

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE & ONLINE USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY

ON MONDAY 26th OCTOBER 2020 at 6.00PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, K Hawley, K J Duffy, S McDonnell, M A Cartwright & D Howarth

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

67. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered to the meeting from Councillors S Simpson, V Watson, A C Long & G Johnson.

68. Mayor's/Chair's Report

The Mayor reported he was active again after his recent surgery reported that he had visited the new charity furniture store which he said was well stocked and he that Members took the opportunity to visit the store if possible. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

69. 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 G Johnson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 on the agenda relating to the NEP Funding Applications. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

70. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 28th September 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and approval. **RESOLVED the minutes be accepted and signed as a true and correct record.**

71. COVID-19 Update

Members received an update from the Town Clerk on the Council's response to the COVID-19 situation. He reported there had still only been one confirmed case of COVID-19 in the staff. He confirmed that the vast majority of staff at work as usual and the Pavilion was open with classes running, albeit with limited numbers. The Parks Department were continuing working using three depots and area teams. The Shielding Support Scheme was still being very well received with monthly care packages still being delivered and weekly care/support calls being made by staff. The half year income and expenditure figures had just been completed and he intended submitting a report to the November meeting. The next edition of the Town magazine was to be produced and expected delivery was the first week in December. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

72. NEP Funding Applications

Susan Setterfield – It's a Wildlife – Peterlee Rescue Centre – Requesting £850.00 towards the cost of converting a summerhouse into an aviary and a microscope

Members considered this request and it was **RESOLVED a grant of £850.00 be made to the Peterlee Rescue Centre.**

73. Annual Review of Fees & Charges

RESOLVED consideration of this item be deferred to a future meeting.

74. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor McDonnell presented the report on behalf of the NE Party. She reported DCC had held its first virtual meeting and the County Durham Plan had been accepted, despite objections. She gave a summary of issues discussed at the meeting which included double taxation and representations to be made to Central Government requesting a financial settlement towards the costs of the COVID – 19 pandemic. **RESOLVED the report, be noted.**

75. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Watkins presented the report on behalf of the Labour Party. He said well done to the Parks & Cemetery staff on being awarded the "Green Flag" for the Peterlee Cemetery and also for their success with obtaining grant funding for planting trees in the town. **RESOLVED the report, be noted.**

76. Exclusion of the Press & Public

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the 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, Part 1, paragraphs 1 & 11.

77. Shotton Hall update

Members were provided with an update on progress on the decommissioning of commercial services at Shotton Hall since the September meeting. Members were asked to consider the request for consideration of Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy for a member of staff. Members considered the report of the Town Clerk and the Clerk answered the questions and considered the feedback from Members.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted. FURTHER RESOLVED the request received for early retirement with voluntary redundancy, as outlined in the report, be refused.**