

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, S Simpson, K Hawley, S McDonnell, K J Duffy,  
M A Cartwright & D Howarth

Messrs:- S Miles, A T Wilkinson, R Moore, A Watson & R Kyle

132. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered and accepted from Councillors G Carne, C Watkins, A C Long & L Fenwick.

133. Public Participation Session

A public participation session was held to allow members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council. No members of the public were present.

134. Project Hagrid

Apologies were offered from Bryan Russell, Executive Manager, Durham Agency Against Crime and PCSO Michelle Burr who were to speak about this project.

135. Police Report/Update

PCSO Simon Walters reported there was to be one annual event held for Young Heroes for all of Durham County. It was confirmed the event was still to be held at Shotton Hall this year. Updates were given on burglaries, ASB in the town centre and Woodhouse Park. He reported there was to be a PACT meeting held on 12 March 6-6.30pm in the Park and he encouraged all to come along and join in. A Local Member spoke about being prepared for the school leavers night in July. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

136. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise.

137. Notice of Vacancy – Passfield Ward  
The Town Clerk confirmed PTC had been notified by Durham County Council that the 14 day notice period for the Council vacancy for the Passfield Ward has now passed and no calls for an election have been received. This meant there would not be a by election and the council should instead co opt someone to fill the vacancy as soon as practicable. It was noted the same qualifications applied for a co option candidate as they do as an elected Member. Following consideration it was **RESOLVED the Council agree to co opt a member for the Passfield Ward, this be openly advertised and applications received be considered at the Annual Meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**
138. To Approve the Minutes of the last meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 the minutes of the previous meeting were attached for consideration and were approved as a true and correct record.
139. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted.
140. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were noted. It was noted Councillor R Moore was in attendance at the meeting.
141. Annual Risk Review  
**RESOLVED this item be deferred to a future meeting.**
142. Review of the use of Direct Debit, Standing Orders and BACS/CHAPS payments  
Members received a report from the Town Clerk seeking approval for the use of Direct Debit, Standing Orders and BACS/CHAPS payments as per the Council's Financial Regulations. **RESOLVED approval be given to the continuation of the use of Direct Debits and BACS/CHAPS payments as outlined in the table circulated with the report.**
143. Staff Attendance Recognition  
The Town Clerk gave a verbal report regarding Council staff who achieved 100% attendance (i.e. no sickness absence) in the year January – December 2019 and approve the proposal to issue a letter of thanks to the staff on behalf of the Council. **RESOLVED approval be given to a letter of thanks being issued to the staff that had achieved 100% attendance from January to December 2019.**
144. Parish Boundary Fence Line - Edenhill  
Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk on issues relating to a boundary fence line at Edenhill. He outlined the history behind the fence and then the various options that were open to the Council moving forward. Following discussion it was

**RESOLVED** Members go and visit the site in question and the item be considered further at the Community & Environment Meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

145. Spokesperson of the North East Party's Report

Councillor Hawley thanked the Parks staff for helping keep everyone moving when the snow fell that morning. Councillor K J Duffy made reference to the importance of looking after our mental health and to "be kind". **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

146. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Kyle thanked the Mayor for supporting a recent event at the Acre Rigg Social Club. **RESOLVED the information given be noted.**

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## **Mayor's Report February 2020**

This month I have had the pleasure of making presentations, on behalf of this Council, to several successful Neighbourhood Engagement Project applicants: Haswell Mencap – a truly worthy charity.

Jonny Davies – a fabulous local stunt rider and Guinness Book of Records hopeful, for the fastest wheelie with his legs over the handlebars.

And Peterlee Helford Phoenix Girls Football Team – an up and coming team for under 15yr olds.

Well done and good luck to all of the successful applicants of this fund.

I attended a Charity Fundraiser, along with Cllr Miles, at the Maxim Brewery in Rainton Bridge. We received a tour of the Brewery and Pub and we sampled some of their delicious brews. It was a very informative visit and I look forward to returning for another tour, next time without the car!

The Mayoress and I were honoured to accept an invitation to the Seaham and Easington Young Heroes Award Evening. To be surrounded by such inspirational young people is a humbling experience and to see them rewarded for simple acts of kindness, bravery or achievement is a privilege. I look forward to Peterlee's Young Heroes Award Evening, in May. It will be the third such event in Peterlee and I congratulate this Council for working closely with our Neighbourhood Police Team to make the Young Heroes Awards a great success and a sound platform to celebrate all that is good amongst our youth.

I also attended Acre Rigg Social Club to present a Mayor's Award to Christine Hotham, a lady that attended to a pedestrian after he was struck by an off-road quad bike. Christine's quick thinking, helped to save the young man's leg, and deserved recognition. Well done to Christine and all those involved.

I also had the pleasure of presenting a trophy to the winning team, made up of Council work colleagues, after a team building event at Shotton Hall. Well done to the winners and all other colleagues that took part.