

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - Cllr A Laing (Chair)

K Liddell, M McCue, S Simpson, K Hawley, D Howarth, F Black & R Scott

93. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors A Stockport, D Hawley, R Moore, B Fishwick, K Duffy & T Duffy. **RESOLVED Council note the apologies that had been submitted.**

94. Public Participation Session

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

95. 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.

96. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> November 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.**

97. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

98. The Notes of the Community & Environment Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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

99. Royal Garden Party 2024

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that CDALC had sought expressions of interest for a draw for two attendees at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. All members had received an email offering this opportunity and only Cllr Burnip had put his name forward. **RESOLVED that Councillor Burnip nominated into the draw, with attendance at his own cost if successful.**

100. Catch 22 College – Request for a letter of support for their grant funding bid

Members were given an update on a site to the Catch 22 Facility in Hailsham Place, Peterlee Town Centre on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 which Cllrs Howarth, McCue, Scott, Simpson, K Hawley and R Moore had attended. **RESOLVED a letter of support be provided on confirmation of the renewal of a longer-term lease for the building.**

101. Exploring the potential of a community business initiative as part of Shotton Hall: Phase 2

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Members were asked to consider a proposal from Plunkett Foundation for a second phase of work to support the Town Council in developing a steering group, business plan, governance structures and funding plan for a community business model to secure the future of Shotton Hall as a public asset. It was noted that a group of Members and Officers had attended the recent visit to a successful community business at The Bank, Chopwell on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023. **RESOLVED that Plunkett Foundation be appointed for phase 2 of the community business model for the Shotton Hall project, at a cost of £8,750.00 plus vat.**

102. Draft budget for the 2024/5 Financial Year

The Clerk delivered a presentation and sought feedback from Members on the interim draft budget for 2024/5 and particularly the level of precept to be set. It was noted that within the budget considerations was the reduction in LCTRS grant funding from Durham County Council, which equated to around £43,000 loss of income for the Town Council next year. The Clerk advised on the next steps which was for a detailed draft budget to be circulated to Members in early January 2024 and council meetings on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January where the budget would be discussed and precept agreed, with the precept demand being submitted to DCC on 23 January 2024. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

**On closing the meeting the Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**