

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - Cllr R Moore (Chairman)  
Cllrs K Hawley, D Howarth, K Duffy, T Duffy, B Fishwick, M Cartwright,  
A Stockport, S Franklin, E Watson, S Simpson & M Sanderson

Before the commencement of the meeting Cllr R Moore lead the meeting in a moment of silent reflection in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

52. Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors J Black, D Hawley, G Johnson, M McCue, S Meikle, D Quinn, S McDonnell. **RESOLVED the apologies for absence from these Councillors be noted.**
53. Public Participation Session  
There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
54. 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.
55. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
The minutes of the previous meeting were presented for consideration and approval as a true and correct record. **RESOLVED the minutes be accepted and signed as a true and correct record.**
56. To receive the script for the Proclamation of His Majesty The King Charles III  
**RESOLVED that the proclamation of His Majesty The King Charles III delivered by the Mayor of Peterlee Cllr Rob Moore in Peterlee Town Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be received and entered into the minutes of the Council as a public record of this historic event.**

“We come together today following the passing of our late Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth the Second. Our sadness at this time is shared by people across the globe, as we remember with affection and gratitude the lifetime of service given by our longest-reigning Monarch.

The basis on which our monarchy is built has ensured that through the centuries the Crown has passed in an unbroken line of succession. Today's ceremony marks the formal Proclamation to the people of Peterlee of the beginning of our new King's rein.

Yesterday the Accession Council met at St James' Palace to proclaim our new Sovereign. The flags which had flown at half-mast since The Queen's death were raised briefly to their full height to mark the start of His Majesty's reign.

The Accession Council also made an Order requiring the High Sheriffs to cause the Proclamation to be read in the areas of their jurisdiction. The High Sheriff of County Durham discharged that duty earlier today and now it is my humble duty to bring the words of the Proclamation to the residents of Peterlee.

The Proclamation of the new Sovereign is a very old tradition which can be traced back over many centuries.

The ceremony does not create a new King. It is simply an announcement of the accession which took place immediately on the death of Queen Elizabeth the Second.

In an age where modern methods of communication convey news around the globe in an instant, the proclamation is no longer the means by which people learn for the first time that they have a new Monarch. Today, however, is one of the first occasions when our communities have an opportunity to come together and reflect on the moment in our nation's history when the reign of our longest-serving Monarch came to an end and our new Sovereign succeeded

Ladies and Gentlemen. The Proclamation of the Accession.

#### A PROCLAMATION

Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose Decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George: We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm and Members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council and representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and others, do now hereby with one voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Charles the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom we do acknowledge all Faith and Obedience with humble Affection; beseeching God by whom Kings and Queens do reign to bless His Majesty with long and happy Years to reign over us.

Given at St. James's Palace this tenth day of September in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-two.

**The Mayor:** God Save the King

**All present:** God Save the King

The crowd sang the first verse of the national anthem.

Finally, the Mayor called for three cheers for His Majesty the King.

The crowd dispersed with many attending the book of condolences in St Cuthbert's Church.

57. Confirmation of completion of audit for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Clerk presented the letter and completed AGAR from the Council's External Auditor confirming that the AGAR for 2021/22 was in accordance with proper practices and they had no cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met and that no minor issues were identified. It was **RESOLVED that the completed AGAR and Auditor's report for 2021/22 be received.**

58. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 (attached)

Members confirmed and endorsed the resolution of the Finance Sub Committee to approve BACS payments to be made for August 2022 and confirmed the BACS payments paid on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 using delegated authority granted to the Town Clerk to authorise the accounts. It was **RESOLVED the payments be accepted.**

59. Notes of the Scrutiny Meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The notes of this meeting had been circulated to Members for information prior to the meeting.

(a) Santa's Wish

Cllr K Hawley explained that since the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September the proposals for this project had developed further and the scope had changed somewhat. It was still likely that the Council would be asked to make the Shotton Hall

banqueting suites and some staff time available to help with the storage and processing of gifts, however this would be discussed and confirmed at a future Scrutiny meeting.

(b) Warm Hub

It was noted that Scrutiny Committee had recommend that the facilities at both Shotton Hall and the Pavilion be made available for community resilience activities during the winter as required and that proposals were being drawn up to this effect.

(c) Community Directory

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's Democratic Services Team had already started to build a directory of local voluntary and community groups with a view to the Council hosting a 'Big Conversation' gathering before the end of 2022.

60. Budget outturn report for first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year

Members received a report from the Town Clerk on the first quarter budget outturn report for the current financial year. It was noted that the Council was performing broadly on target in most service areas, but that utilities inflation was already causing substantial overspend against budget with Q1 bills up 52% compared to the same period in 2021/22. The Clerk confirmed that the combined effect of unforecast staff costs, energy and general inflation was likely to result in an overspend of in the region of £100,000 in these areas and that the Council's Senior Management Team was in the process of identifying options to reduce costs and/or increase income to mitigate these increases. It was **RESOLVED that the 2022/23 Q1 budget outturn report be received and this issue be considered again at the next available meeting.**

61. 2023/24 Budget - early considerations

Members received a presentation from the Town Clerk on early considerations for the 2023/24 budget. Members considered the potential impact of a number of scenarios linked to energy, staffing and general cost inflation and reviewed the levels of general and earmarked reserves. It was noted that the 2023/4 budget was likely to be a very challenging one and that the Council would need to consider some potentially radical options around the future priorities and delivery mechanisms of the Council. Members also discussed the 'Big Conversation' with residents and other stakeholders that would be launched later this year and into 2023. It was **RESOLVED that the issues raised by the Clerk be noted and the Council be presented with further detail of the outline budget in the October meeting.**

62. Commissioning of feasibility study and condition survey for Shotton Hall

Members received a report from the Town Clerk recommending the award of a contract for a feasibility study and condition survey for Shotton Hall. It was **RESOLVED**

that a contract for a feasibility study and condition survey for Shotton Hall be awarded to Atkins Ltd at a contract value of £11,950 + VAT, as set out in the Clerk's report.

63. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Cllr M Cartwright spoke about local residents' concerns that the Police were appearing not to respond to minor issues in the local community. She commended the personal responsiveness of the new Peterlee Inspector Phil Carter and a number of other Members present at the meeting confirmed that Inspector Carter was very good at responding to their queries.

She praised the CrimeStoppers 'Keep in Contact' portal (<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/the-keep-in-contact-portal>) which is an anonymous online system that enables members of the community to continue to be involved in the investigation of crimes that they have reported.

Cllr Cartwright thanked Cllrs Fishwick, K & T Duffy, and others for their ongoing work to support the residents at Bannatyne Lodge Care Home by helping out in their garden. She suggested that other Members might want to consider getting involved with their local care homes. It was **RESOLVED that the information given be noted.**

64. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

There was no report from the Labour Political Party.