

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 15TH OCTOBER 2012

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

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HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2012

PRESENT: COUN R KYLE (CHAIR)

Mesdames: J Black, M Milsom, L Wood & J I Measor

Messrs: T A Jones, J Alvey, W M Jeffrey, R Curtis, C Watkins, D Langan, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins, R Huitson, D Milsom, E W Hall & C Austin

MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A 15 MINUTE “OPEN SESSION” WAS HELD TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL. THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors R W Jones, (wife ill) and J Hardy, (ill).

82. POLICE -UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed PCSOs McCombe, Bowman and new recruit Miss Charlotte Naisby to the meeting. They gave an update on the statistics since the last meeting and gave details of the on going patrols being carried out by the Neighbourhood Policing Team

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and “hot spots”. Reports of anti social behavior were high due to a number of youths causing a nuisance.

Updates on issues raised at the last meeting were also given. Several issues including parking at the Edenhill Shops, cars being parked on Durham Way and Pennine Drive. Support and advice was requested from the Police on the problems with Woodhouse Park. A Local Member asked for Police support on local shops being prohibited from selling fireworks too early. He also commented on the vandalism to the former College site and requested information on motor bikes being confiscated and crushed.

The Mayor thanked Officers for their attendance and for their excellent report.

It was asked if concessionary use could be considered for the Police to host a session at Eden Lane Community Building on “Stranger Danger” to young people prior to the Youth Club session.

RESOLVED progress be awaited on the items given for attention. **FURTHER RESOLVED** free use be granted of Eden Lane Community Centre for the session as requested.

83. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

84. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR’S COMMITTEE OF THE 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

85. THE REPORT OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE 24TH SEPTEMBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

It was asked what process should be followed should a Council Member witness a breach of the Health & Safety Policy.

RESOLVED that any reports be made to the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk directly.

86. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 24TH SEPTEMBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

87. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 27TH SEPTEMBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

There was discussion on how long the Show had been held, there was a difference of opinion as to the dates.

RESOLVED the Show Working Party be held on the last Thursday of every month, and the first meeting be held on Thursday 25th October 2012 at 10.00am.

88. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST OCTOBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 54(ii) – Mayoress at Home

The Town Clerk advised that Caterpillar had been contacted and had confirmed that there was no complaint to be submitted by the Company.

RESOLVED this be accepted and the matter not be pursued any further.

(ii) Minute Number 56(iv) - Showmen's Guild

RESOLVED the decision not to accept the invitations be re affirmed.

89. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST OCTOBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

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Matters Arising

Minute Number 22 – The County Durham Plan- should be amended to read that Councillor H Bennett MBE had attended this session with Councillor Metcalfe, not Councillor Jeffrey as given.

RESOLVED this amendment be made to the minutes.

90. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 1ST OCTOBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

91. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 2ND OCTOBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 31 (2b) - Signage

RESOLVED the lowest price as detailed in the report that had been previously circulated, be accepted.

92. THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH OCTOBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

93. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 8TH OCTOBER 2012 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 30 – Banqueting Suites Boiler - Asset Management

It was asked that boilers across all of the Council's buildings, be properly maintained and reports be submitted when works were required etc rather than emergency works.

RESOLVED progress be made with the tendering for services to the Town Council.

94. VACANCY – ACRE RIGG WARD - PROGRESS

The Town Clerk advised that Durham County Council had confirmed that a petition for an election had not been received by them and the Town Council should now take the necessary steps to co opt to fill this vacancy on the Town Council. The Town Clerk outlined the necessary process that should be adopted for Members and this was accepted.

RESOLVED the procedure for co option as outlined and reported by the Town Clerk, be adopted by the Town Council and this procedure be included in the new draft of Standing Orders.

95. PLANNING APPLICATION
Former Shell UK Service Station, YodenWay
Refurbishment & re development of service station
Asda

RESOLVED that no comments be made on this application.

96. REMEMBRANCE PARADE & SERVICE – SUNDAY 11TH
NOVEMBER 2012, ASSEMBLE AT PETERLEE CENTRAL
CLUB AT 10.30AM

Details of this event were circulated for Member's information should they wish to take part.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

97. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING 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, 1961

& THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985.

98. ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY COUNCILLOR
D LANAGAN

(a) Phase 3 Demolition of Community Centre and
Fencing/Landscaping

Councillor Langan referred to the letter from Sport England, a copy of which had been circulated with his letter, outlining the details of Phases I, II & III of the new build for Helford Road Pavilion. He asked for clarification of what was included in Phase III and asked was fencing part of this, making reference to recent discussions at the Special Parks & Cemetery Meeting about fencing the rugby fields.

Reference was made that the fencing to the MUGA which was increased in height, and also to the security fencing that was provided at the site.

RESOLVED contact be made with Sport England to clarify this matter.

(b) To consider whether Members should be offered a mobile
telephone if they so wished

The Leader of the Council reported he had been issued with a mobile phone, which he had not used and had now returned to the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk advised that with the mobile phone contract she had a pool of mobile phones and had given a spare handset to the Council Leader for Council business. She suggested should the Mayor wish to use a mobile phone this could also be arranged, indeed if further mobiles were required this could also be the case.

Councillor Langan suggested that if the Leader had a mobile phone provided by the Town Council, then perhaps all Members should have this facility also.

RESOLVED that Town Council Members not be issued with

mobile phones handsets at this time, and the Town Clerk continue to manage the allocation and use of the mobile phones for the Town Council.

(c) Role of the Council Leader

Councillor Langan felt that the inclusion of a Leader's Report was an illegal and unlawful entry onto the Council Agenda.

Councillor Langan and Robbins left the meeting at this point at 7.35pm.

The Leader referred to discussions at a recent meeting of the Larger Local Councils Forum and past discussions at NALC Meetings on the role and position of the Leader at a Parish/Town Council level. Mention was given to information given at the recent Standards Session hosted by Durham County Council. Councillor Hall as the only independent Member, confirmed that this Town Council elected a Leader at the Annual General Meeting and he supported this position. Another Local Member commented that this was not a legally binding position and Councillor Jeffrey gave the Council a progress report for information and he felt it was not illegal nor inappropriate for the Council Leader to do that. It was agreed that verbal feedback from the Leader was important and that the Leader should continue to give his progress report for the information of Members. Should any other Members wish to report on a specific matter to Council, they could do so by notifying the Clerk prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED the slides given at the recent Standards Session be circulated for the information of all Members.

99. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report covering the following items:-

- Durham County Council funding cuts and the issue of double taxation;
- The County Durham Plan – the offer made by Stuart Timmiss

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to come out and speak to Councillors at Peterlee, The Welfare Reform Bill;

RESOLVED the information given in the Leader's report, be noted. **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a session on the County Durham Plan be hosted at Peterlee Town Council and other local parish Councillors in East Durham be invited to come along.