

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE  
ON FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2024**

PRESENT: COUN K HAWLEY (CHAIR)

R. Burnip, D. Hawley, A Laing, R Moore and R Scott.

**25. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillor K Liddell. **RESOLVED That the apology be noted.**

**26. The Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 had been approved as a correct record at the meeting of Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 and had been attached to the agenda for information.

**RESOLVED the minutes be noted.**

**27. Peterlee Cricket Club**

The Acting Town Clerk provided members with an update regarding Peterlee Cricket Club.

Members were reminded that representatives of Peterlee Cricket Club were in attendance at the Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 to present the Club's future plans and proposals for development. Council 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.

Members are also reminded that at the same meeting the Council agreed to accept NEREO's advice to wait until a new Chief Officer/Town Clerk was in post to undertake a review of services and develop a future vision for the Council. An appropriate structure could then be built to deliver the vision.

The Cricket Club's Development Plan and Social Space Proposals were discussed with particular reference to the Club's request to install stairs to create direct access from the bar to the cricket square; increasing the size of the windows in the bar so that cricket could be viewed whilst seated; the need to operate the bar all year round, including hosting functions on request and also possible potential partnering with the football clubs outside the cricket season.

It was agreed that the Acting Town Clerk continue to talk to the Cricket Club to develop a viable solution for the Club, Council and users of the Pavilion.

**RECOMMENDED** That the information be noted.

## **28. Shotton Hall**

The Acting Town Clerk provided an update with regard to Shotton Hall.

Members are reminded that, at its last meeting (12th April 2024) the Scrutiny Committee had agreed that a meeting/workshop be arranged to consider in detail the issues and possible options, together with implications, to enable members to arrive at a considered decision concerning the future of Shotton Hall. It was suggested that this could be part of the overall review advised by NEREO.

An update was given on the work of the Plunkett Foundation. It was noted that additional people had come forward to be involved in the proposed community project. Work on the community project was ongoing.

The Acting Town Clerk advised that he was in the process of gathering information requested by members, including costs of the various options to renovate the building, the indicative cost of a loan and also the value of the building.

Members were in agreement that progress needed to be made, although acknowledged that there was no obvious solution. Members preference would be to retain the building if financially viable.

### **RECOMMENDED**

That a workshop be arranged at a suitable time following the appointment of the new Town Clerk to consider in detail the issues and possible options, together with implications, to enable members to arrive at a considered decision concerning the future of Shotton Hall.