

## PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024** at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

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

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

Four members of the public were in attendance.

### **C.122/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were offered from Councillors B. Fishwick, S. Franklin, D. Hawley, S. McDonnell, A. Meikle and M. Sanderson

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

### **C.123/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor M.T. Tough declared an interest in respect of Item No 7. 'Shotton Hall – Pasmore Community Society Proposal' and withdrew from the meeting while discussion and voting took place on that item. Councillor Tough also withdrew from the meeting during Public Participation, while a presentation was given on the proposal.

**N.B.** Having declared an interest Councillor M. Tough left the meeting for the duration of the following item which included a presentation on behalf of the Pasmore Community Society.

### **C.124/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Bob Huitson, Pasmore Community Society, spoke on the Society's proposal for Shotton Hall be gifted to them so they could run it as a community venture.

The Mayor thanked Mr Huitson for the proposal and his attendance at the meeting. The merits of the proposal would be considered in comparison to the offer that had previously been received to purchase the Hall.

### **C.125/24 MINUTES**

a. Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the above meetings be approved as a correct record, with the inclusion of Councillor Black in apologies.

### **C.126/24 DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Members considered a presentation on the interim draft budget for 2025/6. It was noted that within the budget considerations was the reduction in LCTRS grant funding from Durham County Council, which equated to around £31,000 loss of income for the Town Council next year.

Further discussions would be held with Members in order to assist the preparation of final proposal for consideration at the next Council meeting, which would be held on

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The precept request was to be submitted to Durham County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

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

**C.127/24 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.

**N.B.** Having declared an interest in the next item Councillor M. Tough left the meeting for the duration and voting thereon.

**C.128/24 SHOTTON HALL, PASMORE COMMUNITY SOCIETY PROPOSAL**

Consideration was given to a proposal submitted by the Pasmore Community Society to take over Shotton Hall as a community venture.

Following detailed consideration Members voted unanimously to reject the proposal in favour of the offer which had been received to purchase the Hall. Members were of the view that the proposal was not financially viable nor sustainable. In comparison the offer that had been received to purchase the Hall was financially viable and sustainable and would be far more beneficial to the community.

**RESOLVED** That the proposal from the Pasmore Community Society be rejected.