

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 24th APRIL 2023 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - Cllr R Moore (Chairman)

M McCue, S Simpson, R Burnip, J Black, T Duffy, B Fishwick, A Laing, R Scott, M A Cartwright & M Sanderson

141. Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors K Liddell, K Hawley, D Hawley, S McDonnell, A Stockport, S Meikle, D Quinn, D Howarth, K Duffy. **RESOLVED Council note the apologies that had been submitted.**
142. Public Participation Session
There were no members of the public present at the meeting.
143. 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.
144. The Minutes of the last meeting of the 27th March 2023
The minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and approval as a true and correct record. **RESOLVED the minutes be accepted and signed as a true and correct record subject to Minute No 138 being amended to include “the use of social media, which in Cllr Duffy’s opinion amounted to hate speech, should resign” being added to the minute.**
145. Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee Meeting of the 30th March 2023
The notes of this meeting were attached for information. **RESOLVED the minutes be noted.**
146. Minutes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 24th April 2023
The Deputy Town Clerk reported unfortunately it had not been possible to close the accounts for the end of the 2022/23 Financial year and so the accounts for April could not be presented. **RESOLVED approval be given for the payments for April 2023 to be circulated to Members via e mail to seek their approval prior to payment.**

147. Insurance Cover 2023/24

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had renewed its insurance cover with Zurich Municipal for the 2023/4 financial year and would be conducting a procurement exercise for future years' insurance cover later in 2023. Members were also given information relating to a refund applied by Zurich Municipal on the Town Council's account. It was asked if there were any clauses attached to this. The Deputy Town Clerk advised she would seek clarification on the enquiry. **RESOLVED the information given be noted and the action taken in renewing the Town Council's insurance cover for 2023/24 with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £79,523.00, be approved.**

148. Award of contract for a conditions and options reports for the community facilities provision at Woodhouse Park

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk providing them with an update on proposals to carry out a condition and options study for the community facilities at Woodhouse Park. **RESOLVED the contents of this report be noted and approval be given to the award of contract for the condition and options study for the community facilities at Woodhouse Park to Durham County Council's Construction Consultancy Service (DCC CCS) at a cost of £9,435.00 + VAT.**

149. Investors In People Feedback Report

Members considered the report from Investors In People confirming that the Town Council has retained its 'Investors in People' accreditation for a second time.

Members noted the positive aspects of the survey including that people enjoyed working for the Town Council and the relationships that they had with their colleagues. Staff continued to feel that it was a much-improved organisation, with a culture that they appreciated, and it was clear that they were very committed to its ongoing success. They found the leadership style demonstrated by the Chief Officer and other senior leaders very effective, motivational and reassuring, notwithstanding the financial challenges the organisation currently faced. Members also noted that the Town Council had been awarded a benchmark survey score of 755, which compared favourably with an average IIP benchmark across all sectors of 728 and very favourably with the IIP Public Administration and Defence sector benchmark of 683.

RESOLVED the report be accepted.

150. Invitation for the Town Mayor to visit Nordenham, Germany

The Deputy Town Clerk reported receipt of and consider an invitation for the Mayor to attend Nordenham, Germany in June 2023. The Mayor/Chair was due to be elected on 15 May 2023 at the Annual Meeting of the Council and it was **RESOLVED this**

invitation be re considered following the Council's Annual Meeting, it being noted any visit would be at the Mayor's personal expense.

151. Policies

i. To review and then confirm adoption of the amended policies as follows:-

(a) Maternity/Paternity/Adoption & Surrogacy Policy

(b) Special Leave Policy Bereavement & Emergency Leave Policy

(c) Supporting Staff with Public Duties Policy

(d) Redundancy Guidance

(e) Automated External Defibrillator Policy

li. New Policy: Grants Policy Members reviewed and considered the policies presented. **RESOLVED the policies be reviewed, accepted and adopted immediately.**

152. Establishment of a Health & Safety Working Party

Members were asked to agree to the establishment of a Member/Staff Working Party with the key tasks of reviewing the Council's Health & Safety Policy and operational processes and reporting recommendations back to Council for consideration. Several Members expressed an interest in being part of this Working Party namely Councillors Moore, Burnip, Black and Cartwright. **RESOLVED a meeting of the Working Party be convened and they report back to Council with their recommendations.**

153. 1st, 2nd & 3rd September 2023 Helford Road, Fun Fair

Members were asked to consider a request for permission from the Council for Nobles Fun Fair to use PTC land at Helford Road. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED this request be agreed to and it be given to the Corporate Services Manager to negotiate the terms of this permission.**

154. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

The Spokesperson had no report to make.

155. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor McCue spoke to the meeting about the absence of a Town Councillor. Members asked that their warmest regards and best wishes be sent to the Councillor.

Councillor McCue said she hoped that the warmer weather of spring would help ease the burden on families on the use of gas and electric and would help people to feel more hopeful. She thanked Members that had been involved with local litter picking, community events and Kings Coronation celebrations. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**