

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 15th December 2025** at **6.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

Present: Councillor R. Moore (Mayor) and Councillors J Black, P. Brown, D Burrell, M A Cartwright, P Cartwright, B Fishwick, M-L. Franklin, S. Franklin, K. Hawley, D. Howarth, A. Laing, I. Pygall, S. Simpson, and D. Wright.

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

C.142/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, D. Hawley, D. Meadows, H. Pygall, M. Tough, L. Sanders and M Sanderson.

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.143/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

C.144/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Public were present.

C.145/25 MINUTES

a. Council Meeting held on 1st November 2025

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

C.146/25 DRAFT BUDGET 2026/27

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to provide Members with a draft budget for the 2026/27 financial year based on the latest information, particularly the impact of Durham County Council's (DCC) intention to withdraw the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant entirely from 2026/27.

Additional information relating to this item, which had been received from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) after the Agenda had been issued, was circulated to Members via email earlier that day. This included reference to the response from CDALC to the Durham County Council's consultation on proposals to cease Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grants to parish and town councils as part of their 2026/27 budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Following discussions, budget allocations with respect to fields maintenance were to be reviewed. The Town Clerk advised the proposed allocations for these items had been updated based on historic apportionment and inflation. These allocations would be reviewed to ensure that they more accurately reflected costs based on most up to date information and estimates. Members

were reminded that these budget allocations were an estimate of required funds to carry out fields maintenance not an exact indication of what would be spent as this was depended largely on weather conditions and wear, which could not be predicted in advance.

An updated budget would be presented for consideration at the next meeting to be held on 19th January 2026.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the draft budget position be noted.
 2. That the Council respond formally to DCC's budget proposals for 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/27-2029/30 (Phase two consultation), in particular the withdrawal of the LCTRS grant.
 3. That the Council write to its County Councillors, DCC Cabinet Members, Chief Executive and MP setting out the council's objections to the withdrawal of the LCTRS grant and implications for local communities.
 4. That any alternative budget proposals from members, following consideration of this report and draft budget, be submitted to the Town Clerk by no later than close of play on Monday 5th January 2026.

C.147/25 FUTURE OF HERITAGE ITEMS IN THE GROUNDS OF SHOTTON HALL

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, regarding the future of the heritage items situated at Shotton Hall:

- The Lee House Clock Bell, and
- The Pasmore Memorial Pole

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Lee House Clock Bell be relocated to Peterlee Cemetery at Eden Lane.
 2. That the Pasmore Memorial Pole be relocated to a suitable location. Further discussion be given by Council at its meeting to be held on 19 January 2026.

C.148/25 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.149/25 CRICKET LEASE

Further to consideration by Council at its meeting held on 20 October 2025 (Minute C.109/25) consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which

had previously been circulated, setting out the final draft of the lease for Peterlee Cricket Club (PCC) for Members' consideration,

The Town Clerk updated members with regard to the recent planning application submitted by the Cricket Club, on which the Council had not been consulted.

A number of queries were raised by members, which would be investigated and reported to the next Council meeting.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That clarification be sought on queries raised and reported back to the next meeting of Council scheduled to be held on 19 January 2026.