

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 22ND APRIL 2024 at 6.30PM

PRESENT: - Cllr A Laing (Chair)

J. Black, R. Burnip, M. Cartwright, K. Duffy, T. Duffy, B. Fishwick, S. Franklin, D. Hawley, K. Hawley, D. Howarth, K. Liddell, M. McCue, S. McDonnell, R. Moore, D. Quinn, R. Scott and S. Simpson,

3 members of the public were in attendance.

144. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors S. Meikle, M. Sanderson, A. Stockport and E. Watson. **RESOLVED Council note the apologies that had been submitted.**

145. 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.**

146. Public Participation Session

a. Reps from Peterlee Cricket Club, Cricket Club's Future Plans

Andrew Laidler and James Pratt attended the meeting to give a presentation on the future plans of the Cricket Club to grow and become even more successful. Reference was made to the Club's Development and Social Space Proposals. Links had been provided on the agenda for Members attention.

The reps advised that the Cricket Club had become a CIC and had agreed a development plan for the new Club to focus on common goals of progressing the Club in its sporting achievements whilst providing a safe and inclusive community asset for the people of Peterlee and surrounding villages. The Social Space Proposal would allow the Club to create momentum and develop opportunities for funding and grants, through the National Governing Body and other partner organisations. It contained the following options, which has been supported by the Club's membership.

1. Move Operations into The Pavilion.
2. Replace the Marquee with a modular/temporary building
3. New building on the site of the old Helford Road sports & social club

The Social Space proposal requested that the Town Council recognised the Club's needs for improved facilities beyond the current marquee and that moving the Club into the Pavilion in its current layout was not a reasonable solution. It also requested that the Council support the Club in applying for Section 106 funding towards fast

tracking option 1, or alternatively, support Peterlee Cricket Club CIC in implementing option 2 as a stop gap solution until option1 is more financially viable.

The Club representatives explained that they would like to work with the Acting Town Clerk and the Town Council to develop its proposals to move its operations into The Pavilion.

RESOLVED: That the Acting Chief Officer/Town Clerk continue to work with the Cricket Club to develop a viable proposal to present to the Council.

b. Lee House Development

Mr Southam was not present at the meeting and therefore this item was deferred without discussion.

147. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 25th March 2024

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

148. Notes of the Finance Sub Committee of the 25th March 2024

RESOLVED the BACS payments be confirmed and endorsed.

149. The Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee 28th March 2024

The notes of this meeting were attached for information. **RESOLVED: That the minutes be agreed as a correct record.**

150. The Minutes of the Resources Meeting 8th April 2024

The notes of this meeting were attached for information. **RESOLVED: That the minutes be agreed as a correct record.**

151. The Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee 12th April 2024

The notes of this meeting were attached for information. **RESOLVED: That the minutes be agreed as a correct record.**

152. Eden Hill Skatepark Project

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

153. Entrance Doors Hill Rig House

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Chief Officer/Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, advising that a quotation of £5,243.72 had been accepted, to have the entrance doors at Hill Rig House repaired and serviced.

Given the urgency of the work and in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations, the Acting Chief Officer/Town Clerk had, in consultation with the Mayor and Chairman of Resources Committee, agreed the quotation so as not to delay the repairs.

RESOLVED: That the actions of the Acting Chief Officer/Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and Chairman of Resources Committee, be endorsed.

154. Recruitment Update

Consideration was given to a report of the Locum Democratic Services Manager, which had previously been circulated, updating Members on the recruitment of the Chief Officer/Town Clerk and the Hospitality Manager, Peterlee Pavilion. The report also considered the position of the Pavilion Manager, which would become vacant on 9th May 2024.

NB. The Acting Chief Officer/Town Clerk left the meeting during discussion on the recruitment to the Chief Officer/Town Clerk's post.

Members also noted advice obtained from NEREO relating to the timing and process of a review of the staffing structure.

Members were advised that 9 nominations had been received from Councillors expressing an interest in sitting on the Chief Officer Appointments Panel. Consideration was given to the size of the Panel and how those members should be selected. It was suggested that the members that had shown an interest in sitting on the Panel be appointed. Councillor Liddell advised that she would not be available on the day of the interview and withdrew her nomination. Councillor Simpson offered to sit on the Panel in place of Councillor Liddell.

Members queried whether recruitment to the post of Hospitality Manager should continue given NEREO's advice on the pending staffing restructure. Members were advised that the post was an operational requirement for the Pavilion to continue to operate. It was suggested that the recruitment process continue, and an appointment be made if there is a suitable applicant.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the advice obtained from NEREO regarding the proposed staffing restructure be accepted.
 2. That a Chief Officers Appointments Panel be established comprising of 9 members with the following membership: -

Councillors R. Burnip, M. Cartwright, K. Hawley, D. Hawley, D. Howarth, A. Laing, R. Moore, R. Scott and S. Simpson.
 3. That the recruitment to the post of Hospitality Manager continue given its operational necessity.
 4. That the post of Pavilion Manager be held vacant pending a staffing restructure.

155. Policies – PPE Policy

Consideration was given to an updated PPE Policy, which had previously been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the PPE Policy be adopted.

156. Summer Music Event, Eden Lane

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Services Manager, which had previously been circulated, requesting that Members give further direction on appropriate local charities to be supported by the event.

Members had previously agreed that 50% of the ticket sales be donated to local charities, one local cancer charity and one local mental health charity. Each charity would receive 25% of ticket sales. It had not been possible to identify charities that only operated within the Peterlee area. All charities suggested to date were part of a national organisation and therefore not acceptable to Members.

Following detailed discussion of various charities, and whether a charitable donation should be made from ticket sales, it was suggested that Members organise a bucket collection for the event with all donations being given to the Mayor's charity(ies).

RESOLVED: That Members organise a bucket collection for the event with all donations being given to the Mayor's charity(ies).

157. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the committee passed the formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 & the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, Part 1, due to the commercial and personal information contained in the report.

158. Extension to Sick Pay Request

Members considered a request from an employee to extend their six-month period of full sick pay.

RESOLVED: That the request be refused.