

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD ONLINE USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY

ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 at 6.00PM

PRESENT:- COUN A WATSON (CHAIR)

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

Messrs:- C Watkins, R Moore, R Kyle, T Duffy, A Wilkinson, S Franklin, G Carne,  
& S Miles

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were offered to the meeting from Councillor S Simpson & S McGlen.

5. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. None were offered. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

6. Budget 2021/22

Prior to discussions the Chair wished to squash the rumour and stressed there were no plans for redundancies. Members were invited to give consideration to the latest version of the detailed draft budget for 2021/22. The draft budget was being provided for feedback and the Chair took Members through each page of the document and allowed for question and comment. Items

It was **RESOLVED:-**

- **Other than training already committed to, a freeze be made on the staff training budget;**
- **The Mayor's Personal allowance be reduced by £1,000 to £500.00;**

- Participation allowances be frozen at their current level;
- A further report be prepared on the subscriptions to local authority bodies;
- Appointment of a Bistro chef be kept on hold until the Bistro was to open;
- Room hire and sports letting fees be part of the MTFP

At this point the Chair asked for the following exclusion clause to be approved.

7. 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 3 & 4.**

8. Budget 2021/22

Members spoke about Hill Rigg House and the Clerk confirmed the entirety of the Town Council's building portfolio needed to be considered in conjunction with the MTFP.

It was suggested the sports and well being classes, groups, clubs, walks etc be considered in more detail at the Scrutiny Committee. It was suggested a group be formed to consider planting, growing our own plants, using volunteers, grant funding and sponsorship engaging local groups. The Clerk advised the parks Manager and Democratic Services Manager/Deputy Town Clerk had a joint task to develop Friends of Groups and this would cover this type of task. In considering the provision and hire of skips it was suggested PTC should look to reducing the number of units hired, with perhaps a green initiative target of a 10% reduction in the number hired each year. Various ways of potentially providing arbor services in the town was discussed and the Clerk assured options for raising income would be considered as part of the MTFP.

**RESOLVED**

- **The NEP budget be suspended for a year and not included in the 2021/22 budget;**
- **A representative of Natural England, (CEDNNR) be invited to a future meeting to update Council on their work in the Dene and what the contribution goes towards;**
- **The youth provision be suspended for the next year;**
- **A decision be made no later than the end of March 2021 regarding the Peterlee Show.**

S Franklin left the meeting at 8.15pm (work commitments)

9. Medium Term Financial Plan 2021 – 2025

Members received a presentation by the Town Clerk on the development of a four – year Medium Term Financial Plan for the Town Council to cover the period 2021/22 to 2024/25. He explained this was a plan of the Council’s finances over this four year period and was a model, and a way of predicting, where possible, the financial impact of future internal and external events. It was then to consider the scale of risk exposure and the options to address this. It was **RESOLVED the MTFP be referred to a Scrutiny Meeting to begin work on the model and the assumptions/scenarios within the report with a report being made back to the Resources Committee after the May 2021 elections.**