

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2023 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - Cllr D Howarth (Chair)

K Liddell, M McCue, S Simpson, R J Burnip, S McDonnell, R Moore, K Hawley, B Fishwick, R Scott & D Quinn

51. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors A Stockport, T Duffy, K Duffy, J Black, M A Cartwright & M Sanderson. **RESOLVED Council note the apologies that had been submitted.**

52. Public Participation Session

There was one member of the public present at the meeting. A resident from Helford Road addressed the meeting about issues with dog fouling in and around his neighbourhood. He had reported this to Durham County Council on several occasions but felt frustrated that the problem seemed to be increasing and nothing was being done to tackle the issue. The County Councillor for the Passfield Ward assured the resident that she would take this up with Durham County Council on the resident's behalf. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

53. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. No interests were declared.

54. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 26th June 2023

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

55. The notes of the Scrutiny Meeting of the 21st August 2023

The notes of this meeting were attached for information. **RESOLVED the contents be noted.**

56. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 21st August 2023

Members confirmed and endorsed the resolution of the Finance Sub Committee to approve BACS payments paid.

57. The Minutes of the Resources Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023
The notes of this meeting were attached for information. **RESOLVED the minutes be noted.**
58. Notes of the Events working party held on 7th September 2023 (attached)
The notes of this meeting were attached for information. **RESOLVED the contents be noted. FURTHER RESOLVED arrangements be made to seek the return of Mr & Mrs Claus Outfit to the Town Council for dry cleaning etc. prior to the Christmas period.**
59. Building Valuations – for insurance purposes
Members discussed the report from the Town Clerk recommending the award of a contract to provide insurance valuations for the Council’s buildings. **RESOLVED Members note the contents of the report and approve the award of contract for on-site RCA insurance valuations for the council’s property portfolio to Barrett Corp & Harrington Ltd for the value of £4,120 + VAT**
60. DCC Website Cessation of SLA Contract
It was reported that DCC had given notice that their support for the Council’s website shall end on 31 March 2024 and to consider options for provision from 1st April 2024. The Town Clerk advised this would be an opportunity to seek a new provider although this may be at an increased rate. It was suggested East Durham College be approached and it was confirmed other parish and town councils were also being approached for a possible joint approach. **RESOLVED further progress with the provision of web site support be awaited.**
61. Policies
To consider and review the following policies: -
(a) Flexible working Policy
(b) Information and information Management Policy
(c) Lone Working Policy
The policies were attached for Member’s consideration and approval. It was **RESOLVED the Information and Information Management Policy and Lone Working Policy, be approved. FURTHER RESOLVED the flexible working policy be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for further discussion.**
62. Spokesperson of the Independent Party’s Report

Councillor K Hawley reported on the successful re-opening of the Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club following a refurbishment and how the decision made by Peterlee Town Council to alter the lease and support the club's extension had been the right thing to do, both in terms of the development of the Club itself and also the wider benefits to the Eden Hill and wider Peterlee areas. She reported that the Warm Welcome Café at Shotton Hall had now been open again for two weeks and was once again busy. She hoped the Council would support being the lead in the Toy Appeal for Peterlee once the grant funding bid's outcome was confirmed. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

63. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor S McDonnell reported COVID cases seemed to be on the increase again and encouraged everyone to take up the vaccination if offered. There was also a prevalence of shingles. She reported an apparent increase in anti-social behavior in the Town with off road bikes and youths and a joint meeting had been held with the Police and Believe Housing to try and identify problems areas and suggest solutions. There was work being carried out by Durham County Council identifying areas that were prone to flooding prone in the Town. She reported that the school uniform shop that had been running in the town centre had received over 3,000 donated items which she was sure would have helped out many families. The Leek Club at the Catholic Club and the allotments at Lowhills Road were also working to support East Durham Foodbank. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

64. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor R Scott reported on the recent Mayor's Event – "Proms at the Church" which he said had been excellent, especially the catering provided by Councillor K Hawley. He mentioned contact made with PTC regarding the events and funding for the Peterlee 75 celebration. He reported the Warm Hub at the Methodist Church had stated that after the summer break they were even busier than before. He reported the sad news of the recent passing of a County and Seaham Town Councillor Leanne Kennedy with her funeral being held that week. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**