

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 20th January 2025** at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

Present: Councillor D. Howarth (Mayor) and Councillors J. Black, R. Burnip, M. Cartwright, T. Duffy, B. Fishwick, M.L. Franklin, S. Franklin, D. Hawley, K. Hawley, A. Laing, K. Liddell, M. McCue, S. McDonnell, R. Moore, R. Scott, and M. Tough.

Also Present: Ian Hall (Chief Officer and Town Clerk). D Woodhall (Resources Manager) and David Anderson (Locum Democratic Services Manager)

Five members of the public were in attendance.

C.129/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors K. Duffy, M. Sanderson, S Simpson and A Stockport.

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.130/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

C.131/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Peterlee Cricket Club

A number of representatives were in attendance at the meeting to speak on the proposals submitted by the Club. It was noted that the Club's proposals was to be considered later in the meeting.

Representatives urged the members to look favourably on the Clubs proposals to work closer with the Council to ensure the success of the Club and Pavilion. In particular the Club had requested that their bar facility be granted approval to operate during the 2025 season.

The Mayor thanked the Club's representatives for attending the meeting and stated that the Council would take into account their comments when considering their written submission later in the meeting.

Sale of Shotton Hall

Arlene Childs was in attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Pasmore Community Society. The Society was not in favour of the Council's decision to sell Shotton Hall and had a number of questions that they would like to put to the Council, which were outlined by Ms Childs.

Ms Childs stated that she would email the questions to the Town Clerk for a written response.

Ms Childs was thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

C.132/24 MINUTES

- a. Special Council (Co-option) held on 16th December 2024
- b. Council held on 16th December 2024
- c. Finance Sub-Committee held on 18th December 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the above meetings be approved as a correct record.

C.133/24 COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2025/26

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, providing members with an update to the outline budget considered at the Council meeting held on 16th December 2024.

Members noted the background to the budget which had formed the basis to the budget calculations, together with a number of amendments that had been proposed following discussion with Senior Managers.

Following detailed consideration Members agreed the budget proposals contained in the report.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the precept for 2025/26 be set at £1,918,800 which equated to a Band D household Council Tax of £407.56 an increase of 7.08%, noting that 75% of households lived in Band A properties which equates to a households' Council Tax of £271.71 an increase of £17.97 per year, or 35p per week.
 2. That the 2025/6 charges for general council services and activities be increased as set out in the report.

C.134/24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the Council passed a 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.

C.135/24 PETERLEE CRICKET CLUB PROPOSAL

Consideration was given to a proposal submitted by Peterlee Cricket Club, which had been circulated with the agenda, relating the Club's operational requirements and proposals to work with the Council help ensure the success of the Pavilion and the Club.

RESOLVED That an extension be granted to Peterlee Cricket Club to run their bar facility for the 2025 season.

That the Town Clerk continue to meet with representative of the Cricket Club to develop closer ties and explore proposals to develop the Club and Pavilion.

C.136/24 TREE NURSERY SITE DEVELOPMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, setting out options relating to a request to purchase a section of the land, together with options for possible future development.

RESOLVED That a decision on options for the site and potential sale be deferred until after the local election to be held in May 2025.