

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 16th March 2026** 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, K. Hawley, D. Howarth, A. Laing, D. Meadows, I. Pygall, L. Sanders, , S. Simpson, and D. Wright.

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

C.199/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Hawley, M-L Franklin, S Franklin, H. Pygall, E. Sanders and M. Sanderson

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.200/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared

C.201/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1 Member of the Public was present; however, they chose not to participate.

C.202/26 MINUTES

a. Council Meeting held on 2nd March 2026

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

C.203/26 DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION PRESENTATION (DCA)

A representative from Durham Community Action attended the meeting and presented Members with the available governance options on how to operate Hill Rigg House as a community building, in particular, the options previously discussed during the meeting with DCA representatives on 17 February 2026 and detailed in the report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated.

During detailed discussions, Members proposed holding an open day at Hill Rigg House to better understand and determine the specific needs within the area.

Councillor A Laing proposed that the item be deferred to a future meeting, allowing Members time to reflect on all they had learned, and the options presented, before making an informed decision.

Councillor D Meadows seconded the motion.

A vote was held:

For – 15
Against - 0

When bringing this item to a future Council meeting, Members asked if it would be possible to bring additional information to the future meeting that this item would be discussed, namely costs related to Hill Rigg House, any savings the Council will be making and by relocating staff to the Pavilion.

RESOLVED:

1. That the item be deferred to a future meeting, and that further information be obtained and presented to assist Members in making a fully informed decision.
2. That an open day be arranged at Hill Rigg House to better understand and determine the specific needs within the area.

C.204/26 FILMING REQUEST

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to inform Members of a request to use Shotton Hall as a filming location and to seek agreement that the Chief Officer be granted delegated authority to agree an appropriate filming fee and final arrangements.

A vote was held:

For – 15
Against - 0

RESOLVED:

1. That using Shotton Hall as a filming location be approved.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer to agree the filming fee and final arrangements with the production company.

C.205/26 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.206/26 EVENTS SUPPORT 2026

Consideration was given to a report of the Events Officer, which had previously been circulated, to present Members with quotations received from potential suppliers for Event Safety and First Aid provision for the Council's events programme in 2026, and to make recommendations for appointments based on value for money and service officer.

RESOLVED:

1. That Company A, TJR Events had been awarded the contract for safety officer for the next 3 years, at an hourly rate of £19.00 per hour and mileage at £0.50 per mile.
2. That Company A, Salus Medical be appointed to provide medical cover for the 2026/2027 events at a total cost of £1,930.85, offering comprehensive cover and equipment.

C.207/26 SHOTTON HALL SALE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, to provide Members with an update on the ongoing sale of Shotton Hall and to outline the amendments to the proposed transfer arrangements and legal provisions currently being progressed with the purchaser.

RESOLVED:

1. That the updated position regarding the sale of Shotton Hall be noted.
2. Note that the pond area will remain in Council ownership with no reduction in the sale price.
3. That following legal advice, the Council approves the following amendments to be made to the original proposal:-
 - The property will be required to operate as a SEN school for a minimum period of five years.
 - After this period, the restriction may be lifted.
 - A permanent restriction preventing the building from being used as a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) will remain in place.