

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 16TH DECEMBER 2013

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

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HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2013

PRESENT: COUN R CURTIS (CHAIR)

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

Messrs: C Watkins, C J Metcalfe, W M Jeffrey, J Alvey, D Sillito, R Kyle, G Cowie, C Robbins, D Milsom & L Cook

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.

131. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted and accepted on behalf of Councillors Miss V Watson, C Baty, F Price & A Watson.

132. POLICE - UPDATE

The Police and Street Wardens were present at the meeting. The Street Wardens gave further details on the report that had been

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 16TH DECEMBER 2013

circulated to each Member at the meeting. It was asked if abandoned shopping trolleys were classed as litter and it was confirmed they were and were treated as such with fines and penalties. It was reported fly tipping incidents had tripped over the last month and a new task force was to be established to try and tackle this problem. PCSO Naisby then gave her update on incidents since the last meeting. She also gave a progress report on items raised at the previous meeting. It was reported that since the road markings and alterations made to Passfield Way the traffic movements were worse than ever and Members felt frustrated that things were not improving. It was reported that had been several issues with problems in the bus station and it was asked that thanks be recorded for the two County Councillors Bennett MBE and Laing and the Town Centre Manager Mr Parnell for their support with seats being replaced.

The Mayor wished the Officers all the best for the Season and thanked them for their attendance.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and an expression of thanks be sent to County Councillors Bennett, Laing and Mr Parnell.

Councillor Alvey left the meeting at 7.10pm.

133. THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 18TH NOVEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
134. THE REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE OF THE 18TH NOVEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.
135. THE REPORT OF THE SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE OF THE 25TH NOVEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.
Matters Arising

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 16TH DECEMBER 2013

(i) Minute Number 122 it had been agreed that overtime be paid for the Facilities Team if their promotion at external events was outside normal working hours. It was **RESOLVED any overtime was with the agreement and prior approval of their Line Manager.**

(ii) Halloween Event

RESOLVED a copy of the balance sheet for this and the events held in December, be awaited.

136. THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND DECEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor Watkins as being recorded as in attendance.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 88 – Event Plan 2013/14 & 2014/15

RESOLVED budget provision be considered for the events and a further report be awaited on the success or otherwise of the events that had already been held.

137. THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND DECEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor Watkins as being recorded as in attendance.

It was reported that notice of the planning approval for the Lowhills Road Development had just been received. It was reported that it was understood the number of retail units had been reduced. This was not detailed within the planning approval letter received.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

138. THE MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 2ND DECEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to Councillor Watkins as being recorded as in attendance

Matters Arising

Minute Number 49 – Staffing Grading Appeal/Grievance

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 16TH DECEMBER 2013

It was noted that the minute be amended to read that the grievance was in relation to there being no written procedure for having a post re evaluated. It was also pointed out that a recent qualification held no weight in the post being re evaluated as this was not a requirement of the post when the appointment was made.

RESOLVED the amendment be made.

139. THE MINUTES OF THE EDEN LANE COMMUNITY BUILDING STEERING GROUP OF THE 3RD DECEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

Matters Arising

Minute Number 12 **RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference include reference to the Group considering comments as well as monitoring complaints and compliments.**

140. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE 9TH DECEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

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

Matters Arising

Minute Number 46 – Former Itec Site – Grant of Easement

The Town Clerk gave Members an update on negotiations with this matter. It was asked if there may be an opportunity to include in future negotiations the transfer of ownership and maintenance responsibility of two parcels of land that currently remained in Town Council ownership; the Town Clerk replied she would endeavor to do this and would keep Members advised.

RESOLVED progress be awaited.

142. THE REPORT OF THE SHOW WORKING PARTY OF THE 12TH DECEMBER 2013 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were circulated. It was noted that Members had not the

opportunity to properly read them through. Members not present at the meeting would not have had a copy and it was therefore agreed they be submitted for approval to the next Council Meeting.

RESOLVED this course of action be agreed to.

143. REVIEW WORKING PARTY – PROGRESS

The Town Clerk gave Members a verbal update on the progress made at the recent meeting. It was asked what could be published on the Town Council web site to keep residents updated of the Review progress. The Town Clerk suggested that a general overview could be provided but it would be inappropriate to publish detailed information arising from the Review as it progressed.

Clarification was requested on issues that had been considered by the Town Council connected to the Review, eg the redundancy pay and pension enhancement discretions and the request that had been received for voluntary redundancy.

It was confirmed that the policy had been approved in relation to the use of discretions, (Minute Number 18 – Establishment Committee of the 2nd September 2013, refers), and the Town Clerk assured that this policy would be taken into account and applied if and when appropriate, during the Review. The current expression of interest for voluntary redundancy would also be considered, as agreed previously, as part of the Staffing Review.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) further progress be awaited;**
- (ii) the recommendations of the Review Working Party held on 12th December 2013 that the Town Clerk incorporate the key issues of the Consultant's report into a more up to date report, reflecting the current position and outlining the way forward for completion of the Review, be endorsed;**
- (iii) the Town Clerk submit a schedule detailing phases and timescales for progress and completion of the Review to the next Establishment Committee.**

144. POLITICAL LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported he had attended eight different meetings on behalf of the Town Council since the last meeting. He advised one of the biggest issues was the local council tax support grant and the financial implications on Parish & Town Councils. He reported that he was to attend a meeting to support EDPIP in the hope of obtaining future funding.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.