

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2022 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - Cllr R Moore (Chairman)

K Liddell, M McCue, S Simpson, R J Burnip, S P Franklin, H A Stockport, F J Black, D Hawley, K Hawley, S Meikle, K Duffy, T Duffy, B Fishwick, A E Laing, D Howarth & D Quinn.

65. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors S McDonnell & G Johnson. **RESOLVED the apologies for absence from these Councillors be noted.**

66. Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

67. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Councillors J Black, K Duffy and T Duffy all declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting while item 10 on the agenda relating to Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens Site, was discussed.

68. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 26th September 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.**

69. Citizens Advice

The Chair welcomed Jessica Arragon, Head of Services and Development, and Wendy Holliday, Advice Worker, Peterlee, Citizens Advice, Durham and they provided a summary of Citizens Advice activity in Peterlee. The key statistics were provided for the meeting with from 1st January 2022 to September 2022, with 219 clients with 813 issues affecting their lives accessing the Peterlee advice worker. This exceeded the number of clients pre covid. The project identified on average each client helped had an income gain of £2,693.00. Details were provided on the topics clients needed help with most, who were their clients and their progress over time. They provided a projection for 2022/23 use of the service. They explained they were currently experiencing an extremely challenging period, and the cost of living crisis had seen the demand for their services increasing dramatically. In closing, Ms Arragon and Ms Holliday, on behalf of Citizens Advice County Durham showed their appreciation to

Peterlee Town Council for its vital continued support. **RESOLVED the grant made to Citizens Advice be considered further at the future budget setting meetings.**

70. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 10th October 2022

Members confirmed and endorsed the resolution of the Finance Sub Committee to approve BACS payments to be made for September 2022 and confirmed the BACS payments paid on 10th October 2022. It was **RESOLVED the payments be accepted.**

71. Notes of the Events Working Group held on 29th September 2022

The notes of the Events Working Group held on 29th September 2022 were circulated for information purposes only. **RESOLVED the record of the meeting be noted.**

72. Minutes of the Community & Environment Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2022

The Minutes of the Community & Environment Meeting held on 10th October 2022 were circulated for information purposes only. **RESOLVED the record of the meeting be noted.**

73. Draft budget 2023/4

Members received an update on the key issues affecting the draft budget for the 2023/4 financial year as discussed at recent Resources Committee and Council meetings. The Town Clerk summarised the budget pressures the Council were facing and provided the headlines of the future budget that he was building for consideration and what the increases in precept may mean to the residents of Peterlee. He outlined the various options that were open to the Council and he then went on to speak about engaging with local partners including the Police, Fire Brigade, NHS, Ambulance Service etc and he asked for feedback on how the conversation would be structured and the meeting was opened for comments and feedback from Members.

The Town Clerk provided an example of where authorities had carried out engagement with the public and he asked Members how we should engage either via on line surveys; a series of town meetings; local ward surgeries; drop in sessions etc. He asked was there anyone in particular we are keen to hear from ie young families; older people; young people etc It was felt a meeting should be held by Members, perhaps at the Pavilion, to discuss this further between themselves and it was asked if the availability of the Pavilion on an evening be checked and the Spokesperson's of each Party be advised accordingly. **RESOLVED this course of action be agreed to. FURTHER RESOLVED the feedback from these meetings be fed back to the Town Clerk to help shape the future budget(s).**

Prior to consideration of this item Councillors K Duffy, J Black and T Duffy declared an interest and left the meeting for the duration of its discussion.

74. Proposals for the installation of a wind turbine at Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens site
Members were asked to approve the installation of a wind turbine at Thorntree Gill Leisure Gardens to provide supplementary power to the community building's off-grid system, subject to planning permission and confirmation of external grant funding to cover the cost of the project. Following consideration of the report of the Town Clerk, a copy of which had been previously circulated, it was **RESOLVED approval not be granted for this installation. This was following a unanimous vote being taken.**
75. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report
There was no report from the North East Political Party.
76. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report
Councillor McCue said as we were moving into the winter months there would be lots of pressure on families in the Town. She thanked Members for working across the wards in the town. She felt with cross party agreement the council could focus on residents and how we all can move forward. **RESOLVED that the information given be noted.**