

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 3rd February 2025** at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

Present: Councillor R Burnip (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors J. Black, M. Cartwright, K. Hawley, A. Laing, M. McCue, R. Moore, R. Scott, S Simpson, A Stockport, B Fishwick and M. Tough.

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

One member of the public was in attendance.

C.137/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors K. Duffy, T Duffy, M. Sanderson, K Liddell, S Franklin, M. L. Franklin, D Hawley and D Howarth.

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.138/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

C.139/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No questions were raised during public participation.

C.140/24 MINUTES

- a. Council held on 20th January 2025
- b. Finance held on 20th January 2025

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

C.141/24 PURCHASE OF NEW TRACTOR (Pitch Power Funding)

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, regarding the purchase of a Joh Deere 4052R utility tractor.

Grant funding had been achieved from the Football Foundations Pitch Power scheme to provide 75% of the purchase cost, with the Council required to contribute the remaining 25%.

Members noted that the lowest quotation obtained for in the sum of £40,172, which meant that the Council's contribution would be £10,043.

Councillor M McCue wanted to acknowledge staff efforts in achieving the grant funding.

RESOLVED: That the Council's contribution of £10,043 towards the purchase of a new John Deere 4052R tractor be approved.

C.141/24

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CHARITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, with regard to establishing a charity to support health and wellbeing within Peterlee.

RESOLVED

1. That the establishment of a charity be agreed in principle.
2. That further investigations be made and advice sought on how best to establish a charity.

C.142/24

CONDITION AND REQUIRED WORKS AT EDEN LANE DEPOT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, updating Members on the condition of the depot and to highlight the urgent action required.

It was noted that staff who worked from the Depot had been relocated to Shotton Hall on a temporary basis while the issues were resolved. Members supported this action.

RESOLVED

1. That quotations be obtained for the necessary repairs.
2. That repairs be prioritised to address roof corrosion, structural cracks and damp near electrical systems to prevent further deterioration and mitigate against safety risks.
3. That funds be reviewed and allocated to cover costs of the required work based on updated quotations.

C.143/24

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.144/24

WRITE-OFF OF UNRECOVERABLE DEBT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, to seek approval to write off an unrecoverable debt.

Members noted details on the debt which amounted to £125. Despite attempts to recover the debt through the small claims court it had not been possible to do so. Further action to recover the debt would incur disproportional costs with little chance of success.

Although Members were loath to write off debts it seemed the most economical course of action in this case. It was suggested that anyone using Council facilities should pay in advance.

A vote was taken to write off the debt:

For: 11

Against: 1

Councillor R Moore wished it to be recorded that he voted against writing off the debt.

RESOLVED

1. That the debt be written-off
2. That wherever possible payment be taken when facilities were booked.