

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 21 September 2026** at **6.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

Present: Councillor M. A. Cartwright (Mayor) and
Councillors P Brown, D. Burrell, K. Hawley, D. Howarth, A. Laing, D. Meadows,
R Moore, I. Pygall, H Pygall, and D. Wright.

Also Ian Hall (Chief Officer and Town Clerk)

C.75/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Cartwright, M Sanderson.

RESOLVED: That the apologies be noted.

C.76/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared

C.77/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3 member of the public was in attendance to observe only.

C.78/26 MINUTES

- a. Council Meeting held on 7th September 2026

RESOLVED

1. That the minutes of Council Meeting held on 7th September 2026, be approved.

C.79/26 MOTION ON NOTICE

Consideration was given to the Motion on Notice submitted by Councillor D. Howarth and seconded by Councillor K. Hawley, requesting that Full Council reconsider Minute C59/26 – Proposal for the Development of a Splash Park at Woodhouse Park.

Members discussed the motion and agreed that the matter should be brought back to a future meeting once the Council has determined its wider plans for the future of the Council.

Members also agreed that when the matter is brought back for consideration, the report should include full costings associated with the proposed Splash Park development.

RESOLVED

1. That consideration of Minute C59/26 – Proposal for the Development of a Splash Park at Woodhouse Park be deferred and brought back to a future meeting once the Council has determined its wider plans for the future of the Council, with a further report to include full costings for the proposal.

C.80/26 PETERLEE BUS STATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, regarding the current condition of Peterlee Bus Station and to determine whether the Council wished to make representations regarding the concerns raised.

The Town Clerk provided Members with an update from correspondence which had been forwarded by Councillor D. Meadows. Members were advised that a new cleaning provider had been appointed and would commence from 1 October 2026, with cleaning hours adjusted to improve standards at peak times.

Members were also advised that a new security provision was being arranged, which would include locking the bus station each evening from 1 November 2026 to help address anti-social behaviour. CCTV was regularly monitored, the bus station was inspected weekly for maintenance issues, and a contractor was being awaited to repair a damaged door.

The correspondence acknowledged that the current standard of the bus station was below that expected and advised that it was hoped the new arrangements would lead to improvements.

Following the update, Members discussed the condition of the bus station and expressed disappointment at its current state.

Councillor D. Howarth proposed that the Council should still write to the relevant organisations expressing its concerns and disappointment regarding the condition and cleanliness of the bus station. It was further proposed that a multi-agency meeting be requested involving Durham County Council, Nexus, Castle Dene Shopping Centre and the Police to discuss the issues and identify a coordinated way forward.

The motion was seconded by Councillor D. Meadows and, upon being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1. That the update regarding the measures being introduced at Peterlee Bus Station be noted.
2. That the Town Council write to the relevant organisations expressing its concerns and disappointment regarding the current condition and cleanliness of Peterlee Bus Station.
3. That a multi-agency meeting be requested involving Peterlee Town Council, Durham County Council, Nexus,

Castle Dene Shopping Centre and the Police to discuss the issues affecting Peterlee Bus Station and consider a coordinated way forward.

C.81/26 COMPLETION OF THE 2025/26 EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, advising Members that Forvis Mazars LLP had completed its limited assurance review of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year ended 31st March 2026.

Members noted that the Council had received a clean external audit outcome, with no qualifications, no matters giving cause for concern, no other matters raised by the External Auditor and no minor improvement issues identified. The required conclusion of audit documentation had been published on the Council's website on 8th September 2026, in advance of the statutory deadline.

RESOLVED:

1. That the successful completion of the external audit of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025/26 and the clean audit outcome, with no qualifications, other matters or minor improvement issues identified, be noted.
2. That the publication of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit, certified AGAR and associated documentation on the Council's website on 8th September 2026, within the statutory deadline, be noted.

C.82/26 PETERLEE CRICKET CLUB – PLANNING CONSULTATION FOR CRICKET PRACTICE FACILITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, advising Members of a planning consultation received from Durham County Council in respect of proposed improvement works at Peterlee Cricket Club, Helford Road, Peterlee.

Members were reminded that Council had previously granted landlord consent, at its meeting held on 18th May 2026, for the installation of a two-lane all-weather cricket practice facility. Members noted that the planning application was a separate statutory process and would be determined by Durham County Council as Local Planning Authority, with any Town Council representations required to relate to material planning considerations.

Following discussion, Members confirmed that they were satisfied with the proposed development and were happy for the application to proceed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the planning consultation be noted and that Peterlee Town Council raise no objection to the proposed development.