

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE & ONLINE USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY

ON MONDAY 17th AUGUST 2020 at 6.00PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Duffy, D Howarth, A C Long, S Simpson, K Hawley & K Liddell

Messrs:- G Carne, S Miles, G Johnson, A Wilkinson & R Moore

41. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered to the meeting from Councillor L Fenwick, S McDonnell & C Watkins.

42. Mayor's/Chair's Report

The Mayor reported he had spent a lovely afternoon with some of the residents at Bannatyne Lodge Care Home. He had taken part in a balloon release held in memory of those that had lost their lives due to Covid. He had lots of residents being in touch with him about housing needs and rubbish issues. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

43. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. None had been received.

44. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 27th July 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and approval.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 40 – Provision of Devices for Council Use

It was suggested the wording of the minute be changed to read “the Council agree to support any councillor with a contribution” and this was agreed. **RESOLVED the minutes be accepted and signed as a true and correct record, subject to this alteration.**

45. COVID-19 Update

Council received an update from the Town Clerk on the Council's response to the COVID-19 situation. He advised the Shielding Support Scheme continued to support 127 households with care packages being delivered monthly and weekly telephone calls being made. The Council were acting as quickly as possible to react to Government changes and he spoke briefly on the update given to the recent scrutiny meeting on the financial impact of COVID. He asked for Member's views on holding the Annual Meeting that had been postponed until September 2020. It was suggested the Council suspend the Annual Meeting for this year and hold the meeting in May 2021 after the local council elections. **RESOLVED an item to agree when the Annual Meeting should be held, be placed on the next Council agenda.**

46. Fireworks Display & Remembrance Parade

The Council considered holding of these events in November 2020 in light of the COVID situation. The Town Clerk advised he and the Events Co Ordinator had met with the Safety Officer and considered both events in detail in relation to the current COVID guidelines. There was considerable discussion on the viability and safety of both events. Whilst Members were disappointed they felt they had no option than to cancel the fireworks event. With regard to Remembrance Day, they definitely wished to play a part in the church service, if held.

RESOLVED:-

- (I) the firework display for 2020 be cancelled;**
- (II) the final decision on the Remembrance Day Parade be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Moore and Johnson.**

47. New Policies

The following policies were for consideration, approval and adoption by Peterlee Town Council.

- (i) Drugs, Alcohol & Substance Misuse Policy
- (ii) Expenses Policy
- (iii) Flexible Working Policy
- (iv) Pensions & Retirement, (including Flexible Retirement) Policy -
- (v) Probationary Period Policy
- (vi) Recruitment Policy
- (vii) Toil Policy
- (viii) Home Working Policy
- (ix) Working in the Sun Policy

(x) Cemetery Policy – Procedure for Memorial Inspections

RESOLVED the policies listed be adopted by the Town Council.

48. Exclusion of the Press & Public

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed in the next agenda item, 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, Part 1, paragraph 1.

49. Staffing – Parks & Cemetery Department

Members reconsidered this item following its referral to the Scrutiny Committee meeting on Friday 7th August 2020. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED three new fixed term posts to be created in the Parks Department, SCP 3, Grade 2.**

The press and public were re-admitted to the meeting for the final items.

50. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor K J Duffy spoke on behalf of the North East Party and she said how wonderful the first edition of the Peterlee magazine was. She said it showed the staff, the Town and facilities off well and she was proud there was a copy going to every household in the Town. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

51. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

There was no spokesperson for the Labour Party present at the meeting.