

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESENT: COUN R J CURTIS (CHAIR)

Mesdames: K Liddell, C Baty, L Wood, M J Thompson S
Simpson & M Milsom

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, D Milsom & 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. THERE WERE NO
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

87. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted and accepted on behalf of
Councillor Miss V Watson.

88. POLICE - UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed PCSO Ian Goodwin to the meeting. It was
reported crime was down by 19% compared to the same period last
year and all incidents were down 2%. Updates were then given for

Members on various issues raised at the last meeting.

Members referred to the recently installed yellow lines along Durham Way and, whilst the supporting signage was due to be installed at the beginning of October, Members felt that these needed to be strictly enforced by the Parking Officers.

There was discussion on the problem of off road bikes and reassurances were given that a heat map was currently being prepared using intelligence from calls made to the Police. It was stressed the more reports and detail given, the better this could be attended to and tackled.

RECOMMENDED the information given be noted.

89. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 19TH AUGUST 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 81 Peterlee Master Plan

A reply from Durham County Council to the comments submitted on the Town Council's behalf was circulated for each Member. Reference was made to the reply on the Dalton Park Application.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and progress be awaited.

- (ii) Minute Number 86 - Leader's Report

Councillor A Watson referred to this matter and advised he did not accept this position and item. He felt there should be no politics at this local level and it should not be listed on the Council Agenda.

RESOLVED this comment be duly noted.

90. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 19TH AUGUST 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

91. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW MEETING OF THE 22ND AUGUST 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

92. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND SEPTEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

(i) Minute Number 43(ii) – Flag Flying Day – further information
RESOLVED a combined services flag be ordered to be used for the annual Flag Flying Day to support the armed forces.

(ii) Minute number 52 – Town Twinning – Coach Tenders - Progress

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the coaches had been inspected and it was recommended the price received from Lee's Coaches for the visit to Germany be accepted. It was asked by Members that assurances be given that the driver used would be fully CRB checked.

RESOLVED the coach be booked and approval be given for the Town Council to pay the required deposit to secure the booking. All monies paid up front by the Town Council would be on a re charge basis to those taking part in the trip.

93. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND SEPTEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 16 - 900 Houses at Lowhills Road, Peterlee

Councillor Watson asked that his concerns regarding restrictions to school places at Shotton Hall Academy, and the pressure that such a development may have on school places, be recorded.

RESOLVED this be noted.

94. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND SEPTEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 23 – Application for re grading of post

Members felt that this minute gave the wrong impression on discussion at the Establishment Committee meeting and that it was the fact that this evaluation had been carried out without following the Town Council's usual process that was the problem, not that job evaluation software had not been used. Indeed, Members felt there should be a systematic process in place to consider applications for re grading, which was transparent and fair. This would be essential for the forthcoming Structure Review.

RESOLVED the minute be amended to reflect and include these points raised.

- (ii) Minute Number 24 – Policy on the Discretion to extend periods of sick pay

Members again felt this minute was incorrect. They asked that it be recorded that consideration had been given to payment of sick pay beyond the six months in exceptional circumstances to take into account the duty of care the employer had for its employees. It was **RESOLVED that the Town Council continue to follow the National Terms and Conditions, as agreed by the Trade Unions relating to sick pay, and it not be extended on this occasion.**

95. THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE 3RD SEPTEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor F Price as being shown in attendance.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number – 23 – Summer Activities

Members were disappointed that it had not been possible for the Town Council to host these activities due to the lack of interest and take up. **RESOLVED the information given, be noted.**

- (ii) Minute Number 24 – MUGA it was asked that the Sports

Development Officer report back on her suggested options for the title of this facility.

RESOLVED the suggestions be awaited.

96. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 9TH SEPTEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor S Miles being deleted from the attendance list as he was not present at the meeting.

The re establishment of this Meeting was questioned. It was reported this had been done at the Annual General Meeting where the membership was agreed, as the Chairman of the standing Committees.

Matters Arising

- (a) Minute Number 17(i) Cancellation Charge – 12th September 2013

RESOLVED that the request for this charge to be waived be refused and this charge be applied. FURTHER RESOLVED a list be prepared and updated of the donations and concessions granted each month for Member's reference.

- (b) Minute Number 21 – CiLCA Details

RESOLVED any Member wishing to take up this training opportunity do so at their own cost.

- (c) Minute Number 22 – Mayors Chain of Office

RESOLVED the retaining chain not be replaced.

97. THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 9TH SEPTEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number Building Portfolio – Amount in Reserves

The balance at bank was reported although it was stressed that this was not a “reserve” the Town Clerk outlined the current financial position for Members.

RESOLVED the information given, be noted.

98. ANNUAL PARKS INSPECTION – AUTUMN 2013 - LAND & BUILDINGS

It was suggested the annual inspection be held on Saturday 21st & 28th September 2013 commencing at 9.00am at Shotton Hall. Members were asked to advise if they were to take part so that transport could be arranged.

RESOLVED the dates be noted and Members advise the office of their intentions.

99. KITCHEN FLOORING - REPLACEMENT

Members were asked to give approval to the floor covering in the kitchen being replaced immediately. The current flooring had been in place for some 17 years and was now in a condition where it needed either replacement or repair. Members were given the costs of both options and it was **RESOLVED the flooring in the kitchen be replaced at a cost of £2,795.00.**

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Watson voiced his objection to the position of Leader.

100. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader spoke on the site ear marked for the new Tesco store. The site was falling derelict and members of the public had been asking Town Council Members what was happening with the site.

He asked for the Town Council's support in making the following nominations on behalf of the Town Council at the forthcoming CDALC AGM:-

Grahame Morris MP for President and

Councillors Cllr D Bell (Brandon & Byshottles), Cllr P Fitchett, (Brandon PC) and Cllr W Waters, (Spennymoor TC) for the position of Vice President(s).

RESOLVED a press release be prepared in relation to the former college site and Tesco retail proposal. **FURTHER RESOLVED** the nominations for President & Vice President, CDALC, as suggested, be made on the Town Council's behalf.