

## PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 21st October 2024** at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

**Present:** Councillor D. Howarth (Mayor) and Councillors J. Black, R. Burnip, B. Fishwick, S. Franklin, A. Laing, M. McCue, R. Moore, R. Scott, S. Simpson

**Also Present:** Ian Hall, (Chief Officer and Town Clerk), Louise Hudson (Democratic Services Assistant) and David Anderson (Locum Democratic Services Manager)

### **C.82/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors M. Cartwright, K. Duffy, T. Duffy, D. Hawley, K. Hawley, K. Liddell, A Meikle and A Stockport.

**RESOLVED:** That the apologies be noted.

### **C.83/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None submitted.

### **C.84/24 MINUTES**

- a. Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- b. Events Working Party held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- c. Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Councillor Moore stated that in relation to Minute No C.71/24 (Council, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024) Councillor S Franklin had not voted on the East Durham Communities Standing Together item. The Locum Democratic Services Manager advised that the minutes reflected that Councillor Franklin's hand was up showing support for the request when the vote was taken. Councillor Franklin stated that he had withdrawn his hand on the advice of Councillor Moore. Members were advised that they could move an amendment to the minutes if they felt that it was not a true reflection. No amendment was moved.

Members sought further clarification on declaration of interests. The Locum Democratic Services Manager advised guidance with regards to members register of interests and declaration of interests at meetings had been re-issued to all members earlier that day by email. The guidance had previously been issued in October 2022.

Following discussion it was agreed that in future when members declare an interest, whether a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest, they should withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room to ensure clarity around non-involvement in the item being considered.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Minutes of the above meetings be approved as a correct record.
  2. That when members declare an interest, whether a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest, they should withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room to ensure clarity around non-involvement in the item being considered.

**C.85/24 ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, in relation to the establishment of a Governance Committee as requested at the previous meeting,. (Minute No C.74/24 refers).

Members also considered an addendum to the report outlining membership of political groups so that the principles of political proportionality could be applied. Members confirmed membership of various groups as being correct.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That a Governance Committee be established, with terms of reference as detailed in the report, comprising 6 members (2 Independent Group, 2 Labour, 2 North East)
  2. That Councillors J. Black, R. Burnip, B Fishwick, K. Hawley, R. Moore and A Stockport be appointed to the Governance Committee:

**C.86/24 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To resolve that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the committee pass 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

**C.87/24 RELOCATION OF EASINGTON SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk which had been circulated with the agenda, regarding the relocation of Easington School Sports Partnership's office from Shotton Hall to The Pavilion,

Members noted the practicality of the relocation due to the potential sale of Shotton Hall and the positive impact of their move to The Pavilion.

- RESOLVED** That the relocation of Easington School Sports Partnership's office from Shotton Hall to The Pavilion be approved and the relocation take place as soon as practicable.

**C.88/24 FORMER EMPLOYEE CLAIM FOR NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS**

Consideration was given to a report, which had been circulated with the agenda, with regard to a claim from a former employee for noise induced hearing loss.

Members considered advice form a solicitor appointed to assess the claim.

- RESOLVED** That the claim be settled on terms advised by the Solicitor as detailed in the report.