

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2022 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - COUN M A CARTWRIGHT (CHAIR)

Mesdames: - S Simpson, A Stockport, K Liddell, J Black, K Duffy, M McCue & S McDonnell

Messrs: - M Sanderson, D Hawley, T Duffy & R Fishwick

135. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors G Johnson, S Meikle, K Hawley, R Moore, D Howarth, S Franklin & D Quinn.

136. Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present.

137. 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.

138. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 17th January 2022

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

139. To Consider a request for acceptance of reasons for non attendance from a Council Member

The Town Clerk gave details of a request received for the council to formally accept reasons, as detailed in the letter received from Councillor Laing, for her non attendance at meetings. Members were sympathetic to the circumstances and asked their best wishes be conveyed to her and it was **RESOLVED Councillor Laing's non attendance at meetings for the next three months be approved, and at the end of this time period the non attendance be reviewed.**

140. Report of the Community & Environment Meeting of the 14th February 2022

The minutes of the Community & Environment Committee were attached for the information of Members.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 19 – Code of Conduct & Civility & Respect

Councillor K Duffy passed comment on the remarks made at the meeting.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

141. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 14th February 2022

Members confirmed and endorse the resolution of the Finance Sub Committee to approve BACS payments to be paid on 18th February 2022.

142. COVID-19 Update

Members received an update from the Town Clerk on the Council's response to the COVID-19 situation. He reported the Town Council had not changed its internal approach to the virus and staff were still being encouraged to continue to monitor their own health and use LFT's when necessary and self isolate if they tested positive for COVID-19. There was still some flexible home working however things were slowly returning to normal. COVID risk assessments were being reviewed and were in place until at least 1 April 2022.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

143. Final Budget and Fees & Charges levels for 2022/23

Members' approval of the final draft budget and main fees and charges for the Town Council for 2022/23 was requested.

RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted and approval be given to the budget and fees and charges for 2022/23 as set out in the report.

144. Review of Council's Approach to Risk and Strategic Risk Register

Members were asked to review and approve the Council's approach to risk and the updated Strategic Risk Register. **RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted and the Council's corporate risk assessment, matrix and risk policy be reviewed and approved.**

145. Procurement of a new skate park at Eden Lane, Peterlee

Members were asked to approve a proposal to launch a procurement exercise for a new skate park in the area close to the Council's Eden Lane depot and Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club following a successful bid for s106 grant funding. The Town Clerk provided further information at the meeting and it was **RESOLVED approval be granted for the procurement exercise to be launched for a skate park at Eden Lane.**

Councillor T Duffy joined the meeting at 7.10pm.

146. Update on progress with the 'Double Taxation' discussion between County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) and Durham County Council (DCC)

Members were asked to consider the report of the DCC Head of Corporate Finance to the Local Councils Working Group 21st December 2021 regarding the 'double taxation' concept, and to approve Officer's recommendations that the Town Council does not wish to engage with the project if it does proceed.

RESOLVED the Town Council confirm they did not wish to take part in a double taxation exercise should it proceed.

147. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor McDonnell reported on work she was continuing with the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office and DCC on a multi agency approach to tackle ASB and issues with quad and off road bikes. She reported a recent meeting had been very well attended and a further meeting had been arranged to take place in May 2022. She reported there was to be a review of the Area Action Partnership arrangements. She provided information on the council tax rebate scheme for properties in the A to D band to help with the rises in the cost of living. There were to be country wide consultations with a Boundary Commission Review in 2023. She reported on the new care home and supported living property based in Robson Avenue and encouraged all to visit. In closing she said her thoughts were with the people of Ukraine and hopes that the conflict will come to an end soon.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

148. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor McCue reported she was now back in circulation after suffering from COVID. She said the positive Police presence and response to off road bikes was making a big difference. She was however concerned at the increase in fires being set around the Town. She had attended the recent event held at Passmore Pavilion and was pleased to see it had been popular and well attended by residents. She reported on the Big Spring Clean events with she would hope would help with awareness and get residents involved. She was in shock at the footage coming out of Ukraine and the developments were concerning; she said their people were in her thoughts.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.