

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 6th October 2025** at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

Present: Councillor R. Moore (Mayor) and Councillors, F.J. Black, P. Brown, M.A. Cartwright, P. Cartwright, B. Fishwick, K. Hawley, D Howarth, A. Laing, D. Meadows, I. Pygall, H Pygall, and S. Simpson

Also Present: Ian Hall (Chief Officer and Town Clerk), Deborah Woodhall (Resources Manager), and Sharon Pounder (Pavilion Sport & Community Manager)

C.89/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, D Burrell, M-L Franklin, S Franklin, D Hawley, M Sanderson M Tough and D Wright.

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.90/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M A Cartwright and F J Black declared an interest in respect of item No. 11 'Calm CIC' and left the meeting for the duration of that item.

C.91/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Public were present.

C.92/25 MONTHLY UPDATES FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

No County Councillors were present at the meeting, with apologies received from Councillor S. Franklin and D Bellingham, no written reports were submitted.

Members were disappointed that no reports were received from County Councillors.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Town Clerk request in future a written report from County Councillors if they are unable to attend meetings.
 2. That the Town Clerk requests an update on the following items:
 - Parking issues on Durham Way.
 - Update on the implementation of traffic lights on the A19 slip road.

C.93/25 MINUTES

- a. Council Meeting held on 15th September 2025
- b. Events Committee held on 30th September 2025

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the above meetings be approved.

C.94/25 MOTION ON NOTICE

Moved by Councillor R. Moore,

That Council request the Town Clerk to investigate the costs of using an events provider to bring back Peterlee Show and Carnival from summer 2027.

Following discussion a consensus was agreed for the Town Clerk to investigate costs of a verified events company delivering the Peterlee Show for 2027.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk investigate costs of a verified events company delivering the Peterlee Show for 2027.

C.95/25 ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAVILION DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, regarding the establishment of a Pavilion Development Working Party with terms of reference set out in the report and to appoint members as appropriate.

Following discussion it was agreed that 9 members be appointed to the Working Party.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That a Pavilion Development Working Party be established with terms of reference as set out in the report.
 2. That the following members be appointed to the Pavilion Development Working Party: Councillors P Brown, M A Cartwright, B Fishwick, K Hawley, D Howarth, A Laing, D Meadows, I Pygall and D Wright.

C.96/25 CHANGE TO THE CITIZENS ADVICE SERVICE (CAS) COUNTY DURHAM

Consideration was given to a report of the Pavilion Sport & Community Manager, which had previously been circulated, regarding a request from Citizens Advice Service (CAS) County Durham for the Town Council to continue to honour the agreement for concessionary room usage so that they could continue to offer debt management advice until the end of March 2026. Members noted that Durham County Council had appointed Groundwork Trust to deliver an advice service throughout the County. CAS would however continue to provide debt advice.

The Pavilion Sport & Community Manager advised that since the issue of the agenda she had been contacted by Groundwork Trust to arrange a meeting to discuss the delivery of its advice service in Peterlee. A further report would be submitted to Council following the meeting with Groundwork.

- RESOLVED:**
1. For the Council to continue to offer concessionary use to Citizens Advice Service until March 2026 (subject to review in January/February 2026).
 2. That further report be submitted to Council detailing the outcome of the meeting with Groundwork Trust.

C.97/25 EDEN LANE SKATE PARK – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Neighbourhood Services Manager, which had previously been circulated, regarding feedback received from the consultation held on 28th July 2025 on the proposed skatepark at Eden Lane.

Following detailed discussion, members agreed to continue with the installation of the skatepark. (For: 11, Abstain: 1)

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk instructs the contractor to commence work as agreed.

C.98/25 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.99/25 CALM CIC

Councillors M A Cartwright and F J Black, having declared an interest, left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Consideration was given to correspondence with regard to the rent review of premises leased by Calm CIC.

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be noted.

C.100/25 RECOVERY OF COUNCIL PROPERTY - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk which had previously been circulated, updating Members with regard to the recovery of Council property, a Santa Claus costume, from a former Councillor.

Following detailed consideration, Members were of the opinion that the Council should take legal action through the courts to recover the costume or the cost of replacement if it is not returned in full and good condition.

Councillor M A Cartwright requested it to be noted that she was against putting money into retrieving the Santa Claus costume when she feels the former Councillor would categorically not return the costume, due to suggesting they would burn the costume rather than return it to the Council. (As amended at the Council meeting held on 20th October 2025. Minute No C.105/25 refers).

Councillor K Hawley requested it to be noted that she was not a witness to the former councillor being given the Santa Claus costume.

Moved by Councillor A Laing, seconded by Councillor R Moore that the Council take legal action through the courts to recover the Santa Claus costume or the cost of replacement.

On a vote being taken, the motion was agreed (For: 12, Against 1)

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Council take legal action through the courts to recover the Santa Claus costume or the cost of replacement.
 2. That the Town Clerk seek legal advice with regard to issuing a statement at an appropriate time.

C.101/25 SALE OF LAND AT ESSINGTON WAY- SECTION OF FORMER TREE NURSERY

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, providing updates regarding the Tree Nursery site at Essington Way.

- RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk invites NE Auto Garage to the next Council meeting to clarify what plans he has for the land.