

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2023 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - Cllr A Laing (Chair)

K Liddell, M McCue, S Simpson, S Franklin, H Stockport, E Watson, R Moore, J Black, K Hawley, R Scott, K Duffy, T Duffy, D Howarth & M A Cartwright

81. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors B Fishwick, S Meikle, R Burnip, M Sanderson, S McDonnell & D Hawley. **RESOLVED Council note the apologies that had been submitted.**

82. Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present at the meeting. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

83. 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.

84. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 23rd October 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.**

85. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 23rd October 2023

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

86. The Minutes of the Resources Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023

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

87. Apologies for absence

The Clerk reported on a request from Cllr Meikle for the Council to agree to accept his ongoing reasons for absence from meetings due to ill health. **RESOLVED that the Council accept Cllr Meikle's reasons for non-attendance at meetings for the duration of his medical treatment.**

88. Policies

Members considered and reviewed the following policies:-

- (a) Learning & Development Policy
- (b) No Smoking Policy
- (c) Parental Leave Policy
- (d) Mutual Respect and Dignity Policy
- (e) Mental Wellbeing Policy

RESOLVED the policies listed be approved and adopted with immediate effect.

89. 2023/24 Financial Year 2nd quarter budget update report

Members received a report from the Town Clerk outlining the Council's budget performance to the end of the second quarter, 30th September 2023. The Clerk highlighted a number of area of interest for Members and took questions on energy costs and staffing issues at Shotton Hall and The Pavilion. **RESOLVED the report be accepted and its contents noted.**

Prior to the consideration of the following three reports, the Chair asked the members in attendance if they felt the spokesperson reports were necessary. It was suggested that should any Councillor – spokesperson or otherwise – wish to provide members of the council with an update they were able to propose an agenda item to the Clerk/Deputy Clerk in the usual way. Following a vote it was agreed this was the preferred course of action moving forward, rather than separate reports being standing items on the Council agenda.

90. Spokesperson of the Independent Members' Report

No report was given.

91. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor Cartwright reported the christmas tree recycling scheme was going well and Hope & Grace were to take on a unit in the Town Centre for the period 4th – 17th December to use as a base for a toy recycling scheme. In closing she said she was

looking forward to the work being complete and the opening of the DLI, Durham in 2024. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

92. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor R Scott reported that the Winter Warmer café at the Methodist Church was still going well with a few new faces joining. He confirmed that the café was to hold a Christmas meal on 7th December and then close for a month over the Christmas period. He reported that the Mayor's Civic Events and the Town Events were going well and he encouraged more Councillors to take part in them. In closing he advised Kim McGuinness had been invited over to Peterlee to a future meeting. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance.