

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 17TH JANUARY 2022 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames: - K Liddell, D Howarth, J Black, K Hawley, K Duffy, D Quinn, M McCue
& S McDonnell

Messrs: - R Burnip, R Moore, D Hawley, T Duffy & R Fishwick

123. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors G Johnson, S Simpson, A E Laing, M Sanderson and A Stockport.

124. Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present.

125. 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 were offered.

126. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 20th December 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and approval as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising - Neighbourhood Planning

It was advised that 7 Councillors had expressed an interest in being involved with this Group.

RESOLVED the minutes be accepted and signed as a true and correct record.

127. Report of the Resources Meeting of the 10th January 2022
The notes of the Resources Meeting were attached for the information of Members.
RESOLVED the information given, be noted.
128. The notes of the Events Working Party of the 4th January 2022
The notes of the Events Working Party were attached for the information of Members.
RESOLVED the information given, be noted.
129. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 17th January 2022
To confirm and endorse the resolution of the Finance Sub Committee to approve BACS payments to be paid on 21st January 2022.
130. COVID-19 Update
Members received an update from the Town Clerk on the Council's response to the COVID-19 situation. He reported three members of staff had been struck with COVID 19 and were now back at work. The Council were continuing with precautions and encouraging the use of LFD tests and he was pleased to report there appeared to be no incidents recorded where it was transmitted via the workplace. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**
131. Budget for 2022/23
Members' approval of the outline budget for the Town Council for 2022/23 and to set the precept level for 2022/23 was requested.

RESOLVED the precept be set at £1,401,424.94, Band D equivalent of £304.81 and that charges for the Council's main services be increased by a target 10% across the board.
132. Arrangement for locking/unlocking of car park gates, Lowhills Road
Further to previous discussions by the Council on arrangements for the locking and unlocking the car park gates at Lowhills Road, Members were asked to approve an annual payment to CALM CIC for this service on a 365 day basis at £2,920 per annum. The various options open to the Town Council for the opening closing of the gate were given for consideration and discussion. Following considerable debate it was **RESOLVED the car park gate be left open on a permanent basis. The gate would be left in situ, locked in the open position, and this would provide the Council with the option to lock the car park from time to time if there were any specific reasons for doing so, such as responding to local intelligence about ASB etc.**

In discussing this item reference was made to a recent social media post by a Town Councillor in relation to this matter.

RESOLVED the Members Code of Conduct in relation to the use of social media by Town Councillors be considered at the next meeting of the Town Council.

133. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor McDonnell reported on work she was doing with the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office and DCC on a multi agency approach to tackle ASB and improving ways to report problems to the Police.

She also reported Durham was now in the last 8 in the City of Culture bidding round and the County Council were calling on all partner agencies to get behind and support the bid.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

134. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor McCue said there was not a single household that had not been affected by COVID 19 and the magnitude and affect could not be put into words and there were still challenges ahead for all. She pointed out despite political differences everyone was experiencing problems and there was more that brought us together than divided us. She wished everyone a Happy New Year with the hope this year would be better than the last.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.