

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 19TH AUGUST 2013

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

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HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 19th AUGUST 2013

PRESENT: COUN R J CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: K Liddell, C Baty, L Wood, M J Thompson
& V Watson

Messrs: S Miles, D Sillito, W M Jeffrey, C Watkins, L
Cook, R Kyle, F Price, J Alvey, G Cowie, C J Metcalfe,
C Robbins & A Watson

**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.

A representative of Helford United FC Mr Adrian MacLeod was at the
meeting. He wished to speak to the Council about their request for 9v9
football pitches.

The Chairman welcomed Mr MacLeod to the Meeting and in reply Mr
MacLeod thanked the Council for the opportunity to come along and
speak. He spoke about the temporary siting of a pitch on a suitable
piece of ground and circulated a copy of a suggested layout which
could be used on a temporary basis until the 9v9 pitch could be
accommodated which involved a pitch on the side of the cricket field.
He explained that he had very high expectations for his Team with 10-
12 games, portable goals could be used, blue spray could be used
for marking out and there would be little or no overlap with the

football and cricket. He gave around the meeting samples of rocks that had been found on their current pitch. He stressed that his Team wished to use and promote the excellent facilities at Helford Road and The Pavilion but he did not feel there were suitable facilities for the 9v9 pitch and this was why he brought this request to Members.

Several questions were asked of Mr MacLeod and then he left the open session of the meeting. He was assured that there would be feedback given following the meeting.

68. POLICE - UPDATE

PC Andy Robson and his colleague David were in attendance at the meeting. He reported 783 incidents for the Peterlee Area and he reported on increased patrols in the Edenhill Area. He also reported on several seizures made of off road motor bikes and warnings issued. He gave general updates and new initiatives. In closing on statistics he advised that all crime was down by 20% on crime at this time last year.

Items were given at the meeting for the police as follows:-

- Motorbikes being used with no exhausts, riders wearing no helmets;
- Motorists turning right at the bottom of Edenhill Road where it was left turn only;
- 20mph zones around local schools;
- the possibility of introducing an alcohol free zone at Woodhouse Park;
- the incidents of scrap merchants looking over residents fences/walls in the Helford Road area;
- off road bikes in the Acre Rigg Area;
- why the Police did not intervene or stop and challenge when there were obvious disturbances being caused by youths.

RESOLVED that the Officers be thanked for their attendance and report back on items at the next meeting.

69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted and accepted on behalf of

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S Simpson, (ill) and Mr D & Mrs M Milsom, (family bereavement).

70. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 15TH JULY 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Request for the introduction of 20mph Zones next to Schools in Peterlee

Councillor A Watson reported that he was an advocate and spokesperson for the 20s Plenty Campaign Group and he would bring a presentation along to a future meeting on this matter. Members felt it was an issue that they should continue to lobby for in the Town.

RESOLVED that progress be awaited.

- (ii) Family Fun Day, 3rd August 2013

It was asked if the balance sheet was available following this event.

RESOLVED that the balance sheet be submitted for Member's consideration as soon as possible.

71. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 15TH JULY 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

72. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 22ND JULY 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed, subject to Councillor G Cowie as being recorded as being in attendance at the meeting.

73. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW COMMITTEE OF THE 25TH JULY 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

Thankyou Reception

RESOLVED the Thankyou Reception be held on Sunday 1st September 2013 with volunteers involved in the Show Committee and Event sponsors being invited to come along.

74. THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 12TH AUGUST 20132013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

RESOLVED that the feedback/responses from Members and staff be circulated to all Members, with the author's prior permission.

75. NOTES FROM THE MEETING WITH GLOBAL SPORT HELD ON 22ND JULY 20132013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

76. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Receipt of details of this planning application were given to Members:-

Royal George, The Village
Single Storey Rear Extension
The Old Brewery, Castle Eden

RESOLVED no comments or observations be submitted.

77. SHOTTON PARISH COUNCIL – APPLICATION SUBMITTED AS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

Members were circulated with a letter inviting comments on the application made by Shotton Parish Council for the designation of a “Neighbourhood Area”. The purpose of the application was to seek approval to define a specific area within which the Parish Council intends to undertake future neighborhood planning activities. It was agreed that this was something of interest and an interesting scenario

that should be considered; there were no objections offered from Members.

RESOLVED the Town Council's support be offered to Shotton Parish Council with their application.

