

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Events Working Party** on **Tuesday 18th February 2025** at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

Present: Councillor Ray Burnip (Chair)
and Councillors B Fishwick, K Hawley, A Laing, M Tough, R Moore

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

EWP.12/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were noted from Councillors R. Moore and R. Scott.

EWP.13/25 INQUORATE MEETING
Members noted that there were insufficient members present for the meeting to be quorate and therefore decisions could not be made at the meeting. However, given the time sensitivities of the items on the agenda it was agreed that the meeting continue with the views of Members present being used to inform a report that would be submitted to the next Council meeting.

The Chairman requested that all members be

EWP.14/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No interests were declared.

EWP.15/25 VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (8TH MAY 2025)
Following detailed discussions of the various options, including engaging an events company to deliver an event (three companies had been approached), Members at the meeting were in favour of the following arrangements for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

1. Donations of £100.00 be offered to care homes within Peterlee to help them to celebrate in the way that best suits residents and the care homes.
2. Donations of £100.00 be offered to all schools in Peterlee to assist young people learning about World War 2 and celebrating VE Day.
3. 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'. (See Appendix 2)

Members of the public will be invited to both events at the Pavilion. Arrangements will be made for suitable refreshments to be available / provided / for purchase at the Pavilion.

EWP.16/25

VJ DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY (16TH AUGUST 2025)

Following discussion, Members were in favour of acknowledging the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day, however there would not be a separate event for this occasion, unless there was a national celebration event. The 80th Anniversary could be marked by raising a flag at suitable location, by an appropriate dignitary.

N.B. All activities would be covered on the Council's website and social media before and after events.

EWP.17/25

FIREWORKS DISPLAY (NOV 2025)

Detailed discussion was given to whether to hold a fireworks display in November 2025.

After detailed discussions on the various options, locations, cost (circa £18,000), public comments concerning previous fireworks events, members present at the meeting were of the opinion that the Council should not hold a fireworks event in 2025.

DRAFT