

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 23rd MARCH 2020 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- L Fenwick, K Hawley, K J Duffy, M A Cartwright & D Howarth & K Liddell

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

147. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors R Kyle, S Simpson, A C Long & S Kirkup.

148. 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.

149. Mayor's/Chair's Report

Chair explained he would provide a written report for the next meeting.

150. Police Report/Update

A representative was unable to attend the meeting.

151. To receive declarations of interest

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

152. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 20th February 2020 the minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and were approved as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

(a) A Member asked if the 'Young Heroes' event was being held in Peterlee again this year. The Town Clerk confirmed the Police intended to hold 1 larger event at Durham instead, however should the Council wish to hold a smaller event for local

award winners they were able to do this. It was agreed that the Council review the situation after the 2020 awards and consider hosting a Peterlee-specific event in 2021.

(b) Passfield Ward Vacancy

The Town Clerk confirmed there was no specific time limit for the vacancy to be filled, however, Members did express a desire to fill this position as soon as possible. It was agreed that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk would look into the practicalities of filling the vacancy by cooption as soon as practicable with interested applicants being spoken to via video link if this was necessary.

(c) Future Meetings

The Town Clerk and Members discussed how future meetings could be held should it no longer be practicable for Members to physically meet in the council chamber.

153. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 2nd March 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 84 – Sportsman’s Dinner, Item (c iii)

A Member asked if Shotton Hall Banqueting Suites Team had been contacted by Peterlee Cricket Club regarding the upcoming Sportsman’s Dinner. The Town Clerk reported the event organiser had rearranged the event to October. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

154. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 9th March 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 76 Fence at Lowhills Road

A Local Member and The Town Clerk confirmed that the gates were now in position. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

155. Project Hagrid

A representative was unable to attend the meeting and so the matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting. **RESOLVED this item be re considered at a future meeting.**

156. COVID-19 Update

The Town Clerk reported that The Pavilion, Helford Road and the Banqueting Suites and Council Offices at Shotton Hall were now closed to the public and additional cleaning measures were now in place. The Town Clerk also reported that all Council play areas were being closed and appropriate signage was being put in place to explain the closures to local residents, as well as messaging through social media. Woodhouse Park would remain open for the time being.

RESOLVED Hampshire Place, Helford Road and Lowhills Road and Eden Lane play areas to be closed with signs explaining this was to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Woodhouse Park plays areas to be closed with signs, however, the park itself was to remain open as an access route and to allow residents to use it for an area where they could exercise daily.

157. Council Budget 2020/21

The Town Clerk reported on the changes to the Budget and presented members with the final draft budget for 2020/21. **RESOLVED Members approved the final Town Council Budget for 2020/2021.**

158. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Cllr A Watson reported that there has been an overwhelming response from people offering to help other people in and around Peterlee on social media and that this was testament to how great a community Peterlee is. He relayed a big thank you to everyone to had expressed a desire to help.

He suggested that although there had been lots of coverage regarding the 'panic buying' situation, we must remember that some people were frightened and in some cases people may not be able to leave their house for up to 12 weeks and were having to prepare for this.

Cllr Watson congratulated the Town Clerk on arranging the Council's first ever video meeting and he urged everyone to keep safe and follow the Government's guidelines.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

159. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Cllr Fenwick stated that we were living in strange times at the moment. She asked that people please stay inside to protect themselves and others and only go out for shopping once a week if possible. She urged people to look out for their neighbours and friends; especially those who live alone. Cllr Fenwick concluded by asking everyone to follow the Government guidelines.

The Chair T Duffy asked Members to look out for each other and thanked those who were helping other people. For those Members who were vulnerable, he urged them to stay home and explained they could contact him if they needed any help.