

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 4th November 2024** at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

Present: Councillor D. Howarth (Mayor) and Councillors J. Black, R. Burnip, M. Cartwright B. Fishwick, K. Hawley, A. Laing, S McDonnell, R. Moore, R. Scott and S. Simpson

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

C. Black (Align Chartered Surveyors) and D Leask (NEREO)

1 member of the public was present.

C.89/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.90/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None submitted.

C.91/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No questions were raised during public participation.

C.92/24 MINUTES

- a. Finance Sub-Committee held on 21st October 2024
- b. Council held on 21st October 2024

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

C.93/24 SHOTTON HALL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update with regard to the fire alarm system at Shotton hall.

Members noted that work had been carried out to rectify faults on the fire alarm system. The company that monitored the system, Phoenix Eye, were to carry out tests prior to re-establishing remote monitoring. In the meantime Phoenix Eye was providing a physical presence overnight to monitor the building.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and action taken be endorsed.

C.94/24 STAFF PAY AWARD 2024/25

Members noted details of the Local Government Services pay agreement for 2024/25. The new pay rates would be applied from 1st April 2024 and paid as soon as practicable.

RESOLVED: That the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2024/25 be noted and arrangements be made for payments to be made as soon as practicable.

C.95/24 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.96/24 PETERLEE & HORDEN RUGBY CLUB: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Consideration was given to a report of the Acting Neighbourhood Services Manager, which had been circulated with the agenda, in relation to a service level agreement for the Town Council to provide grounds maintenance services for Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club covering the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027.

Members were of the opinion that the Rugby Club was to make its own arrangements for grounds maintenance after the initial three-year period, which expired on 31st March 2024. The Acting Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that the grounds maintenance service provided an income for the Council and that an annual inflationary increase was applied to the charge during the term of the agreement. The charge covered the cost of providing the service.

Members were in agreement that the SLA be agreed and reviewed by the new council following the elections in May 2025.

- RESOLVED**
1. That the Service Level Agreement for the Town Council to provide grounds maintenance services for Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club covering the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027 be agreed.
 2. That the Service Level Agreement be reviewed by the new Council following the local elections in May 2025.

C.97/24 SHOTTON HALL

C. Black, Align Chartered Surveyors, presented a report, which was circulated at the meeting, giving an analysis of offers received for Shotton Hall.

Following detailed discussion Members agreed that further information be sought in relation to the proposal put forward by the highest bidder, as identified in the report.

RESOLVED That Align Chartered Surveyors obtain further information in relation the proposal put forward by the highest bidder, as identified in the report

C.98/24 STAFFING RESTRUCTURE: CONTEXT STATEMENT

The Town Clerk gave a presentation on the staffing restructure with particular attention being given to the Context Statement.

RESOLVED That the staffing restructure and context statement be agreed and arrangements be made to implement the new structure.