

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE BRANDLING SUITE & ONLINE USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY

ON THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2020 at 6.00PM

PRESENT:- COUN T DUFFY (CHAIR)

Mesdames:- K Liddell, K Hawley, D Howarth, K J Duffy, L Fenwick, S McDonnell,
S Simpson

Messrs:- S Miles, G Carne, A Watson, R Moore, G Johnson, C Watkins, & SD McGlen

78. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence were offered to the meeting.

79. Exclusion of the Press & Public

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the committee passed the 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, paragraphs 1 &11.

80. Cessation of commercial operations at Shotton Hall

Motion received from Councillor K Hawley and Councillor D Howarth:-

To reconsider the Council decision made on 28th September:

RESOLVED the Council cease commercial operations at Shotton Hall with immediate effect. FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Clerk be authorised to engage a professional construction & property consultant to work with the council to review the various condition surveys and design proposals and to consolidate these into a costed capital investment plan. The Council could then make an informed decision about the long term future of Shotton Hall.

The Town Clerk advised Members of the 'six month rule' in the Town Council's Standing Orders. This rule provides that a previous resolution made by the Council

shall not be reversed within six months, except for in certain exceptions. One such exception was where written notice had been provided to the proper Officer by at least 2 Councillors and he confirmed that such a notice had been given.

The Town Clerk ran through the history of the decision made at the meeting held in September and provided additional detailed information relating to the costs associated with the decision to cease commercial operations. He confirmed that as the Town Council's Responsible Financial Officer he was concerned about the financial impact of a reversal of the previous decision and the impact that this would have on the current and future years' budgets.

Councillor S McGlen joined the meeting at 7.00pm

Councillor G Johnson had to leave the meeting at 7.15pm (work commitments).

Following a prolonged discussion it was **RESOLVED the decision made on 28th September be reversed and commercial operations resume at Shotton Hall, as and when regulations would allow. Councillors S McDonnell, K J Duffy, T Duffy, C Watkins and L Fenwick asked for it to be recorded that they voted against this decision to reverse the previous decision to cease commercial operations at Shotton Hall.**