78. PAY SETTLEMENT 2012/13

Details were circulated of the pay award of 1% agreed for all staff.

RESOLVED the payment be made to all staff, backdated to 1st April 2013.

79. REVISED HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

Members were circulated with a copy of the revised Health & Safety Policy for their approval. The Deputy Town Clerk explained that this was a lengthy document and she intended submitting it to the Joint Consultative Health & Safety Committee in September for the staff representatives to have input and would report back to Members and this document would be reviewed, at least on an annual basis.

RESOLVED the revised Health & Safety Policy be approved and the course of action as suggested be endorsed.

80. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING & 2014/15 BUDGET SETTING

Members were circulated with a letter received from Durham County Council The letter gave forecasts for budget planning purposes only and gave the forecast grant reductions and demonstrated the impact on the Town Council next year, with a net position of (£38,584.85). There was also the possibility of capping controls on Parish and Town Councils. The Annual reduction in grant forecasts were 10.21% in 2013/14 through to 14.83% in 2017/18.

Whilst the assumptions in the councils Medium Term Financial Plan forecasts may be subject to change as more information becomes available, the information provided a reasonable overview of potential impacts on the Town Council.

This matter had been discussed at the recent meeting of the Larger Local Councils and progress with the discussions was awaited.

RESOLVED this be considered further when the 2014/15 Grant settlement was known in December. At this point Durham Count Council would write again to confirm or amend the LCTSS Grant figures as circulated, to allow budgets to be finalized and the precept to be set in January 2014.

81. PETERLEE MASTERPLAN STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
– FOR COMMENT

Consideration was given to the contents of the Peterlee Masterplan that was out for stakeholder consultation.

RESOLVED the following comments be made:-

- **Support for a train station at Horden**
- **HA33 – the former Itec Site – were the numbers stated correct at 500 or was it a typing error? Should perhaps be 50;**
- **HA35 Lowhills Road – the title of this development should be changed as it was confusing to the general public. The development falls entirely within Easington Village Parish Council boundary and was formerly known as “Land North of Mickle Hill”. It being titled Lowhills Road, Peterlee has meant the Town Council has been inundated with queries and complaints relating to this development.**
- **P27 11.4 – The town Council felt there should be reference made to the many leisure and sports facilities provided to residents by the Town Councils at its three sites at Lowhills Road, Eden Lane and Helford Road. Referring only to the Leisure Centre gave a false impression; the Town Council provides bowls, cricket, tennis, football, cricket and rugby and has a dedicated full time Sports Development Officer.**

- **Dalton Park is identified as a threat to Peterlee Town Centre, a situation which was created and driven by Durham County Councillors.**

82. TRAVELERS ENCAMPMENTS

Members were circulated with a letter received from Thornley Parish Council requesting support with their request to County Councillor Lucy Hovvels, Portfolio Holder, for her to call a meeting to debate the issue of traveller encampments.

RESOLVED the Town Councils' support be given to Thornley Parish Council with their request to County Councillor Hovvels, Portfolio Holder for Safer and Healthier Communities for action to raise the profile of this issue.

83. TOWN TWINING – VISIT TO GERMANY 2014

Members were asked to give their support to the return visit to Nordenham in the Summer of 2014.

RESOLVED the Town Council continue to support Town Twinning with Nordenham, Germany and the Town Council assist in making the necessary arrangements for the return visit.

84. PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL BUILDING PORTFOLIO – PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

This item had been referred from the Parks & Cemetery Meeting in July 2013 and it was asked that it be further considered at the next Parks & Cemetery Committee in September 2013 and the costs of the contract for the surveys etc be reported to Members.

RESOLVED this matter be considered further at the next Parks & Cemetery Committee in September 2013.

At this point in the meeting Councillor J Alvey left.

85. PROVISION OF A 9V9 FOOTBALL PITCH AT HELFORD ROAD – HELFORD UNITED FC

Members were unanimous that they did not wish to put football on the cricket pitch and felt that Peterlee Teams should be given priority.

It was suggested that the issue of pitch allocation and restrictions with the pitches available should be discussed further with the Sports Development Officer at a future meeting.

RESOLVED the request made to locate a football 9v9 pitch on the side of the cricket pitch be refused.

86. LEADER’S REPORT

The Leader asked that the Town Councils thanks be expressed to the Parks Staff following many positive remarks made to him and other Members about the fantastic floral displays in the town.

RESOLVED this be done.