

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

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

C.156/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D Hawley, M McCue and M Sanderson.

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.157/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No declarations of interest were submitted.

C.158/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
No questions were raised during public participation.

C.159/24 MINUTES

- a. Finance Sub-Committee held on 17th February 2025
- b. Council held on 17th February 2025
- c. Events Working Party held on 18th February 2025

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the above meetings be approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

Events Working Party held on 18th February 2025
Councillor R Moore be recorded only in apologies.

That Minute No. EWP.17/25 read "Members present at the meeting, apart from one, were of the opinion that the Council should not hold a fireworks event in 2025".

C.160/24 EVENTS PROGRAMME 2025/26: 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY (MAY 2025); FIREWORKS DISPLAY (NOV 2025)
Detailed consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, setting out the views of the Events Working Party held on Tuesday 18th February 2025.

A vote was taken in relation to holding a fireworks display in November 2025.

For holding a fireworks event	1
Against holding a fireworks event	14

Councillor Tough requested that his name be recorded as voting in favour of holding fireworks in November 2025.

RESOLVED

1. That VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations be arranged as follows:
 - i. Donations of £100 be offered to care homes within Peterlee to help them to celebrate in the way that best suits residents and the care homes.
 - ii. All schools in Peterlee be invited to create a field of remembrance crosses at the Pavilion to assist young people learning about World War 2 and celebrating VE Day.
 - iii. That the Town join in the National Celebrations on 8th May 2025 by:
 - Flag Raising (9.00 am) Arrangements will be made for a dignitary to raise an 80th VE Day flag at the Pavilion. Flags will also be flown on all other Town Council owned flagpoles, (Eden Lane Cemetery, Shotton Hall and Woodhouse Park).
 - Lighting of a Beacon and reading of 'The Tribute' (9.30 pm). A gas fuelled beacon will be purchased to enable to town to join in with the national beacon lighting event. The beacon will be placed at a suitable location outside the Pavilion. Arrangements will be made for a dignitary to light the beacon and read 'The Tribute'.

Representatives from the church be invited to take part.
2. That VJ Day 80th Anniversary be marked as set out in the report.
3. That the Council does not hold a fireworks display in 2025 due to the cost.

C.161/25

POWER UPGRADE WORKS AT NORTH DENE, PETERLEE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, to advise Members of action taken in respect to a request from Northern Powergrid, as a matter of urgency, to carry out upgrade works on Town Council owned land.

RESOLVED

That Members note the information and endorse the action taken by the Town Clerk following consulting with Members.

C.162/24

REPLACEMENT OF JOHN DEERE 950 RIDE-ON GRASSCUTTER

Consideration was given to a report of the Neighbourhood Services Manager, which had been circulated with the agenda, to provide members with a summary of a proposal for the necessary replacement of the John Deere 950 ride-on grass-cutter. (Asset No 20A). It was proposed that two vehicles, including Asset No 20A, be traded in to reduce the cost of the replacement.

Members noted details of the prices obtained and that an ex-demonstration vehicle had become available from the company providing the most economical quote, Company A (Thomas Sherriff). It was suggested that negotiations be entered into with that company to purchase the ex-demo ride on grass cutter. If the new cost is reasonable and below the original asking price of £18,584, this offer be accepted

- RESOLVED**
1. That negotiations be entered into with Company A (Thomas Sherriff) to purchase an ex-demo model John Deere 950 ride on grass cutter which had become available. If the new cost is reasonable and below the original asking price of £18,584, this offer is to be accepted.
 2. That Asset No's 5A and 20A be traded in to offset the cost of the new John Deere 950 ride on grass cutter.

C.163/24

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/or personal information contained in the report.

C.164/24

CELLNEX LEASE CONTRACT RENEWAL

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had been circulated with the agenda, regarding the telecommunications infrastructure on Council-owned land at Eden Lane.

RESOLVED That the item be deferred pending further information being obtained.