councillor Duffy advised she was happy to withdraw her item, and wished it to be placed on record that she strongly, the statements made about her on social media by a former Council Member.

130. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor A Watson commented he had known Councillor Karen Duffy for several years and he felt what had been said about her was scandalous and a disgrace. He spoke on the recent accident involving a quad bike and he said efforts should be maintained in working with the Police in tackling off road bikes. He wished the person that had been injured a speedy recovery. He reported it was the 5<sup>th</sup> year the Council had frozen or reduced its precept cost to the council tax payers of Peterlee, whilst improving services with efficiencies and the efforts of the council and its staff. He hoped this trend would continue into the future for the next 4 or 5 years.

**RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

131. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Fenwick spoke about a recent hit and run accident in O'Neill Drive and she thanked everyone that had helped and wished her a speedy recovery. She spoke about the loss of the urgent care service during the night. She said the Town had great open spaces and denes and was a paradise for dog walkers. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

## Mayor's Report January 2020

My last report was before Christmas so I will briefly mention Councillors interactions with Santa's Wish. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that Santa's Wish has helped to feed vulnerable families, on the lead up to Christmas, and deliver presents to children that probably would have had very little on Christmas morning. Santa's Wish relies on the generosity of local people and redistributes their kind donations, whether that be food, gifts or money, to agencies that specialise in the care of vulnerable families ensuring that all donations get to those in our communities that need the most help.

The best Santa in Peterlee, and of course Mrs Claus, brought delight to many local residents when they toured our streets in their sleigh. They also greeted shoppers at Asda on a couple of dates and many people mentioned their fabulous costumes.

I am very proud to be associated with Santa's Wish and would like to thank all Councillors that helped, this year, and to everyone that gave so generously.

I attended the Over 60's New Year's Lunch and what a lovely event it was. I had a great time meeting Peterlee residents and serving them at their tables. The Banqueting Suite was full and everyone commented on how lovely the food was. Well done to our Chef Neil and all of his staff. Also, thanks to everyone that volunteered for this event – I must say when this Council and the council officers and staff work together, we do a really great job. Thank you everyone that attended for helping to create such a lovely day.

I had the pleasure of attending Shotton Hall for the GT Brass Band fund raising event. We had a lovely evening listening to the fabulous music and I would like to thank the GT Band for their kind donation to the Mayor's Charity Fund.

Happy New Year to all residents, Councillors and Council staff. I am very much looking forward to our planned events in 2020.