

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2023 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - Cllr R Moore (Chairman)

K Liddell, M McCue, S Simpson, R Burnip, S McDonnell, S Franklin, A Stockport, E Watson, J Black, D Hawley, K Hawley, K Duffy, B Fishwick, A Laing, M A Cartwright, D Howarth, D Quinn, R Scott & M Sanderson

114. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillor T Duffy. **RESOLVED the apologies for absence from this Councillor be noted.**

115. Public Participation Session

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

116. 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 given.

117. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 30th January 2023

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

118. Vacancy for the Passfield Ward

Members considered nominations for the co-option for the vacancy for the Passfield Ward, and the Chair offered the two interested parties the opportunity to present a personal statement to the Council in support of their application. Both candidates spoke to the council in support of their application. Following the proposing and seconding of each candidate, a vote was held and it was **RESOLVED Mr Robert Scott be co opted to serve as a Councillor for the Passfield Ward.**

Councillor Scott signed his acceptance of office form and then took an active part in the meeting.

119. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 13th February 2023

Members considered the accounts presented for payment for the month of February 2023 and it was **RESOLVED the payments be accepted and paid.**

120. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 13th February 2023

The minutes of the Resources meeting were circulated for information purposes only. **RESOLVED the record of the meeting be noted.**

121. Write-off of Debt

Members considered a recommendation to write an outstanding debt of £264.03 off the council's accounts, details of which were contained in the report previously circulated. **RESOLVED the contents of this report be noted and the writing off of the listed debt to a value of £264.03 be approved and it be confirmed that the hirer be barred from any further Council hires until such time as the debt was repaid in full.**

122. Town Council budget 2023/4

Members were requested to approved the Town Council's detailed budget for 2023/4, a copy of which had previously be circulated to Members. The Town Clerk advised that following receipt of detailed feedback form the Mayor and Chair of Resources Committee a number of amendments had been made and these were discussed. The Town Clerk advised that the budget had already been balanced at the agreed 10.5% precept increase, and that the additional savings suggested by Members after the precept had been set would in effect be contributions to reserves. He also advised caution when considering further cuts to budgets as these were increasingly difficult to sustain following several years of below-inflation income increases, and that in an uncertain economic climate it could prove all the more difficult to 'catch up' with increases in future years. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED**

- (i) **The events budget be amended and set at £35,000 with no budget contribution towards the proposed music event celebrating Peterlee's 75 birthday;**
- (ii) **The staff training budget be agreed at £10,000 as per the draft budget;**
- (iii) **The other amendments discussed during the meeting be accepted and the final budget for 2023/24 be approved.**

123. Town Events

Members were asked to consider and approve the award of contracts for the provision of various goods and services to the Council with events and activities. It was **RESOLVED SISCO Security from Seaham be engaged to provide security for the Town Events; fencing be provided by Altrad Generation Hire & Sales from Birtley;**

medical cover be provided by Medics UK from Stockton; traffic management be provided by Chevron Traffic Management Services, Nottinghamshire.

FURTHER RESOLVED that if there were any material changes in the quotes submitted if the music event was removed from the list of 2023 Town Council events, a further report be made to Council.

124. Peterlee Town Council Scheme of Delegation

Members were requested to review and confirm the updated document, where the only changes were to the authorised officers signatory list for use of the council's debit card. **RESOLVED the amendment be approved and the amended scheme of delegation be adopted immediately.**

125. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor Cartwright reported she was delighted to see the DLI Museum was back in Durham. She sent her best wishes and thoughts to the people of Turkey and Syria following the recent earthquakes, and to the people of Ukraine. She thanked colleagues for their hard work in recent weeks. She advised the North East Party were disappointed that the decision had been made not to hold the town fireworks display this year and not to financially support the proposed music event. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

126. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Mc Cue noted the one year anniversary of the war in Ukraine and she offered her solidarity and her sadness at the huge loss of lives on both sides and for the wider implications for the whole world. She reported on the potential implications of access to democracy with the new national voter ID scheme, she felt this would be difficult for all to access, ie for those without photo ID and access to technology. She asked Members to help residents wherever they could as it was in every councillor's interest to assist residents in having access to their vote. She suggested that the Council should run a campaign to provide advice and signposting for local residents to register for voter ID. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

Councillor K Hawley commented that not every NEP Member was against cancelling the fireworks.